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Federal Government



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The State Government of  
North Rhine-Westphalia



# Press Release

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## **Gröhe: “In Bonn, the EMA can seamlessly continue its important work“**

### **Wolfgang Clement to support candidacy for the new EMA headquarters**

With the theme “Closer to Europe”, the Federal City of Bonn is applying to the European Union (EU) to become the new headquarters of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). The former Minister-President of North Rhine-Westphalia and former Federal Minister of Economics and Labour, Wolfgang Clement, will be soliciting support for Germany’s candidacy as the Special Commissioner of the Federal Minister of Health.

**Federal Minister of Health Hermann Gröhe:** “I am happy to have Wolfgang Clement on board as our Special Commissioner supporting our bid to host the EMA’s new headquarters. He combines high political standing at home and abroad with an outstanding expertise in economic policy and the love for his home region on the Rhine. We are also convinced that Bonn is a prime location for the EMA’s new headquarters. The Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices, the local universities and research facilities offer the EMA an ideal environment in Bonn. Here, the EMA can seamlessly continue its important work as the guardian of medication safety and, implicitly, patient safety.”

**North Rhine-Westphalia’s Minister of Finance, Lutz Lienenkämper:** “North Rhine-Westphalia is the first choice for students looking for a university. We can also make an excellent case for our Land to be the favourite candidate in the quest for the new location. The combination of EMA and NRW, specifically Bonn, is bound to result in a win-win situation for both sides. Both the EMA and the Land, with its excellent research landscape, stand to benefit from the mutual exchange in the field of science and international events. The Land Government stands ready to provide initial funding and attractive premises for this major European agency. In doing so, we

are also making an investment in our future - in the two major areas of education and infrastructure - as well as in the future of the Federal City of Bonn.”

**EMA Special Commissioner Wolfgang Clement:** “With Germany’s bid for Bonn as the new headquarters of the European Medicines Agency, we are entering an absolutely open and therefore, very exciting competition. Nevertheless, I would say that our chances are pretty good. With so many institutes covering nearly all areas of medicines and pharmacy, Bonn, as a major scientific and economic hub of international reputation in the heart of Europe, is practically cut out to be the new home of the European Medicines Agency. I am convinced that the EMA and its highly qualified staff are a superb match for this liveable and lovable European Rhine Region which also is one of the Continent’s prime centres of knowledge and know-how.”

**Mayor of Bonn Ashok Sridharan:** “Bonn affords the EMA staff and their families a cosmopolitan new home with a high quality of life. Bonn is a city of short distances. We have an excellent labour market and are able to offer international childcare and schools. Moreover, we can earn points with housing that is quite inexpensive by European comparison, abundant recreational opportunities and a wide range of cultural activities. The offices of 20 different United Nations organisations with upwards of 1,000 staff from all over the world are already based in Bonn. As a result, we are very experienced in steering international staff through their first days in this Rhine city. Moreover, Bonn will be setting up a welcome agency specifically for the EMA and its staff.”

As a strong health and pharmaceutical location, situated at the centre of the European Rhine Region and at the heart of Europe, Bonn fulfils all of the prerequisites for the EMA to continue its work seamlessly and successfully. Bonn has a selection of excellent office locations to offer that can be tailored to match the EMA’s specific requirements, in terms of space and technical equipment, and enable a smooth relocation.

As one of the EU’s prime licensing authorities, the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM) already provides first-rate support to the EMA in the field of medication approval and safety. The same goes for our second national licensing authority, the Paul Ehrlich Institute (PEI) in Langen near Frankfurt. Both institutes contribute their expertise to approx. 130 of the EMA’s scientific bodies. With the Cologne-based Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Healthcare (IQWiG) - as the most important institute in Europe for the evidence-based assessment of medicinal products - the EMA can count on another highly-qualified partner in close proximity.

Good transport connections by plane, rail and car to neighbouring European countries, and excellent international connections make this city easy to reach and afford employees the

greatest possible flexibility. International companies already use Bonn as a strong central location in the middle of Europe. Bonn is a cosmopolitan and international city.

Short distances within the city itself, a well-positioned labour market, inexpensive housing by European comparison, international schools and kindergartens, a wealth of recreational and cultural opportunities close by, provide optimal prerequisites for EMA employees and their families.

Great Britain's decision to leave the European Union means that a new location must be found for the EMA, which currently has its headquarters in London. The official deadline for applications was 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017. The decision regarding the EMA's future location is expected to be made by the General Affairs Council in November. In the months to come, the Federal Government is going to have relevant talks and discussions in Brussels, pitching Bonn as the ideal location of the EMA.

The new Special Commissioner for Germany's EMA candidacy, Wolfgang Clement, was Minister President of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia from 1998 to 2002 and Federal Minister of Economics and Labour from 2002 to 2005. He lives in Bonn.

For further information and the official candidacy video go to:

[www.closer-to-europe.eu](http://www.closer-to-europe.eu)

[www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en](http://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en)