European Medicines Agency
Press office

London, 1 October 2004
EMEA/92160/2004

PRESS RELEASE

EMEA Management Board considers Road Map 2010 and welcomes increase in new applications for human medicines

Following a successful public consultation exercise, the Management Board had a first discussion on the large number of comments received from interested parties on the EMEA 'Road Map to 2010'. Some 65 contributions were received from patient and healthcare professional groups, pharmaceutical companies and industry trade associations at national, European and international level, national competent authorities, national health ministries, academia and learned societies, and from the European institutions. The final Road Map and implementation plan should be published towards the end of 2004, together with the Agency's 2005 work programme.

Thomas Lönngren, EMEA Executive Director, told the 44th meeting of the Management Board that the Agency expects an increase of almost 25 % in the number of applications in 2004 for new human medicines compared to initial 2004 forecasts. The initial forecast for 2004 of 40 applications has now been revised to 49, potentially marking a recovery from the low level seen in 2002 and 2003 (2000=54, 2001=59, 2002=31, 2003=39). The EMEA will continue to discuss with potential applicants about their filing strategies with a view to improving the Agency's planning.

The Board also revised the rules on access to EMEA documents. The revisions in particular set out a clearer appeal procedure that brings the Agency in line with other EU institutions and bodies.

The next Management Board meeting is on 16 December 2004.

--ENDS--

NOTES:

1. This press release, together with other information about the work of the EMEA, may be found on the EMEA web site at http://www.emea.eu.int
2. 'The European Medicines Agency Road Map to 2010: Preparing the Ground for the Future' was published in response to the adoption of the new pharmaceutical legislation on 31 March 2004. The paper outlines the Agency's strategy as it develops further as one of the world's foremost medicines regulatory authorities and takes on new tasks and responsibilities. The April 2004 document can be found here.
3. The revised rules on access to documents are available on the EMEA web site.

Media enquiries only please to:
Martin Harvey Allchurch
Tel. (44-20) 74 18 84 27, Fax (44-20) 74 18 84 09
E-mail: press@emea.eu.int