



Press Release

GIRP celebrates 50 years as an EU health partner

CANNES, FRANCE 7th June 2010 – GIRP members kick-off their marking of the 50 year anniversary of their European presence.

- Founded in 1960 by a small number of national associations to better understand key trends affecting their colleagues across Europe.
- Has developed into a true focal point of understanding and competency for the medicines distribution sector in its region.
- Has become recognized as the credible voice of the invisible, but vital link in healthcare on the continent of its members' presence.
- Represents today close to 30 national associations and 9 companies.

Since 1960, the association's main pursuit has been to ensure the safe and efficient delivery of all medicines to all patients in Europe. In this regard, the core mission has been to offer a competent perspective on how all patients are ensured continuous access to all medicines whenever and wherever needed. Today, GIRP is recognised as the credible voice of the medicines distribution sector in the EU health and enterprise policy landscape.

Mr. René Jenny, GIRP President explains "it is truly gratifying to see how GIRP has evolved into a strong association supported by its growing corporate and association member base. I am honoured to be leading GIRP by representing national association and full-line wholesaling companies at the heart of the EU decision making machine".

But, today things are different Mr. Jenny. The healthcare sector is now faced with more challenges than ever and GIRP has an undeniably key role in voicing its members' contribution to ensuring access to medicines for all of Europe population.

One of GIRP's key areas of focus is to grow and develop its engagement with the European institutions and the larger healthcare community.

An important result over the past year GIRP has been active in working with EU Institutions, World Health Organisation, the Council of Europe and its partners associations representing the different branches of the pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors.

Ms. Monika Derecque-Pois, Director General of the association explains the strategy going forward, "GIRP will continue to collaborate closely with all healthcare stakeholders, including policy-makers, patients and advocacy groups to jointly address the opportunities to expand innovation within our region, as well as the challenges within Europe's healthcare systems. I firmly believe a collaborative approach is the only way forward."

Photographs from the conference will be available throughout the day through the following link:
<http://girp.eu/cms/index.php?/eng/PRESS-CORNER/PICTURES-FOR-THE-PRESS>

For further information contact:

Monika Derecque-Pois
GIRP Director General

European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers

Rue de la Loi, 26, 10th floor - B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

T: +32 (0) 2 777 99 77 F: +32 (0) 2 770 36 01

E: girp@girp.org