

countries, exported Chinese Medicine were often not able to be registered as common medicines. For examples, the access standards of Chinese Medicine are like that of western medicine in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. Thus, Luo Yang suggested that our medical enterprises should be familiar with the registration regulations of foreign countries and organize a special team for research of these regulations in order to get latest information. Besides, he also suggested that the exported medical product should be strictly supervised.

### **THMPD—a Barrier for Export of Chinese Medicine in EU**

On March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2004, European Union promulgated EU Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive (THMPD), stipulating that any herbal product currently sold in Europe will be banned on 30 April 2011 unless received a license. Before 30 April 2011, there is a seven years transitional period, during which herbal product may be registered with evidence of 30 years safe use, of which 15 years must be in Europe. Seven years will soon pass, but no Chinese product has obtained registration yet.

Europe is not only the world's largest market of plant medicine, but also China's major Chinese Medicine export market. Although Chinese Medicine is not adopted in the mainstream medical product market, its export volume to Europe increases each year.

The release of this directive will mean that all foods, health products, and plant medicine currently sold in Europe will be banned since March 31, 2011. That will be a big loss for Chinese Medicine industry as well as for European residents. All Chinese medicine practitioners will have no medicines. Chinese medicine in Europe will face extinction.

Although this directive provides the opportunity for Chinese Medicine to gain legal recognition and protection, Chinese Medicine hardly passes the registration threshold, rendering it in a disadvantageous position in Europe.