

April 2008

# Newsletter

## New multi-lingual EAASM website is now live!

We are delighted to announce that the EAASM website now appears in five European languages – English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. This means that a much wider audience can benefit from the valuable information on the site, as well as have access to articles and reports published by the EAASM.

The website address remains the same ([www.eaasm.eu](http://www.eaasm.eu)) whilst the content has been refined and updated. In the near future a ‘polls and surveys’ section will be added, where visitors will be able to vote on questions regarding counterfeit medicines and EAASM activities. This interactive element will provide an interesting insight into the public’s views and feedback.

The site also now benefits from video clips about counterfeit medicines, which can be found within the media section. The website is updated regularly and additional news items and videos are added as these become available. Additional news and video clips for inclusion on the site can be sent to Harella Gamaroff at [harella.gamaroff@eaasm.eu](mailto:harella.gamaroff@eaasm.eu) or Olivia Spiro at [olivia.spiro@eaasm.eu](mailto:olivia.spiro@eaasm.eu).

## European Union public consultation on counterfeits and patient safety

Since the publication of the EAASM report on counterfeit and substandard medicines, the EAASM has quickly become established as a prominent voice for patient safety in Europe. The issues raised by the Alliance and other stakeholders have been recognised by policy makers in both the European Commission and the European Parliament, resulting in DG Enterprise and Industry (a European Union political body responsible for legislation governing the internal market) putting forward a public consultation document. The document asks for stakeholder comments on new legislation to better protect patients.

The EAASM is in favour of any measures that will better protect patients and we are currently drafting our response. We believe that improved legislation is vital to further secure the supply chain and would encourage all stakeholders, especially those representing patients, to comment on the consultation before the 9 May deadline. If you would like to discuss or contribute to the EAASM submission, then please email Chris Bartley at [chris.bartley@eaasm.eu](mailto:chris.bartley@eaasm.eu).

## European Movement International: 60 ideas for Europe

European Movement International has created the ‘60 ideas for Europe’ blog as a platform for discussion in the run up to the Congress of Europe, which will take place in The Hague (Netherlands) from the 23–24 May 2008. European civil society (citizens and organisations) have been invited to add their ideas to the blog – those which receive the largest number of votes and positive comments will be published and discussed by key European politicians during the Congress of Europe event.

We are happy to let you know that a short synopsis of the EAASM’s ongoing internet pharmacy research report has been added to the 60 ideas for Europe blog. This provides an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the problem of counterfeit medicines and the dangers of buying online. We would encourage you all to visit the blog website at <http://speakup-europe.blogactiv.eu/2008/03/31/internet-regulation/> and read the EAASM entry. Please feel free to vote on the idea and leave a comment – it would be fantastic if the issue of online pharmacies were to be discussed at the Congress of Europe in May.

**STOP PRESS:** We are delighted to inform you all that the EAASM has been invited to attend the Congress of Europe in The Hague, indicating that our concept has come to the attention of the Congress organisers. Please do continue to visit the blog however, and continue to vote for the EAASM’s ‘idea for Europe’!

## New EAASM members

We are pleased to announce that The Society for Fighting Pain, Aegate and IDIS have joined the EAASM. Here’s what they have to say:

“As one of the leading experts in the source and supply of named-patient medicines in Europe, IDIS is committed to ensuring that improved patient access to medicines is not compromised by the security of the pharmaceutical supply chain. As a new member of the EAASM, IDIS looks forward to working collaboratively with other industry stakeholders to promote best practice in every aspect of the source and supply of medicines, with the ultimate aim of protecting patients.” *Tina Backhouse, IDIS*

“Joining the Alliance has given me an opportunity to make a difference in Europe. I am honoured that I was asked by the new EAASM Director, Mary Baker, to join the Alliance and I will do my utmost to be an active member. I believe that the Alliance has a crucial role within Europe today and through this body I believe that there is now a real chance to enable safe access to medicines and thus improve the situation for patients across Europe”. *Mandy Leighton-Bellichach, The Society for Fighting Pain*

