



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Erkki Liikanen
Member of the Commission



Foreword

Communication and information are key strategic elements for all organisations these days, whether they are in the public or the private sector.

In the pharmaceuticals sector, perhaps more than in any other sector, the protection of public health means establishing permanent communication between administrations, pharmaceutical companies and scientific experts. Efficient communication networks are essential if we are to ensure that information is handled in ways that are fast, secure and reliable. The growth in the amount of business that regulators conduct electronically has been one of the most striking elements of the past decade in pharmaceutical regulation. Electronic networks now play an essential role in the Community system for issuing marketing authorisations and have, we believe, been instrumental in the step-change in efficiency in this system over the past few years in Europe.

In the pharmaceutical industry too, business is increasingly being conducted electronically. As companies rise to the challenge of globalisation, and as they merge, acquire and collaborate, the number of global enterprises and of integrated, networked companies will undoubtedly increase even faster than was the case over the past decade. The opportunities offered by internet-working will increasingly drive mainstream business. More and more companies are beginning to include the Internet in large elements of their business strategies.

This publication explores how regulators and pharmaceutical companies are addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by the new information and communication technologies. The solutions they identify and successfully implement will doubtless be relevant to other industrial and regulatory sectors as well.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Erkki Liikanen'.

Erkki Liikanen
Member of the European Commission