



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Directorate

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Press release

EMEA creates new communications and networking unit

Thomas Lönngren, EMEA Executive Director, has announced the formation of a new Unit with responsibility for facilitating communications and networks between the Agency's partners. The creation of this new Unit is part of the Agency's plans to develop and prepare itself for the changes in the European system for authorisation and supervision of medicines expected in 2003.

The move reinforces the network character of the EMEA, by focusing on the communication tools and IT systems needed to bring together the Agency with the 27 different competent authorities in the Member States, the European Union institutions and the public. This includes the expected transfer from the European Commission to the Agency in 2003 of responsibility for the IT systems that allow secure regulatory exchange between authorities and industry during submission and evaluation of medicines.

The new Unit incorporates some functions of the former Technical Coordination Unit and includes other new areas of activities. An organigram of the new Unit is attached.

The recruitment procedure for the Head of Unit post is re-published in the EU Official Journal of 18 October 2001 and advertisements will appear in national press in all EU Member States. The recruitment notice for the Head of Sector for project management was published on 6 October 2001 in the EU Official Journal.

Other changes announced include the transfer of operational responsibility for the Inspections Sector to the Unit for Veterinary Medicines, headed by Dr Peter Jones.

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NOTES:

1. The recruitment announcement for the Head of Unit post is published in the EU Official Journal OJ C No 292 A of 18 October 2001. The recruitment announcement for the Head of Sector for project management is published in the EU Official Journal OJ C 282 A of 6 October 2001. The deadline for applications for both positions is 19 November 2001. Full details of the positions are available on the EMEA web site.
2. This press release, together with other information about the work of the Agency, can be found on the EMEA web site: <http://www.emea.eu.int>

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Unit for Communications and networking

Head of Unit: *Post vacant*

Sector for Document management and publishing

Head of Sector: Beatrice FAYL

In addition to current responsibilities, the Sector will concentrate on methods and standards for electronic communications.

Sector for Meeting management and conferences

Head of Sector: Sylvie BÉNÉFICE

In addition to the large number of meetings held at the EMEA, the Sector will look at new methods to bring people together.

Sector for Project management

Head of Sector: *Post vacant*

This new Sector will be responsible for cross-Agency projects, including project management of IT developments.

Sector for Information technology

Head of Sector: Michael ZOURIDAKIS

The Sector will be responsible for running and maintenance of the Agency's IT systems.