



London, 5 December 1997

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Sixteenth Meeting of the Management Board**

The Management Board of the EMEA met on 3 December 1997 under the Chairmanship of Mr Strachan Heppell. The Board welcomed a new member from France, Mr Jean-René Brunetière.

The Board gave discharge to the Executive Director for the execution of the 1996 budget. Discharge was also granted to the EMEA accounting officer.

The budgetary perspectives of the EMEA for 1998-1999 were addressed at length by the Board, in particular the reduction by ECU 2 million in the EC contribution to ECU 12 million for 1998. In order to reduce the impact of this shortfall, a number of decisions were taken by the Board totalling approximately ECU 2 million, including:

- economies in staff-related expenditure to provide for infrastructure investment in 1998;
- re-use in 1998 of Value Added Tax refunded from the fitting-out of the EMEA.

Subject to the final vote by European Parliament on 18 December 1997, the overall effect of these changes will be to establish a budget for 1998 of ECU 31.9 million, including fee revenue of ECU 19.6 million and a contribution from the EC of ECU 12 million.

The draft EMEA Annual Report 1997 was reviewed by the Management Board. The Report will be updated with final figures for the end of the year and made available at the beginning of 1998. The Board also gave its first consideration to the EMEA Work Programme 1998-1999 and gave support to the general approach set out in the budget outline for 1999. A final Programme will be presented for adoption in February 1998, together with the preliminary draft budget for 1999.

On the basis of a report from Prof. Henschler on the Workshop on transparency and access to documents of the EMEA (30 October 1997), the Board endorsed a number of measures. First, the Rules on access to documents of the EMEA were confirmed by the Board. Second, specific initiatives will be undertaken by the Executive Director including exploration with the EMEA scientific committees on how to make their work more transparent, and also publication of the list of European experts. The Board supported the holding of a second workshop at the end of 1998.

Progress made by the ad hoc Working Group on Herbal Remedies was noted by the Board, which confirmed that the group should continue its work in 1998. A final report for 1997 will be reviewed by the Board in February 1998, after consultation with the CPMP, and made public.

Meeting dates for 1998 and 1999 were confirmed by the Board. In 1998 the Board will meet on 19 February, 3 June, 30 September and 2 December. In 1999, the Board will meet on 10 February, 2 June, 29 September and 1 December.

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This press release, together with other information about the work of the EMEA, may be found on the Internet at the following location: <http://www.eudra.org/emea.html>

For further information, please contact:  
Antoine Cuvillier or Martin Harvey, Directorate, EMEA  
Tel: +44.171.418.8428 / 8427  
Fax: +44.171.418.8409