

PRESS RELEASE

Patients must be the first criteria in the decision about EMA relocation

- **Fundamed report on the Patients First Perspective on EMA Relocation, analyze the criteria that must be prioritized for a safe and timely access to medicines.**
- **After the United Kingdom decision of withdrawal the EU, only 3 candidates are in excellent conditions to host the EMA and guarantee patients needs: Barcelona, Amsterdam and Milan**
- **On 20 November 2017 EU Member States will select a new host city for the European Medicines Agency (EMA)**

Madrid, November 2017. Patients must be the first criteria in the final decision on the European Medicines Agency (EMA) new location, as claims the report launched by Fundación de Ciencias del Medicamento y Productos Sanitarios (FUNDAMED). Besides from the specific criteria established by the European Commission (EC), Fundamed is interested in analyze those criteria that will influence the patient's safe and timely access to the most advances treatments and medicines.

Among all the criteria to be taken into account, staff retention is a key factor, since this guarantees both, the business continuity and patients' rights. Depending of the extent of the specific staff loss, there are certain public health issues, such as the initiatives against antimicrobial resistances, which may be endangered by an irresponsible decision.

In this way the EMA itself has highlighted 5 main candidates for its relocation. However, there are significant differences among them, so that only 3 candidates can guarantee the performance of EMA activities: Barcelona, Amsterdam and Milan.

The aim of Fundamed report is consider the patients needs, because patients should be the main concern in the EMA relocation decision. For this purpose Fundamed has prioritized the criteria that will affect them the most and the report reinforce the patients' interest.

The Patients First report is focused in a quali-quantitative analysis of those criteria that put the patient's safety and access to medicines in the spotlight. Thus, the criteria analyzed from a Patients First perspective are: 1) Business Continuity; 2) Building and infrastructure and 3) Location and accessibility. From a Patients First

focus, criteria should give a high weigh to candidates that guarantee that citizens are the real benefited from the continuity of the EMA activity.

For Fundamed, the results of the analysis show that only 3 of the candidates' cities are in excellent conditions to assume the EMA work on time to avoid irreversible consequences, those are: **Barcelona, Amsterdam and Milan.**

The final decision on EMA headquarters will be adopted on 20 November when Member States will vote. This decision must be informed and must assume all the risks and consequences for the European patients.

About de Fundamed

Fundamed www.fundacionfundamed.org is a non-profit organization set up to promote debate and analysis on the fundamental issues of healthcare at the global level. Its objectives include the recognition of best practices through the announcement of awards, the promotion of studies and analysis of relevant health issues and the fostering of debate by health officials at local and European level. Fundamed's Scientific Committee is made up of experts of recognized academic and scientific prestige. Fundamed reports are made under the most demanding quality standards, and aim to provide rigorous information that helps health decision-making. Fundamed is a member of the European Public Health Alliance www.eph.org and among its objectives is to help build a Europe with better health in its policies.

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