The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Directorate

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PRESS RELEASE

Twenty-seventh meeting of the Management Board

The EMEA Management Board met on 23 October 2000, chaired by Prof. André Broekmans.

The Board appointed Thomas Lönngren as the new Executive Director. This follows the nomination of Fernand Sauer as Director responsible for public health policy in the European Commission Directorate-General for Health and Consumer Protection ('DG Sanco'), with effect from 1 December 2000. The biography of Mr Lönngren is annexed for information.

A supplementary and amending budget for 2000 was adopted to take into account the creation of the orphan medicinal products fund (€ 1 million), the continuation of the Pan-European Regulatory Forum programme (PERF II, € 217,000), improvements in fee-earning activities (€ 2.3 million) and an increase in the European Union general subsidy to take into account the strength of the pound sterling. The amended budget for 2000 totals € 53,578,220.

In addition to the new activities relating to orphan medicinal products and the PERF II programme, the Board approved expenditure relating to the refurbishment of the third floor for the provision of new meeting rooms and delegate facilities. The new arrangements for the third floor will provide for a state-of-the-art meeting room capable of seating 120 delegates, complete with modern audio-visual equipment. A further 3 meeting rooms holding 45, 30 and 18 delegates will also be created, allowing increased flexibility for break-out sessions. This will in particular benefit arrangements for the mutual recognition facilitation, scientific advice and other new CPMP/CVMP groups.

The Board noted a proposal from the Executive Director for a workshop on EMEA transparency policy, to be held on 23 November 2000. The task of the workshop will be to review and confirm current EMEA policy and make appropriate proposals for improvements ahead of the 20 December 2000 Management Board meeting.

As announced in the EMEA Work Programme 2000-2001, a benchmarking project for the harmonisation of best regulatory practices was also noted by the Board. The project will initially involve 22 competent authorities from European Union, EFTA and central and eastern European countries. The purpose of the project is the exchange of experience in the implementation of a quality system ('Good Regulatory Practices') to ensure consistency in methodology and criteria for the implementation of EU legislation and guidelines.

The Board heard the intention of the Commission to bring forward a new regulatory framework for herbal and traditional medicines as part of the 2001 review of the European authorisation system. Meanwhile the Board agreed the basis for the continued work of the Herbal Medicinal Products Working Party within the existing structures of the EMEA.

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NOTES:

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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Biography of Thomas LÖNNGREN

Age 49, Swedish national

Professional history

1998	Deputy Director-General of the Medical Products Agency, Sweden (present position)
1993	Director of Operations for licensing and post-marketing control of human and veterinary medicines, Medical Products Agency, Sweden (present position)
1999	Appointed as expert in the governmental committee on reforming the Swedish reimbursement system for medicines
1998	Appointed Chairman of the PER–committee (International EFTA convention)
1998	Appointed by the Commission to vice-topic leader for EU in ICH M2
1993	Appointed Leader of the Year by the Swedish Pharmacy Labour Association
1990-1993	Director of Operations for the control of herbal medicines and drug-related products including medical devices, Medical Products Agency, Sweden
1982-1994	Senior pharmaceutical consultant for the Swedish health cooperation program in Vietnam. Several missions to Vietnam in order to advise the ministry of health in Vietnam on the establishment of a Vietnamese regulatory control agency and the supply of essential drugs and drug production.
1986-1990	Senior pharmaceutical officer in charge of the control of herbal medicines, cosmetics, medical devices, narcotics and contraceptives, National Board of Health and Welfare, Department of Drugs, Sweden
1978-1985	Responsible for the assessment and control of herbal medicines at the National Board of Health and Welfare, Department of Drugs, Sweden
1976-1978	Lecturer at the institution of social and regulatory science at the Pharmaceutical Faculty at Uppsala University, Sweden. Main responsibility: Education of pharmaceutical students and research.

Education and training

1999	Advanced course in health economics at the Stockholm School of Economics
1995	Management coach graduation from the Management School of LOTS
1992-1994	Advanced management courses at Stockholm School of Economics
1976	Master of Science degree in social and regulatory pharmacy, University of Uppsala
1976	Pharmacy degree, Pharmaceutical Faculty, University of Uppsala.
1972	College degree in chemistry, Stockholm
1969	Technical engineer, Kristinehamn