

Press Release

European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers (GIRP) becomes "European Healthcare Distribution Association"

12th November 2015

Brussels, Belgium - On the occasion of its Autumn General Assembly meeting, the members of GIRP (Groupement International de la Répartition Pharmaceutique), or in English, the "European Association of Pharmaceutical Full-line Wholesalers", approved a name change and will henceforth be known in English as the "European Healthcare Distribution Association".

"The business of members, whose core role and function in the healthcare supply chain is pharmaceutical full-line wholesaling, is ever evolving", René Jenny, GIRP President explains in announcing the decision. Jenny highlights that "we are witnessing an expansion of the core role and function of pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers. As they become increasingly integrated, our members regard the pharmaceutical industry not only as important suppliers of products, but as clients for supply chain and patient services". Jenny continues, "Pharmacies, as traditional clients of pharmaceutical full-line wholesalers, are also evolving and are increasingly providing a wide range of services to patients. They are looking to our members in terms of support for the development and provision of such services that aid and assist their professional role. There is an ever stronger case for developing partnerships with our healthcare supply chain partners - namely the pharmaceutical industry and the pharmacies. Our members are the vital link in healthcare not only when it comes to the delivery of products between the pharmaceutical industry and pharmacy, but also for support services that serve patient needs. As we seek to offer a collaborative platform for improved patient healthcare outcomes between supply chain partners, GIRP has developed a liaison membership category specifically dedicated to the pharmaceutical industry."

Monika Derecque-Pois, Director General of GIRP says, "We need to be much more reflective of the expanded role and function of our membership. The core business of our members is pharmaceutical full-line wholesaling, but their offering does not stop at pure product purchase, storage, and delivery of medicinal products. It is surprising for many, but our members purchase, stock and deliver medical devices, in-vitro diagnostic medical devices, veterinarian medicinal products, food supplement, and other healthcare related products". Expanding on the justification of the name change as part of the move to re-position the voice of GIRP, Derecque-Pois explains that "with this name change we hope it becomes clearer that we speak for distributors of all healthcare products and not just medicines. This will help us to become a more recognised voice for the healthcare distribution sector in Europe. The name change is in no way revolutionary for our association, but rather evolutionary. We believe that the name change better reflects the scope of activities of our membership and will enable us to speak with a strong voice for the healthcare distribution sector in Europe".

As the French acronym 'GIRP' has established itself as a well-known and recognised acronym, it will remain in place. The name change only affects the English rendition of the name. It will henceforth be known as the "European Healthcare Distribution Association".