

*Agenzia Italiana del Farmaco***AIFA****PRESS OFFICE****Technical Protocol of collaboration between the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) and the Maltese Medicines Authority signed today in Budapest**

The Director General of the Italian Medicines Agency Prof. Guido Rasi and the Chief Executive Officer of the Maltese Medicines Authority Dr. Patricia Vella Bonanno, signed today in Budapest a Technical Protocol of Collaboration in the field of medicines, emerging health technologies and medicinal policy. The agreement was signed on the margin of the Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) meeting, the network of the Heads of the National Competent Authorities responsible for the regulation of Medicinal Products for human and veterinary use in EU, of which Prof. Rasi and Dr. Vella Bonanno are members. The signing of the Protocol took place at the same time as a meeting between the Minister of Health of the Italian Republic Prof. Ferruccio Fazio and the Minister for Health, Elderly and Community Care of Malta Dr. Joseph Cassar at the headquarters of the Ministry of Health in Rome.

In particular, the Protocol aims at streamlining exchange of experience to strengthen links in the Mediterranean region, to promote the exchange of information on pharmaceutical products and inspection procedures, to facilitate joint Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Good Clinical Practices (GCP) inspection activities, and to promote training activities for assessment of medicinal products.

The areas of cooperation will also include the exchange of experience regarding Quality Management Systems, including audits, and the sharing of information on the development of integrated ICT systems to support regulatory activities.

The Technical Protocol, that shall remain effective for a period of five years, falls under the activities foreseen by the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Health of the Italian Republic and the Ministry for Social Policy of Malta, signed in Malta (Valletta) on December 23th, 2009.

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