



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

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PRESS RELEASE

Twentieth Meeting of the Management Board

The Management Board of the EMEA met on 2 December 1998 under the chairmanship of Mr Strachan Heppell and welcomed Observers from Iceland and Norway who joined the meeting for the first time.

On the basis of the opinion of the European Court of Auditors, the Board gave discharge to the Executive Director for the execution of the 1997 budget. Discharge was also granted to the EMEA accounting officer.

A budget of ECU 41.35 million was adopted for 1999. Subject to the final vote by the European Parliament at its plenary session 14 – 18 December, the budget is made up of ECU 27.15 million in fee revenue, with a contribution of ECU 13 million from the EU general budget and miscellaneous revenue of ECU 1.2 million.

As part of expenditure in 1999, the Board agreed to a proposal to expand the Agency's premises to a further floor in 7 Westferry Circus. This is intended to provide better meeting facilities for the EMEA scientific committees and support to the mutual recognition facilitation groups.

Given the imminent adoption of the new Fee Regulation, the Board examined the basis for distribution of fees between the EMEA and national competent authorities for the provision of rapporteur and other services. For existing fees and for the new scientific advice fee, the Board decided to continue with the current system of an equal share between EMEA and rapporteurs for a further year. The Board will decide on the distribution of the annual fee at its next meeting, based on proposals from a working group to meet in January 1999.

The draft annual report for 1998 was approved by the Board. It is intended to make the report public at the beginning of 1999, once all final figures have been included. The Board also considered initial workload forecasts for the 1999-2000 work programme, which will be presented at the February 1999 meeting.

On a proposal from the Executive Director, the Board endorsed the publication of the list of European experts. This would include publication, in both paper and electronic formats, of the names, nationalities and address of nominating authorities of all European experts used in the scientific work of the EMEA. National competent authorities are currently reviewing nominations and publication of the list is expected during the first quarter of 1999.

Meeting dates for 1999 and 2000 were confirmed by the Board. In 1999 the Board will meet on 10 February, 2 June, 29 September and 1 December. In addition, an informal meeting will be held in Helsinki on 13 September 1999. In 2000 the Board will meet on 23 February, 7 June, 27 September and 20 December.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. 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>

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