

Email sent to hundreds of contacts of IAF on 17 February 2011 and the Times of India article was attached.

Dear Ayurveda Colleagues & Friends,

Greetings from Praful Patel at International Ayurveda Foundation..!

As you are aware, we have completed our legal research on the THMPD. We hope to publish the summary of our findings soon. However, many of us including many international organisations, including IAF have been putting pressure on EU, Indian Government and other TSM governments to ensure that the implementation of THMPD is delayed by a few years to allow for negotiations between EU, TSM countries and interested NGOs to work for a separate regulatory framework for Ayurvedic medicines (and also other TSMs). IAF has worked closely with the Indian Government. This morning's news item is attached herewith and I am sure it will be a welcome news, as well as an excellent initiative. This does not mean that the implementation of THMPD on 1st May will be postponed as suggested by many of us. We still have to continue to put political pressure to achieve this objective, otherwise the alternative is a legal challenge at the Luxembourg European Court and/or at the Human Rights Court. As you are aware, IAF has served a formal legal notice to the President of European Union on 6 January 2010. IAF is willing to work with other like-minded organisations if this challenge is to go ahead. IAF wishes that initiatives of Indian Government will be successful so that we get some time to achieve wider objectives for acceptance of Ayurveda, not only European Union but elsewhere in the world. IAF at this moment solely remains focused on the single agenda to lobby and campaign against THMPD.

We are in the process of setting up our website www.iaf-ngo.org and we expect it to start functioning in February or early March when we will post the summary of the legal advice in public domain.

I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to our Directors of IAF in UK, Switzerland and India, as indeed many Ayurveda professionals and academicians who are supporting us. Our sincere thanks to Mark Rosenberg and his colleagues at VEAT for their continuous support. I must mention and pay tribute to Jonathan Butterworth, his legal academic colleagues and Dr. Madhulika Banerjee and her eminent husband Prof. Yogendra Yadav for their tireless efforts in the preparation of the legal advice. We have to remain active and vigilant. The legal battle, if it happens, is cost prohibitive and therefore, IAF will welcome joining hands with like-minded established institutes or industry to come together on one platform if it becomes necessary to launch a legal battle. We have a strong legal case.

With best wishes and looking forward to receive your comments and continuing support.

PRAFUL PATEL
GENERAL SECRETARY, IAF