

## ISSUE: Urgent amendment needed of EU Herbals Directive

*Following is an example of a letter that you can use to send to your Member of Parliament and your Member of the European Parliament. The following is a general guide only, so feel free to use your own words if you are prefer.*

Dear [insert name of elected representative]

I am a great supporter of long-standing traditional systems of medicine that include the use of herbal products. These traditions include traditional Chinese medicine, Ayurveda, Tibetan, Kampo, Amazonian, southern African and a variety of other systems, each of which has evolved over many thousands of years.

*[Insert personal story, if appropriate]*

I am shocked to find that the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (2004/24/EC), which aimed to provide a simplified registration scheme for such products, is basically inaccessible to them. For example, as far as I am aware, not a single Chinese or Indian (Ayurvedic) herbal product has been registered under the scheme to-date.

I am deeply concerned that herbs from these traditions will either not be registered under the Directive's scheme or will be prevented by many, if not all, Member States from being sold as food supplements when the transition phase of the Directive expires on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2011.

Amendments to this Directive are urgently needed, to make them more applicable to non-European herbal cultures and to allow the Directive to fulfil its originally intended objectives.

As my elected representative in the European Parliament, I urge you to put pressure on our government and the European Commission (DG SANCO) to initiate such amendments.

Very best wishes

[Name, address, contact details]

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