EMA moves to the Netherlands

As a result of Brexit, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) moved from London to Amsterdam before 29 March 2019. The information in this factsheet is intended for anyone who wants to know what steps have already been taken, and what will be happening in the near future, to make EMA's move to the Netherlands as smooth as possible. See also, in this regard, the factsheets Temporary Accommodation, The New Building, and Staff.

In June 2016, the British people voted in a referendum for the United Kingdom to leave the European Union (EU). On 29 March 2017, the United Kingdom confirmed this intention by invoking Article 50 of the EU Treaty. Subsequently, on 20 November 2017, after a long decision-making process, the Netherlands was named the new host country for the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

In 2017, all 19 countries bidding to host EMA's new location of the delivered a national bid book. That set out its added value as a host country and what it was offering to EMA. One of the main conditions EMA had stipulated was the continuity of its work. That is because new and innovative medicines must be assessed as efficiently as possible in terms of their safety, efficacy and quality, so that they can enter the European market with the least possible delay. In addition, EMA must remain able to act quickly if there are problems with a particular medicine. This principle was thus at the heart of the Dutch bid book.

What the Netherlands deliver

- A new building will be built in Amsterdam Zuidas.
- A temporary building has been made ready for use to bridge the period until the new building is ready.
- EMA staff will be supported in their move to the Netherlands
- Additional efforts will be made to strengthen the European medicines network (in the form of expertise and financial support).

The Netherlands is also readily accessible internationally and has a good infrastructure. It is an attractive location not only from an economic point of view, but also as regards the life sciences & health sector.

The EMA Relocation Project

The relocation of EMA involves a large number of authorities and organisations, both public and private.

Responsibility for coordinating the move lies with the EMA Relocation Project Directorate. The main objectives of the EMA Relocation Project are:

- To move EMA smoothly to temporary and then to permanent accommodation
- To relocate more than 650 EMA staff and their families (in close cooperation with the municipality of Amsterdam)
- To implement and coordinate the proposals the Netherlands made in its bid book.

"The choice of Amsterdam means that EMA can continue its important work after Brexit without interruption and without a loss in productivity."
(Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte)

About EMA

EMA is an important European agency, which plays a central role in the evaluation of new medicines, for both humans and animals, that are authorised on the European market. The quality, safety and reliability of these medicines are paramount. In addition, EMA monitors the safety of medicines that are already on the market, and intervenes in the event of risks to public health.

EMA is an agency of good international standing, which also plays an important role in the research and development of new medicines within the EU. The Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board is one of the most prominent providers of expertise within the European network of medicines authorities, which is coordinated by EMA.

Facts and figures

- 900 members of staff
- The positive evaluation of about 84 new medicines per year**
- 1.4 million registrations of adverse effects from medicines*
- A network of 40 medicines authorities and nearly 4,000 experts from EU countries*
- 36,000 visitors and 565 international meetings a year

***Figures are from 2018.*

**Figures are from 2017.*

Overall timeline