London hosts the 40th meeting of the Competent Authority for Medical Devices on behalf of the Maltese Presidency

The 40th meeting of the Competent Authorities for Medical Devices (CAMD) network was hosted by the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in London from 30th May to 1st June, as part of the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

More than 80 delegates from 32 countries attended the meeting, which was officially opened, by Dr Ian Hudson, Chief Executive, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and Ingrid Borg, Director of Regulatory Affairs, MCCAA.

The focus of the meeting was on 'Tackling the challenges of implementation together' and Dr Hudson set the tone for the subsequent programme driven by the publication of the new medical device and in vitro diagnostics regulations on 5th May and their entry into force on 25th May, when he said in his address: "This has been the culmination of many years of hard work, yet in some respects, the hard work has just begun".

Delegates listened to a range of contributors, from across the network, about the work being done to support implementation of the new regulations. This included updates from the European Commission about joint inspections, as well as highlights and lessons learned from network members leading aspects of the Joint Actions.

John Wilkinson, Director of Devices at MHRA and Chair of the CAMD Executive Group said, "The strength of the network lies in its ability to share examples of best practice, learn from each other and work together when facing the huge challenge of implementation".

Later in the day attention turned to discussing ways to improve and streamline governance so that it effectively supports implementation. The dialogue focused on the requirements, responsibilities and roles of the European Commission, the Medical Device Coordination Group (MDCG), Competent Authorities and the wider CAMD network.

On Thursday 1st June, delegates reconvened and attended workshops exploring:

- Priority transition problems and challenges
- Notified bodies; the designation challenge
- Ensuring effective and consistent stakeholder communications

In the final stages of the session, Dr Üllar Kaljumäe, Deputy Director General, Health Board, Estonia introduced the Estonian Presidency and welcomed delegates to the 41st meeting of the CAMD network, which will be held on 16-17 November 2017 in Tallinn.

In closing the meeting, Ingrid Borg, Director of Regulatory Affairs, MCCAA thanked delegates for their attendance, saying, "fruitful discussions and thorough contributions have helped provide more clarity about how we can tackle the challenges posed by implementation by sharing best practice and learning from each other".

About CAMD

The Competent Authorities for Medical Devices is an umbrella group under which the national competent authorities in the EU responsible for the regulation of Medical Devices, Active Implantable Medical Devices and In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Devices for human use work together to enhance the level of collaborative work in what is a single market for medical devices. The meeting involves representatives from the national competent authorities from the EU, EEA and candidate countries, with the participation of the European Commission.