The Access and Control Newsletter is sent by the World Health Organization, Department of Essential Medicines and Health Products, Medicine Access and Rational Use Unit. The Newsletter provides you with the latest news from WHO on access to medicines controlled under the international drug treaties, both with regards to evaluation of substances for their dependence producing properties, and to improving access for medical use to medicines made from these substances.

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**Meeting Documents for the 35th ECDD available**

The meeting documents for the 35th Expert Committee on Drug Dependence (ECDD), 4 – 8 June in Hammamet, Tunisia will be online shortly. Please note that the ECDD meeting itself is a closed meeting.

**Reminder: information meeting**

As a pre-meeting to the 35th ECDD, an Information Meeting will be held in the morning of 4 June 2012 in Hammamet from 9:00 to 12:00. Stakeholders are invited to bring up any issues relevant to the 35th ECDD agenda mentioned above. The purpose of the information meeting is to afford the Expert Committee the opportunity, before the Committee’s meeting, to receive presentations and to question representatives of interested parties concerning data that have been provided about substances under review. Registrations will be accepted until 14 May 17:00 CET. For registering for this pre-meeting please contact jiguete@who.int.

For more information on this pre-meeting see the guidance on the Expert Committee procedures, paragraphs 37 - 39.

**Reports on substance evaluation 1948 to present**

For several years now, the Reports of the Expert Committees on Drug Dependence (1948 to present) have been listed on the Committee’s webpages.

This list is now completed with numerous reports from related WHO Expert Committees, Ad Hoc Advisory Committees and Scientific Groups that were held between 1956 and 1984. The updated list contains citations of these documents with links to the permanent URLs from the WHO Library. Additional citations will go online shortly.
National ATOME Conferences

The Access to Opioid Medications in Europe (ATOME) Project will organize one-day National conferences in the twelve countries targeted by the Project. Up to now, two conferences have been held: in Slovenia and in Turkey. Other conferences are planned: Cyprus (30 May 2012), Greece (20 November 2012), Latvia (21 March 2013) and Hungary (26 April 2013). Conferences in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Serbia and Slovakia will be announced later. For the most recent information please consult the ATOME website.

The conferences will address the issue of access to controlled medicines at the country level. Study results on barriers in the legislation and the policies will be presented in addition to background from international guidelines and best practices. The participants will discuss plans for optimizing the country situation in small groups. The conferences are targeted at representatives of organizations of health-care professionals and patients, policy makers and media.

WHO is a partner in the ATOME Project and is involved in many of its activities. The Project is funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme with the aim of improving access to opioid medication in Europe. Ten ATOME partners from seven countries and WHO, work with country teams of the twelve ATOME target countries in Eastern Europe mentioned above.

See also our controlled medicines website

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For further information:
Willem Scholtén, PharmD MPA
Team Leader, Access to Controlled Medicines
Department of Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies
World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 79 15540,
e-mail : scholtenw@who.int