



The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products

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PRESS RELEASE

Twenty-second meeting of the Management Board

The Management Board of the EMEA met on 2 June 1999 under the chairmanship of Mr Strachan Heppell.

Most of the meeting was given over to a 'brainstorming session', attended also by those heads of national agencies and a number of European Commission services that are not members of the Management Board. The Board examined a wide range of issues, including the scope of the regulatory system, governance of the EMEA and management of regulatory business, structure of the regulatory system, and regulatory performance indicators and benchmarking. The Board hoped that its debate would contribute to the review process initiated by the European Commission of the global European marketing authorisation system.

On the proposal of the European Commission, the Management Board unanimously re-appointed Mr Fernand Sauer as Executive Director of the EMEA for a further renewable period of five-years from 1 September 1999. Accepting the nomination, Mr Sauer set out the major challenges for the next five years: review of the global European marketing authorisation system; response of the pharmaceutical sector to enlargement of the EU; further improvements to transparency; and consolidation of the public health dimension of the EMEA especially in the field of orphan drugs and post-authorisation supervision.

The Board welcomed the decision of the European Economic Area (EEA) Joint Committee of 28 May 1999, and looked forward to the formal participation of Iceland and Norway as members of the CPMP, CVMP and their working parties once the decision comes into force after ratification by Iceland and Norway.

Following the decision at its 10 February 1999 meeting to allocate up to 10 percent of annual fee to sampling and testing of centrally authorised medicinal products, the Board noted that a programme has now been drawn up with the European Pharmacopoeia and its Organisation of Medicines Control Laboratories network. The first testing programme includes all products authorised in 1996 and a number of other products selected by the EMEA.

As part of the EMEA's ongoing commitment to working with the regulatory authorities of central and eastern European countries, the Board noted that the Agency has been selected to coordinate the Pan-European Regulatory Forum. More details will be made available once the PERF Steering Committee of EU and CEEC heads of agencies has completed the programme selection, expected in July 1999.

The Board heard that the European Anti-Fraud Office has now been created by the European Commission. As a consequence the EMEA has – together with all EU decentralised bodies – taken a decision on cooperation with the Office. The decision will be made public.

The next meeting of the Management Board will be held on 29 September 1999.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS:

1. The EEA Joint Committee Decision No 74/1999 of 28 May 1999 will be published in the EC Official Journal.
2. 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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