



Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport

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 1

*All correspondence addressed to the postal address quoting date and reference of this letter.*

Dear Mr. Italianer,

Last Saturday you have published the Commission's assessment of the bids submitted for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). We would like to take this opportunity to make a few clarifying remarks on the Dutch bid for EMA.

Let us start by saying that we very much value the work of Commission to contribute to a transparent decision of the Council for a new home base for EMA and its staff. We would like to congratulate you on the work done and express our appreciation of the way you have consulted with the EMA itself, reflecting the opinion of those most concerned.

We believe we should take the decision on relocating EMA, with EMA's key interests in mind: keeping innovative, effective and safe medicine available without delay. From that starting point, the Netherlands created its bid. We guarantee continuity of the Agency operations, the best possible connectivity, a community welcoming EMA staff and their families and our commitment to do everything to make the relocation a success. That is in the interest of all EU citizens, in the interest of the work of EMA, in the interest of EMA staff.

In the assessment, the Commission referred to a number of omissions in the Dutch bid. We interpret the Commission's remarks as an encouragement to provide additional information on our bid which we are happy to give in this letter.

**Criterion 1: Premises**

The assessment report refers to specific parts of information concerning on-site archive, physical security and IT systems missing in the bid. The Netherlands offers Vivaldi, a new headquarters that will be built fit for purpose for EMA, rather than adjusting and refurbishing an existing building. We believe that by doing so, we can accommodate all the specific requirements of the Agency that it has identified over the past decade to increase the efficiency of its work processes. The new building will include all physical infrastructure and back-up systems, IT and security requirements.

**Criterion 2: Accessibility**

The summary of the assessment report indicates that no information is given about the frequency of public transport connections between Schiphol and the Vivaldi building. We kindly refer you to page 33 of the bidbook where the required information on this topic can be found.



### Criterion 3: Education Facilities

The assessment contains two comments on education facilities. It concludes that no information is given on the number of places available in nurseries and that it is not specified which languages will be offered when the capacity of the European Schools is expanded in 2018.

Like other countries, the Netherlands faces the challenge that we do not yet have enough specific information about the individual needs of all children. This is why the Netherlands offers individual support to all EMA staff and their families. As indicated in the bid, a survey of their specific, individual needs, also concerning childcare and education will precede this individual program. The European School in The Hague currently has five language sections: Dutch, English, French, German and Spanish. The European School in Bergen has three sections: Dutch, English and French. Both schools are flexible to accommodate other language demands.

We express our sincere hope and expectations that the Council will deal with only the importance of the indispensable work of EMA and the interest of all EU patients in mind.

Yours sincerely,

Edith Schippers  
Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

Bert Koenders  
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

Directie Internationale Zaken

**Kenmerk**  
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