European Medicines Agency
Celebrating ten years – 1995 – 2005

"A Scientific Perspective on the Future of Medicines"

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Prof. Hannes Wahlroos
Chairman of the EMEA Management Board

Statement by prof. Hannes Wahlroos, Chairman of the EMEA Management Board

Dear Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

As the Chairman of the EMEA Management Board I am privileged to address on this 10 years' anniversary of the EMEA. The general experience of life tells us that time spent behind appears to be much shorter than time ahead of us. This is also the fact with the history of the EMEA.

It is amazing to see how this Agency has grown during ten years from quite a small organisation with 67 employees to a robust European Agency with staff of 300 persons. The same evolution has taken place with the budget of the Agency.

I will take this opportunity to elaborate a long-term vision for the European medicines control and the EMEA. Firstly, I am sure that the scientific assessment of new innovative products will be mandated comprehensively to the EMEA in the coming years. This means that all new chemical entities as well as new emerging biological therapies will be evaluated at the EMEA. This work will be based on a high-quality network of Member States' centres of expertise where the National Competent Authorities play an essential role.

I also see that the future priorities include comprehensive monitoring of the safety of authorised products on the market. Drug information of all products on the European market is another priority. We have made good progress in these developments. From the viewpoint of European citizens, it is of utmost importance for the EMEA to respond to these challenges with great reliability and credibility.

Medicinal products for veterinary use in Europe create other challenges. The EMEA should be able to guarantee safety, efficacy and quality of these products for target animal species. When these products are used for food-producing animals the consumer safety is essential. Lack of products for minor use and minor species causes problems. The EMEA has been and will be active in finding solutions to availability problems. The regulatory procedures may need adaptation in this context.

Pharmaceutical market in Europe is already open to innovative products when it comes to the authorisation of a medicinal product. The new procedures for scientific advise and scientific assessment will help the European pharmaceutical industry to gain back it's strong position in Europe. This will lead to new atmosphere which encourages innovations.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Management Board of the EMEA I wish to thank all those who have contributed to the work of the EMEA here at London as well as in the Member States. I'm sure the next ten years' period will be even more successful.