



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Directorate

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PRESS RELEASE

Thirty-second meeting of the Management Board

The EMEA Management Board met on 18 December 2001, chaired by Dr Keith Jones.

The Management Board adopted the Agency's budget and work programme for 2002. The budget totals € 70 547 000 for 2002 (2001, € 65 866 000), including forecast fee revenue of € 49 000 000 (2001, € 45 910 000), a basic contribution from the EU general budget of € 14 000 000 (2001, € 14 700 000), a special contribution for orphan medicinal products of € 3 300 000 (2001, € 600 000) and funding for the next phase of Pan-European Regulatory Forum (PERF) activities of € 1 632 000.

The Board also approved an increase in the number of staff to a maximum permitted level of 251. The EMEA currently has 208 members of staff actually in place (maximum number in 2001 is 220). The increase is part of the Agency's priorities in 2002 to strengthen the European pharmacovigilance system, improve scientific advice and prepare the EMEA for the expected reforms to the European marketing authorisation system, for enlargement and for future scientific challenges and new therapies.

The Board approved the EMEA annual report for 2001. In addition to the core business of handling applications for marketing authorisations, highlights for medicines for human use included the continued increase in the number of applications for orphan medicines and the use of accelerated procedures for the review of two medicinal products for the treatment of cancer and HIV/AIDS. For veterinary medicines, significant progress is reported in support of the availability of veterinary medicines initiative and the risk management strategy on antimicrobial resistance.

In addition, the Management Board welcomed the announcement by the Executive Director of the implementation on 5 December 2001 of the EudraVigilance database and the data processing network for the electronic transmission of individual case safety reports.

The Commission representatives updated the Management Board on progress with the 2001 review of the European marketing authorisation system and informed the Board that the first Council working group meeting took place on 17 December 2001.

Following a positive report from the European Court of Auditors, the Management Board granted discharge to the Executive Director for the execution of the Agency's budget in 2000.

The next meeting of the Management Board will be on 21 February 2002.

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NOTES:

1. This press release, together with other information about the work of the EMEA, may be found on the EMEA web site at the following location: <http://www.emea.eu.int>
2. The 2001 annual report and the 2002 work programme will be available in early January 2002 once final figures have been included.

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