The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Press office

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Press release
EMEA sets out its road map to 2010

The EMEA has launched a consultation exercise on the discussion paper 'The European Medicines Agency Road Map to 2010: Preparing the Ground for the Future'. The paper outlines the Agency's strategy to further develop as one of the world's foremost regulatory authorities for medicinal products, which is public health oriented, science-driven and transparent in the way it operates. The road map takes a twofold approach: to provide for better protected and informed patients and users of medicines, whilst encouraging and facilitating innovation and research in an enlarged European Union. Comments from the public and interested parties are welcome until 30 June 2004.

As a result of significant changes in the institutional, legislative and scientific environment, the EMEA will acquire new responsibilities with a greater focus on public and animal health. Particular attention will be given to the needs and expectations of patients and users of medicines. Support to small and medium sized companies will be further increased. The implementation of the EMEA vision requires the establishment of a network of excellence between all European regulatory authorities. Given the impact of an increasingly complicated network model, involving over 40 national agencies in the future, the road map also looks at how the existing partnership between all European regulatory authorities can be reinforced.

The discussion paper has identified six specific areas of the Agency's tasks relating to scientific advice, scientific assessment, post-authorisation activities, transparency and communication, provision of information to patients and good manufacturing/clinical practices. The specific needs of veterinary medicines are also taken into account, as is the proposed role and functioning of the Agency's secretariat.

Contributions are welcome at any time during the consultation period and should be sent to emearoadmap@emea.eu.int before 30 June 2004. Specific workshops will be organised with European representative groups for patients, health care professionals and industry. It is intended to present the results of the consultation exercise to the EMEA Management Board in September 2004, ahead of final discussions on the Agency's work programme for 2005 in December 2004.

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1. The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products was established by Council Regulation (EEC) No 2309/93 in 1995. The new European pharmaceutical legislation changes the name of the Agency, which will be known as the European Medicines Agency. The first phase of the new legislation is expected to be in force by the beginning of May 2004.

2. The discussion paper is available at http://www.emea.eu.int, together with other information about the work of the Agency.

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