



12 October 2017
S2017/05575/FS

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
Annika Strandhäll
Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Ann Linde
Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Mr Alexander Italianer
Secretary-General
European Commission
BERL
1049 BRUSSELS

Dear Mr Italianer

On 30 September, the Commission published its assessment of the bids submitted for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). We would like to respectfully submit the following clarifying comments on the Swedish bid.

Let us start by saying that Sweden values the Commission's ambition to contribute to a transparent Council decision on a new home for the EMA.

The relocation of the EMA is a matter of ensuring patient safety for more than 500 million people living in the EU. This consideration needs to be the focal point. Access to life-saving medicines for all Member States should not be affected by financial constraints. A smooth and seamless relocation of the agency and its staff is essential. Moreover, relocating the EMA to an environment where its operations can be developed and enhanced is key. The EMA should be able to meet future challenges and provide patients with faster access to medicines. A well-functioning agency also has other imminent added value for the EU and is crucial for EU competitiveness.

The Commission's general assessment of Sweden's bid is correct; however, the technical assessment conducted by the EMA omits and misinterprets some of the information we have provided.

Layout and proposed facilities of the proposed premises

The technical assessment states that the Swedish bid "does not meet EMA requirements". Sweden more than meets all the specified criteria; our bid states that "Sweden offers the EMA a choice of secure premises in Stockholm, giving the EMA the opportunity to influence the design of the building such that it suits the requirements and needs of the Agency."

The EMA has been offered either 1) the ultra-modern Life City building currently being built in the centre of Stockholm's life science cluster, or 2) an existing, high-profile property, available as of 1 April 2019, in an extremely central location. The latter, today part of the Government Offices, can also function as a temporary building if Life City is not ready by the relocation date. Both buildings will include all physical and technological infrastructure and back-up systems, and meet security requirements. They will also provide the necessary conference rooms and facilities, such as audio and video conference facilities, broadcasting equipment and voting system. The technical assessment also wrongly states that the buildings do not offer the specified 27 000 m² although the offer states 28 000 m² and 30 000 m² on pages 9–10 respectively.

Relocation plan

The technical assessment has not given Sweden a green light on the relocation plan. I would argue that our overarching relocation plan (page 26) provides the necessary information concisely, stating that “The Swedish Government has already begun planning the activities that would need to be carried out following a decision on relocation by 1 April 2019, as Sweden recognises that the EMA will need high-quality support from the host country during the relocation process. This will guarantee a smooth transition. Sweden's overarching plan for relocation of the EMA to Sweden is presented below. A more detailed plan will be drawn up in close cooperation with the EMA.”

We express the Swedish Government's sincere hope and expectation that the Commission will continue to work for a transparent process based on objective criteria, and to this end acknowledge the correct and verifiable facts provided in the Swedish bid.

Yours sincerely,



Annika Strandhäll
Minister for Health and Social Affairs



Ann Linde
Minister for EU Affairs and Trade