



BARCELONA: READY TO HOST THE EUROPEAN MEDICAL AGENCY

DELAYED DECISION HEIGHTENS RISKS, SAYS HEALTH MINISTER

Barcelona is ready to host the European Medical Agency (EMA), Spanish Health Minister Dolors Montserrat said in a speech today (27 April 2017) to an audience including the EU's Health Commissioner, Vytenis Andriukaitis.

Minister Montserrat underlined the importance of a quick decision to end the uncertainty of the EMA's future home post-Brexit.

The London-based EMA has a vital role in coordinating the evaluation and monitoring of all authorised new drugs and associated products across the region. Any delays in approvals could have an immediate impact on patients' welfare. The bio-pharmaceutical industry also needs certainty and continuity of service to ensure Europe remains competitive and a focus for research, development and investment attracting international talent and expertise.

The speech follows yesterday's meeting between the Health Minister and the EU Health Commissioner, during which the Minister set out Barcelona's clear case to host the EMA. She set out Barcelona's top five credentials to Mr Andriukaitis:

- Its readiness now to host the EMA, with a building in the city already identified and available
- Spain's offer guaranteeing a smooth transition to the vital work undertaken by the EMA
- The fulfilment of the technical requirements to host the EMA, including its extensive travel connections and accommodation facilities
- The city's desirability as a place to work, live and play
- And its expertise as a centre of excellence in healthcare



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Minister Dolors Montserrat said:

“Barcelona is ready to host the EMA, its staff and their families.

“Brexit has created uncertainty and any delay in accessing new and innovative drugs could threaten patient care, a risk Europe cannot take. Barcelona offers the best opportunity for a smooth and timely transition; we have the building, we have the logistics, and we have a fantastic city to work and live in.

“Safeguarding public health also requires the need to retain the very best staff. A new home needs to work for the employees and their families as well as the industry within which they work.

“Barcelona is able to provide high quality services and facilities in a beautiful and dynamic location in one of the best connected cities in Europe. The Torre Agbar is an iconic building that would proudly welcome scientists and experts from all over the world”.

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For further details, please contact:

Aled Williams, FTI Consulting on +32 479 841866 or aled.williams@fticonsulting.com

Marcus Pepperell, FTI Consulting on +32 477190165 or marcus.pepperell@fticonsulting.com

Spanish Ministry of Health on prensa@msssi.es or 0034 91 596 11 22