The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Executive Director

London, 28 June 2000
Doc. Ref: EMEA/D/18899/EN

Personal message from Mr Fernand Sauer, EMEA Executive Director

"The European Commission, acting on a proposal of Commissioner David Byrne, has today decided to nominate me as Director responsible for public health policy in the Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection ('DG Sanco'), with effect from 1 December 2000.

Having just celebrated its fifth anniversary, the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA) is now well established and recognised by its European and international partners. The EMEA has recently implemented the new Community policy on orphan medicinal products. The Agency is ready for the revision of the European system announced for the beginning of next year.

I have been able to realise the majority of the objectives that I fixed for myself at the creation of the EMEA. This has been possible thanks to the support of the many European experts nominated by the national competent authorities to support the work of the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products and Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products. I am also grateful for the enthusiasm and dedication of my colleagues at the Agency.

In close liaison with Prof. André Broekmans, chairman of the Management Board, and with the European Commission, I will continue to exercise my functions at the EMEA to ensure a smooth transition until my successor is ready to take up the position. The Management Board will appoint my successor at its next meeting on 27 September 2000. The European Commission will shortly publish the post in the Official Journal of the European Communities."

Biographical note

Fernand Sauer is the Executive Director of the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA) in London since 1994. The Management Board renewed his five-year mandate in July 1999.

A graduate in pharmacy from the University of Strasbourg, he also holds a Masters Degree in European and international law from the University of Paris II and a number of post-graduate diplomas in public health, pharmaceutical law and European Community studies.

Mr Sauer held various positions in France as a hospital pharmacist and pharmaceutical inspector at the Ministry of Health. In 1979 he joined the European Commission in Brussels (ex-DG III) and in 1986 became Head of the Pharmaceuticals Unit. He has been involved in the completion of the European Internal Market, trilateral harmonisation of regulatory requirements (ICH) between Europe, the US and Japan, and the development of pricing transparency and industrial policy in the pharmaceutical sector.

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