



HFMA UPDATE

by Graham Keen,
Executive Director

Some dates for your diary



The coming autumn months usually signal a number of things, one of which is that the activities of Westminster and Brussels are coming back to life and as you would expect plans are in place for the HFMA to be fully engaged, and another is that there is the real opportunity for people in this industry to get involved and learn a lot from a series of events that are planned for the final quarter of 2015.

EHPM workshop – October 27

The European Federation of Associations of Health Product Manufacturers (EHPM), of which the HFMA was a very proud founder member 40 years ago, will be holding a workshop in Brussels on Tuesday, October 27, entitled 'Food Supplements: Trading more effectively throughout the EU'. A really interesting event programme includes:

- Alexandra Nikolakopoulou, Head of Unit in DG SANTE for nutrition, food composition and information, will deliver a presentation titled 'Adapting EU rules to make them workable for SMEs – What elements of REFIT could be relevant for food supplement companies'.

- Michel Horn, from the Belgian food supplement company, Ortis, who is the Vice Chair of EHPM's quality working group, will make a presentation on EHPM's contribution to developing best practice through the EHPM Quality Guide – free copy for all participants.

- Olga Murogova, from Euromonitor, will present market data from the food supplement sector across EU member states, along with trends in consumer behaviour.

- Legal advisers Michał Czarnecki and Michał Tracz, from the Life Sciences Practice, DZP (Poland), will present a case study on the regulatory situation in the Polish

market.

- EHPM's legal adviser, Jens Karsten, will present on the issue of sales of food supplements over the internet and the regulatory requirements related to this form of distribution.

- EHPM board member, Magdalini Selaniki, and EHPM Director General, Patrick Ahern, will present country profiles developed by EHPM to assist companies on the basics of placing products on the market in different EU Member States.

So, if you are looking to expand your business in mainland Europe, this event will prove to be invaluable. It is open to all, but fortunately HFMA members, though our membership of EHPM, can benefit from the special member booking rate. For further information, please contact EHPM's Director General, Patrick Ahern, at p.ahern@ehpm.org

HFMA Parliamentary reception – November 17

The latest of our initiatives to mark the 50th anniversary of the HFMA is that we will hold our annual Parliamentary reception on Tuesday, November 17. This will take place in the Churchill Room,

at the House of Commons, in the Palace of Westminster, and we are very grateful to erstwhile industry supporter, Rosie Cooper MP, who has agreed to host the event. HFMA members are encouraged to attend and have the opportunity to meet with (and lobby!) the Parliamentarians present, and anyone that has attended an event like this will know that it is a fascinating insight into the workings of Parliament.

HFMA/BHMA seminar – November 24

In my last article, I spoke of the furore that erupted in the USA regarding the safety of botanical ingredients, much reported in the US media and to a lesser degree over here in the UK, and I suggested it was perhaps inevitable that the issue would surface over here, as it did with the televising of the *Trust me I'm a Doctor* feature, testing the composition of herbal products.

With this in mind, we will be holding the latest of our very successful joint events with the British Herbal Medicines Association, a seminar with the title 'Botanicals Quality – Building

a Secure Foundation', on Tuesday, November 24 at a central London venue, which at time of writing is still to be confirmed.

A comprehensive programme is being developed around the subject of botanicals quality and management of the supply chain, and further details will follow.

Management Forum Seminar – December 3

Finally, another potentially very interesting upcoming event is the Management Forum's annual seminar, 'The Borderline between Medicines and Food', which takes place on December 3 in London. Topics being covered include:

- Where is the Borderline and on which side does my product fit?
- Complying with Medicines Legislation and the THMPD.
- Understanding and working with the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation.
- The future for botanical claims?
- EU Borderline law.

The event will be chaired by HFMA Vice-President, Penny Viner, and speakers will include Brian Kelly, of the HFMA's lawyers, Covington & Burling, Professor David Richardson, Noel Griffin, of the Department of Health, and Dr Chris Jones, Manager of the MHRA's Borderline Section. For further details, or to reserve a place at the event, go to www.management-forum.co.uk/986

I know from personal experience that a lot of time and effort goes into the staging of these events, so please consider supporting them. They are an excellent networking opportunity, and you will certainly learn a lot!

To help us in our efforts to protect this industry and benefit from the gold-standard advice we provide, join the HFMA at the earliest opportunity. To learn more about our activities, please contact graham@hfma.co.uk.

HFMA membership is vital to ensure that your company keeps abreast of the fast-changing regulatory environment. The HFMA is the UK's best source of information and most effective defender of our industry's interests. To help the HFMA defend your business at this most critical time contact hfma@hfma.co.uk or call 020 8481 7100.

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