The Dutch Health Care Inspectorate and the Directorate of Pharmaceutical Affairs and Medical Technology of the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport hosted the 38th meeting of the Competent Authorities for Medical Devices (CAMD) in Amsterdam on 20 and 21 June, for over 80 delegates from 28 European countries, as part of the Dutch EU Presidency in 2016.

Delegates discussed how they can work effectively together to implement the new regulations on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices and to help make medical devices safer for patients across Europe.

Medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices cover a wide range of products -from sticking plasters to hip replacements, from pregnancy tests to HIV tests; these devices can be found in every household throughout Europe

Ronnie van Diemen, Inspector-general for Public Health and CEO Dutch Health Care Inspectorate, opened the meeting, saying: “Healthcare is developing quickly as a result of new technology. Manufacturers have moral and legal responsibilities, while the end users – the patients – must be able to place their trust in all concerned.”

The meeting comes at an important moment. On 15 June, the Council's Permanent Representative’s Committee and the European Parliament unanimously supported the agreement on the new rules on medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices, which was reached under the Netherland’s Presidency. The agreement of the new regulations is an important step for patient safety.

During the meeting, delegates worked together to examine aspects of patient safety at every step of the value chain of medical devices and to understand how the new legislation for medical devices and in-vitro diagnostics would impact their work.

The meeting provided an important first opportunity for joint discussion on the implementation of the

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regulations. CAMD members agreed on the importance of a coordinated approach and of working together to share knowledge, divide the workload and reduce duplication of effort. This initial work provides a solid basis for further joint work on the implementation plan.

Delegates also discussed life-cycle market surveillance, agreeing that competent authorities should not only look to the safety of the product itself, but also to the use of the products, especially challenging in the areas of digital health (software and apps) and aesthetic care products.

Expert panels and laboratories will play an important role in the future to support the legislative system. During the meeting the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands (RIVM) demonstrated, with relevant examples, how desk research and laboratory work will support competent authorities in the assessment of the health risks of medical devices.

An election for new members of the CAMD Executive Group was also held during the meeting.

The next meeting of CAMD members will be in Bratislavia, Slovakia.

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