

**The European Herbal & Traditional Medicine Practitioners Association**  
**Representing herbal & traditional medicine practitioners across Europe**

**Reaffirmation of Purpose**  
**July 2015**

Publication of the Walker report on the future of herbal medicine practice in the UK in the dying days of the Coalition Government in March 2015 has resulted in continuing uncertainty within the profession about the benefits of statutory versus voluntary regulation and how best to secure the future of the profession.

The EHTPA has undertaken a review of its aims, work and structure and with the support of its constituent professional associations from across the herbal traditions remains dedicated to securing a secure legislative basis for herbal practice in the UK and more widely throughout the EU.

The EHTPA will continue to make the case for the statutory regulation of herbal practitioners in the interests of the millions of UK citizens regularly seeking herbal treatment.

In pursuit of this, the EHTPA has written to the UK government rejecting the main recommendations of the Walker report which was repudiated by the majority of the expert committee convened by the Department of Health to advise the Minister on the best way forward.

The EHTPA remains committed to ensuring that the benefits of herbal medicine are widely available through well trained, dedicated herbal practitioners and through its well-established Accreditation Board, the EHTPA continues to accredit UK training institutions providing high quality training in herbal medicine in its various traditions (Western, Chinese and Ayurvedic herbal medicine).

The EHTPA will continue to promote much needed research. Herbal medicine undoubtedly has the potential to play a major role in meeting the needs of patients with long-term chronic diseases, in combating the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance as well as in the general health maintenance of EU citizens.

The EHTPA continues to act as a platform for its constituent professional associations representing the Western, Ayurvedic, Chinese and Tibetan herbal sectors to promote the benefits of herbal medicine to a wider public.

Working with other interested partners including the British Herbal Medicine Association, the EHTPA continues work to ensure the provision of quality herbal medicines for use by UK practitioners for the benefit of their patients.

The EHTPA continues as an active member of EUROCAM, a forum of doctors, practitioners and patients. Based in Brussels, EUROCAM makes the case to the EU Commission, European Parliament and MEPs for the integration of CAM practice into the healthcare systems of the EU Member States and for the availability of a full range of herbal medicines for practitioner use throughout the EU. In this work, the EHTPA continues to represent the interests of its associated member professional associations from various EU Member States.