



## **Charter of European Pharmacy**

### **Pharmaceutical Groups of the European Community**

The European pharmacists, represented by the Pharmaceutical Group of the EC, aware of the fact that the society of today requires a better and more complete health aid, also aware of the new European prospects that have to result in the construction of a Europe without frontiers and in the achievement of its Internal Market, state the principles that will serve as the basis for the present and future practice of the profession within the European community :

1. Pharmacy is a liberal and independent health profession, reserved to holders of a university pharmaceutical diploma.
2. The medicinal product plays an irreplaceable part in the prevention and curing of diseases. Through his scientific training the pharmacist is the only specialist in the field of medicinal products.
3. For reasons of public health and in the consumer's interest, the pharmacist has to be present at every stage, from the manufacturing of medicinal products to their dispensing to the public.
4. The community pharmacist's role is of prime importance in the prevention of disease and in the safeguarding of Public Health, which makes the pharmacy a first rate health centre for conducting health education campaigns, detecting less known diseases ; the pharmacist also has to see that medical prescriptions are complied with ; he is in charge of pharmacovigilance and home care, as well as of certain other indispensable health acts which have to be performed in coordination with the other members of the health professions.
5. The safeguarding of Public Health requires the rationalization of the community pharmacy network based on geographical and demographic criteria.
6. The surveillance, preservation and distribution of medicinal products shall exclusively be carried out in community pharmacies authorized to do so by law and in the pharmaceutical services of hospital centres.
7. The pharmacist has to be the owner of the pharmacy in order to prevent interests that are unconnected with Public Health from interfering with the dispensing of medicinal products.
8. The freedom to choose his pharmacist is a fundamental right of the patient.
9. It is essential that Pharmacy should be integrated in the various health services of a country to achieve an optimal Public Health.



10. The relations between the pharmacist and the various health systems shall be established on the basis of freely concluded agreements, guaranteeing the pharmacist's independence and the patient's freedom to choose a community pharmacy.
11. The pharmacist's honorary fees shall have to be in proportion to their responsibilities, their duties and the services they supply to the patient.
12. Professional confidentiality has to be respected and has to be considered a right of the consumers.

## CONSEQUENTLY

The pharmacists

Are aware of their mission as guardians of public health who are permanently at the disposal of the population.

Undertake to perform their professional duties and maintain at all times the professional ethics and the independence of Pharmacy.