



European Medicines Agency  
Celebrating ten years – 1995 – 2005

“A Scientific Perspective on the Future of Medicines”  
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## **Marking the EMEA's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

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### **Development of the EMEA's accountability**

The veterinary unit has been an active part of the EMEA since it opened for business in February 1995, and the first veterinary product received a Community licence 12 months later. From the outset the Veterinary Unit strived to develop an open dialogue with the veterinary medicinal products industry, through regular contact with IFAH-Europe (formerly FEDESA). These contacts have taken the form of regular bilateral meetings, Infodays, expert group meetings and CVMP Interested parties meetings.

To further strengthen the accountability, the EMEA and industry run an annual survey to benchmark both the functioning of the centralised procedure and the opinion of the main players as to success and efficiency of the procedures. These surveys have recorded satisfaction by applicants and rapporteurs, which is mirrored in the willingness and openness of the veterinary unit to discuss and find resolutions to issues as they arise. IFAH-Europe feels confident that this accountability will continue to evolve under the new Regulation, enhancing the responsibilities of the EMEA.

After a successful first 10 years, IFAH-Europe looks forward to maintain a fruitful dialogue on future and on-going issues. As the procedures and responsibilities evolve, IFAH-Europe will continue to stress the need to keep a sense of proportion and to develop solutions specific for veterinary needs. The procedure is good. But the 'procedure' must not become more important than the objective – to maintain and licence veterinary medicinal products. We believe the true accountability of the EMEA is measured by its ability to facilitate the authorisation of products while complying with the safety requirements. We will continue to closely monitor this throughout the next decade.