

Press Release

Lisbon welcomes 1st Iberian Meeting

Generic medicines brings Portuguese and Spanish specialists together

Lisbon, 26 November 2004 – APOGEN – the Portuguese Generic Medicines Association – today, in the Infarmed auditorium in Lisbon, begins the 1st Iberian Meeting on Generic Medicines. The event, organised in collaboration with the EGA (the European Generic medicines Association), is designed to discuss topics such as the importance of these pharmaceutical products for the competitiveness of the pharmaceutical market, as well as the evolution and the obvious necessity of generic medicines.

The Minister of Health, Luís Filipe Pereira, is scheduled to open the meeting, which is bringing together health professionals, representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and pharmaceutical experts from Portugal and Spain. Amongst the entities present figure leaders from the Association of Doctors, Germano de Sousa, and from the Association of Pharmacists, Aranda da Silva, the president of Infarmed, Rui Santos Ivo, and other high level individuals involved in the sector. These include Greg Perry, Director General of EGA (European Generic Medicines Association), the directors of AEMPS (the Spanish medicines agency), and of AESEG (Spanish Generic Medicines Association), as well as the head of the Directorate-General for Competition in the European Union, Abraão de Carvalho.

This 1st Iberian Meeting in Lisbon is expected to deliver proposals for the advancement of generic medicines in Spain and Portugal. Participants can also expect to receive the most recent data on the Iberian pharmaceutical market and up-to-date news on current regulatory aspects affecting the industry.

Generic Medicines are the key to savings

APOGEN maintains that generic medicines comprise one of the main solutions to achieve savings in the healthcare sector in Portugal and is dedicated to contributing, “not only to reduce spending on medicines but to increase savings”, states João Félix, president of the board. “Generic medicines are a true boost for healthcare savings, both for patients and for the State”, President Felix emphasises.

A recent APOGEN analysis of quantitative data from IMS shows that in October, generic medicines contributed to savings of nearly €13 million in healthcare costs. In the past month the volume of generic sales was €24.1 million at the price of sales to the public. Without generic medicines, the bill to patients and the State would have reached €37.1 million. The savings of almost €13 million in barely one month is due to the fact that generic medicines are 35% less expensive than originator products, and to the acceptance of generics by a significant number of doctors and the advisory work of pharmacists.

APOGEN represents EGA in Portugal

APOGEN is the official representative of EGA in Portugal and the only exclusive representative of the interests of the generic medicines manufacturers in the country. The association unites 13 of the most significant national and multinational companies in the generic medicines market, which, combined, represent more than 75% of the national market share for this type of medicine.

APOGEN works closely with government authorities on generic pharmaceutical policy and strives to ensure that all legislative measures pertaining to generics adopted by the European Union are applied in Portugal.