

## Press Release

Berlin, 24th of February 2010

### Independent blood collection agencies are essential to secure a sufficient supply of blood and plasma in Germany

In 2009, the member organisations of the German Association of Independent Blood Collectors (VUBD e.V.) recorded a total of 1.75 million blood and plasma donations, i.e. every fourth blood and plasma donation in Germany was collected by a private blood establishment.

In particular in the plasma sector, private blood collection agencies play a vital role in meeting the enormous demand for plasma, which is needed for the production of certain drugs. In 2009, the plasma industry received more than one million liters of plasma from independent blood agencies.

The number of whole-blood donations collected by independent agencies is lower, but has been continuously rising for the last few years. In 2009, almost 500 000 whole-blood donations in Germany were collected by independent agencies. In its annual report pursuant to Section 21 TFG (German Transfusion Act), the Paul Ehrlich Institute established that 2008 about 4.8 million whole blood donations were needed to meet the overall demand.

Due to progress in medicine the need for full blood donations is constantly rising. However the aging population has resulted in a high percentage of people who can no longer donate blood. Therefore private blood collection agencies are trying to counteract this tendency by concentrating their recruitment efforts on young blood donors. The average age of donors in the records of independent blood and plasma collection agencies is currently 34.

MD Knud-Peter Krause, President of the German Association of Independent Blood Collectors (VUBD), puts it in a nutshell: "The independent blood collection agencies with their scope of services have become absolutely indispensable for the German transfusion system. Alongside the Red Cross, the state-owned, municipal and university blood donation centres as well as the blood donation service of the German Armed Forces, they have become the fourth pillar of the German blood donation service".

The association VUBD e.V. is the lobby of the independent blood collection agencies in Germany. Within the framework of the Blood Council, the association is counseling the Federal Ministry of Health with regard to topical questions in relation to blood and plasma donation and gives recommendations.

For more information about the association and about possibilities for blood and plasma donation in independent blood agencies please see [www.vubd.org](http://www.vubd.org).

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