The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

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Restructuring of activities at the EMEA

The EMEA Heads of Unit have discussed with the Executive Director the current structures, established 5 years ago, without prejudice of additional changes to be suggested in preparation of the next work plan (2000/2001) to be considered by the EMEA Management Board on 22 February 2000.

On the advice of Prof. Rolf Bass, the activities of the Unit for Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use will be progressively re-structured in the coming months to cover orphan drugs and to further differentiate operational activities in consultation with the Heads of Sectors

Starting from the second quarter of next year, Prof. Rolf Bass will be asked to conduct a new project within the EMEA. His new tasks will focus on scientific and research oriented work such as the acquisition for the EU authorisation system of additional high level expertise and the development of scientific methodology for risk assessment, pharmacovigilance performance and risk-benefit evaluation. He will also promote the integration of EMEA and Member State authorities' work objectives benefiting both centralised and mutual recognition procedures. His specific tasks will include incorporation of the scientific expertise of central and eastern European national authorities in the EMEA network, interface between mutual recognition and referrals/arbitrations, herbal medicinal products, product information and possible need for expertise in the medical device area.

The Sector for Information Technology will from 1 January 2000 report directly to Dr Peter Jones, Head of the Unit for the Evaluation of Medicines for Veterinary Use.

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