



European Medicines Agency
Press Office

London, 14 March 2005
Doc. Ref. EMEA/92603/2005

Press release

EMEA annual report shows rise in applications for new medicines in 2004, with further increases forecast for 2005 and 2006

The European Medicines Agency Management Board adopted the Agency's annual report for 2004 at a meeting on 10 March 2005. The report shows a rise in the number of applications for new medicines for human use, with 51 applications in 2004 (2003: 39; 2002: 31). The Agency is forecasting a small increase to 52 applications in 2005 and 56 applications in 2006. A similar picture was seen for veterinary medicines, with 8 applications received in 2004 and forecast increases to 11 and 14 applications in 2005 and 2006 respectively.

The volume of applications and associated tasks is expected to increase substantially in 2006. The complexity of activities is also expected to increase, in particular due to the growing number of applications and requests for scientific advice relating to emerging therapies and new technologies. This will result in a higher demand on the experts from national competent authorities that have the necessary competences in this new and fast-growing area.

The Management Board also adopted the Agency's draft work programme, as well as a draft budget for 2006 of € 119 618 000 (2005: € 110 160 000; 2004: € 99 089 103). Reflecting an increase in applications forecast for 2006, the draft budget is based on a forecast fee revenue of € 80 020 000 (2005: € 77 455 000) and total contributions from the EU budget of € 35 500 000 (2005: € 29 100 000 million). This includes a special contribution of € 4 million for the orphan drug fund and a special contribution of € 8.5 million for the EMEA implementation of the EU telematics strategy for pharmaceuticals.

As part of the budget and work programme, the Board approved an increase from 379 to 424 (increase of 45) in the maximum total staff numbers. This increase is closely linked to the Agency's new tasks and responsibilities in the revised EU pharmaceutical legislation, which enters fully into force on 20 November 2005.

The Agency's priorities in 2006 as outlined in the draft work programme are expected to be in the following areas:

- Improving the safety of medicines to provide for better-protected patients
- Contributing towards stimulating the innovation and research of medicines in the EU to allow faster access to new therapies and technologies
- Implementing the EU telematics strategy, improving communication in the regulatory system and enhancing the availability to the general public of reliable and comprehensive information about medicines
- Optimising the core business of the Agency and of the EU regulatory network to increase efficiency

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NOTES:

1. This press release, together with other information about the work of the EMEA, may be found on the EMEA web site at the following location: <http://www.emea.eu.int>
2. The annual report for 2004 will be published on the EMEA website shortly.
3. The next meeting of the Management Board is on 26 May 2005.

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