



The Copenhagen Declaration

At the Third Annual Meeting of the European Forum of Pharmaceutical Associations and the WHO Regional Office of Europe (EuroPharm Forum) held in Copenhagen/Hillerød on 30 and 31 May 1994, the Forum discussed Good Pharmacy Practice initiatives taken by the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Union. Many of the projects of the EuroPharm Forum are directly related to these Good Pharmacy Practice principles and to the Health for All goals of the European Region of WHO.

The Forum resolved that to enable them to discharge their responsibilities effectively in the interests of public health, governments contemplating legislation or administrative measures relating to the distribution and supply of medicines must apply the following principles:

1. Medicines are not ordinary articles of commerce. To protect public health and to ensure appropriate use of medicines there must be adequate professional control at all stages in the distribution process.
2. Public health can only be adequately protected when legislation provides that the pharmacist who is governed by strict rules of professional conduct and ethics personally has final control over the supply of medicines to the public. The pharmacist must thus have complete managerial control of the pharmacy, free of economic influence of non-pharmacist owners.
3. In legislation governing the supply of medicines there must be a clear definition of the word "Pharmacy" and this title must be restricted to premises which comply with that definition. The definition should provide that managerial control of the pharmacy is exercised by a pharmacist with the necessary education and training.
4. The specialist education and training of the pharmacist on all aspects of medicinal products makes the pharmacist a particularly qualified professional to be the responsible person for the release of medicinal products to the market at production level; this education and training also equips the pharmacist to ensure that in the interest of public health and safety adequate controls are applied at the level of wholesale distribution to maintain quality through proper storage and stock control arrangements and security measures. It is essential that the words "wholesale distributor" or equivalent should also be clearly defined in legislation.