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## Minister Helena Dalli addresses Working Group of Enforcement Officers

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The Medicines Authority is currently hosting the Heads of Medicines Agencies Working Group of Enforcement Officers (WGEO) for a three day meeting as part of the Maltese Presidency.

This Working Group is a unique model whereby expertise from all National Competent Authorities, Police and Customs meet on a periodic basis to enhance consumer protection through enforcement of legislation.

In her opening address, Minister for Social Dialogue, Consumer Affairs and Civil Liberties Helena Dalli remarked how recent cases of falsified products confirm that enforcement is taking an increasingly cross border and global dimension.

"Further strengthening the importance of ongoing collaboration and sharing of information is pivotal if we aim to achieve tangible results," stated Dr Dalli.

Minister Dalli explained how this working group is giving attention to four key work streams related to; wholesale and distribution, internet threats, falsified medicines and training and education. Importance is also being given to illegal sales on social media as new technologies need to be embraced.

The Minister noted with pleasure how the functions of the WGEO are focused on the needs and expectations of citizens and consumers.

Dr Dalli referred to the continuous investment by the Malta Medicines Authority in training and development of its employees which amounts to 10% of the Authority's budget. In this regard, Minister Dalli reiterated how effective enforcement requires science based, pragmatic and consistent decision making which can be achieved by gaining the necessary skills and know how through education.

Minister Dalli stated how the Maltese Presidency is giving a priority to International Collaboration by holding various summits including an EU-US Summit on Advanced Manufacturing which will be held in Malta next month.

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