



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Directorate

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Press release

Changes in the Human Medicines Evaluation Unit and nomination of new Head of Unit

Following the announcement of restructuring of activities at the EMEA in December 1999, a recruitment competition was published for heads of unit for human medicines in February 2000. As announced in the EMEA Work Programme 2000-2001, two operational units will be created: one dealing with pre-approval aspects of medicines and the other with post-marketing issues.

The Executive Director invited André Broekmans and Strachan Heppell, respectively the current and former chairmen of the Management Board, together with a representative of the EMEA Staff Committee, to form the selection panel.

On the basis of recommendations made by the selection committee, Fernand Sauer, EMEA Executive Director, has decided to nominate Mr Noël Wathion as Head of Unit responsible for post-marketing issues with effect from 1 September 2000. Mr Wathion is currently Head of Sector for Pharmacovigilance and Regulatory Affairs at the EMEA.

The second head of unit post will only become available from 1 January 2001 for budgetary reasons. Mr Sauer will consult with his successor before taking a decision on the second appointment, who will be responsible for pre-approval aspects.

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE:

Mr Noël Wathion is of Belgian nationality and was born on 11 September 1956. He is a pharmacist and graduated from the Free University of Brussels. Mr Wathion first worked as pharmacist in a retail pharmacy. He was later appointed to the Pharmaceutical Inspectorate (Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Health) in Brussels as a Chief Inspector, acting as the Secretary of the Belgian Medicines Commission. He is a former Belgian member of both the CPMP and CVMP, and representative on the European Commission Pharmaceutical Committee, Standing Committee and Notice to Applicants working group. He joined the EMEA in August 1996.