

London, 6 February 1997

PRESS RELEASE

Thirteenth Meeting of the Management Board

The Management Board of the EMEA met on 5 February 1997 at the start of a second three year term. The renewed membership of the Board is given in annex. The Board re-elected Mr Strachan Heppell (UK) as Chairman and Dr Romano Marabelli (Italy) as Vice-Chairman.

• *Work programme 1997-1998*

The Management Board adopted the EMEA Work Programme for 1997-1998. The Agency's programme is guided by a number of objectives and action priorities, which are set out in the programme together with specific activities of the Units and Sectors.

This document is available on the Internet or by written request (EMEA/MB/002/97).

• Budgetary matters

The Board adopted the preliminary draft budget for 1998, totalling ECU 33 900 000. An EU subsidy of ECU 14 million (same level as in 1997) will be requested from the EU budgetary authorities. Fee revenue is expected to reach ECU 19.6 million, exceeding the level of subsidy for the first time.

A transfer of appropriations of ECU 1 620 000 from the 1996 to 1997 budget was approved by the Board. This transfer allows the Orphan Drug Fund to be increased to a total of ECU 800 000 and also reinforces investment in information technology amounting to ECU 1.1 million.

Following the opinion of the EU Court of Auditors, the Board also adopted a decision granting discharge to the Executive Director for implementation of the 1994 and 1995 budgets.

• Reform of fees payable to the EMEA

The Board finalised its position on the reform of fees payable by industry to the EMEA. A report will shortly be forwarded to the European Commission as a contribution to the preparation of a proposal for a new Council Regulation on fees.

• *Improving transparency*

The Board also reviewed the existing consultation mechanisms that have been established with EMEA social partners (European consumers and patient groups, health professions, industry, etc.). The Executive Director will consult with those partners on their current relations with the EMEA and possible further measures to increase transparency of the Agency's operations.

• Confirmed future meeting dates of the Board

1997: 4 June, 1 October and 3 December

1998: 19 February, 3 June, 30 September and 2 December

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

The Management Board of the EMEA

Chairman

Strachan HEPPELL Vice-Chairman Romano MARABELLI

European Commission

Stefano MICOSSI

Fernando MANSITO CABALLERO

Alternate Guy CRAUSER

European Parliament

Gianmartino BENZI Dietrich HENSCHLER

Alternates

Dame Rosalinde HURLEY Jean-Pierre REYNIER

Belgium

Jean-Paul DEROUBAIX Michel CHOJNOWSKI

Alternates

Jean-Paul SAMAIN Luc VANHAELST

DenmarkIb VALSBORG

Mogens BJØRNBAK-HANSEN

Alternates

Jorgen BARTELS PETERSEN Knud BORGE PEDERSEN

Germany

Herman PABEL

Gerhard Josep KOTHMANN

Alternates

Jörg SCHUSTER

Hans-Peter HOFFMANN

Greece

Stavros KAZAZIS Nikolaos KOKOLIS

Spain

Ana Maria NAVEIRA Valentin ALMANSA

Alternate

Agustin PIEDRABUENA

France

Didier TABUTEAU Jacques BOISSEAU

Alternates

Arielle NORTH

Dominique MOUROT

Ireland

Tom MOONEY Seamus HEALY

Alternates

Tom O'MAHONY

John Albert COSTELLOE

Italy

Vittorio SILANO Romano MARABELLI

Alternates

Carlo RICCARDI Agostino MACRI

LuxembourgMariette BACKES-LIES

The Netherlands
André BROEKMANS

Christian VAN DER MEIJS

Alternates

Cornelis DE VOS Kees KUIPER

Austria

Alexander JENTZSCH Ernst LUSZCZAK

Alternate

Christian KALCHER

Portugal

José ARANDA DA SILVA Maria Armanda MIRANDA

Alternates

Rui SANTOS IVO Graça Maria FERREIRA

Finland

Mauno LINDROOS Hannes WAHLROOS

Harri IKÄLÄINEN

Alternates
Saara REINIUS

Sweden

Anders BROSTRÖM Birgitta BRATTHALL **United Kingdom** Keith JONES Michael RUTTER