

Memorandum for Cabinet by the Minister of Commonwealth
and Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health

European Agreement on the Exchange of
Therapeutic Substances of Human Origin

The European Agreement on the Exchange of Therapeutic Substances of Human Origin was signed in Paris on the 15th December, 1958 and has to date been signed by 15 of the 18 member Governments of the Council of Europe, and is in force in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom and Switzerland.

2. The aim of the Agreement is to make therapeutic substances of human origin available on a non-profit making basis, to member States of the Council of Europe in urgent need of them.

3. The expression "therapeutic substances of human origin" refers only to human blood and its derivatives, though provision is made whereby other therapeutic substances of human origin could be included by exchange of letters between two or more Parties to the Agreement.

4. A Protocol which is part of the Agreement sets out the conditions and regulations with regard to the properties, labelling, packing and despatch of those substances.

5. Contracting Parties undertake to charge only those costs involved in the collection, processing and carriage of such substances. They have, moreover, to take all necessary measures to exempt from import duties the therapeutic substances placed at their disposal by the other Parties. No profit is to be made out of such stocks which must be used solely for medical purposes and delivered only to bodies designated by the Governments concerned.

6. There is no legal objection, nor are there any difficulties from the Customs point of view, to Malta becoming a Party to the Agreement.

7. Accession to the Agreement would be to Malta's advantage and Hon. Members are invited to express their agreement to such a step.

17th March, 1966.