

EN
E-005147/2018
Answer given by President Juncker
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.12.2018)

Paragraph 15 of the Guidelines for Brexit negotiations of the European Council (Article 50) of 29 April 2017¹ states that “the future location of the seats of EU agencies and facilities located in the United Kingdom is a matter for the 27 Member States to settle rapidly”.

On 22 June 2017, the Heads of State or Government of the 27 Member States endorsed a procedure leading up to a decision on the relocation of the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority, including six criteria which interested Member States should address in their offers to host one or both of the agencies².

The Commission was invited to examine the offers submitted by the Member States and to present by 30 September 2017 its assessment to the Secretary-General of the Council. This assessment was exclusively based on the information contained in the offers and for the purpose of the procedure leading up to a decision on the relocation by the 27 Member States. On 20 November 2017, following a series of presentations in the Council and after three rounds of voting, the 27 Member States selected Amsterdam as the Medicines Agency's new seat.

On 17 October 2018, the European Parliament and the Council agreed on a compromise text for a Regulation, which determines that the location of the seat of the European Medicines Agency shall be in Amsterdam.

In that legislative act, the co-legislators also welcome “that the authorities of the Netherlands are making efforts to ensure the operational effectiveness, continuity and uninterrupted functioning of the Agency during and after the relocation. Nevertheless, given the extraordinary situation, the Agency may have to temporarily focus on its core tasks and prioritise other activities according to their impact on public health and the Agency's ability to function.”

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/21763/29-euco-art50-guidelinesen.pdf>

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/relocation-london-agencies-brexit/>