



## **EVM statement on Council of Europe debate on ‘Faked pandemics – a threat for health’**

BRUSSELS, Belgium - 14 January 2010 – The European Vaccine Manufacturers (EVM) reject the allegations presented in the motion for recommendation entitled: ‘Faked pandemics – a threat for health’, signed by a small number of Parliamentarians.

EVM believes that the assertions in this motion are unfounded, and result from a misunderstanding of the pandemic planning process and the collaboration between public and private sector partners. To clarify this situation and address these misunderstandings, EVM has agreed to participate in the Council of Europe hearing on this topic on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

It is important to recall that Governments have been working to develop effective pandemic preparedness plans for over a decade. Other public health partners were also encouraged to respond to the risk posed by a potential influenza pandemic. In particular, the pharmaceutical industry in response to Governments requests, has invested in vaccine R&D, clinical studies, modification of production facilities for pandemic vaccine production and the expansion of manufacturing capacity.

In summer 2009, when WHO declared that the newly-emerged H1N1 influenza strain met its criteria for a pandemic, there was a clear need for action. This demanded an unprecedented level of collaboration, involving WHO, national governments, health authorities, regulatory agencies, scientists, healthcare professionals and private sector companies, to facilitate a robust response and deliver the appropriate countermeasures. Throughout this process, the collaboration has been governed by stringent International Health Regulations and rigorous safeguards against conflicts of interest, as WHO has acknowledged in its recent statement [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing\\_20091203/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing_20091203/en/index.html)

*EVM member companies are major suppliers of vaccines worldwide, producing the majority of vaccine doses in Europe. EVM members are: Baxter, Crucell, GlaxoSmithKline Biologicals, MedImmune, Novartis Vaccines, sanofi pasteur, sanofi pasteur MSD, Solvay Biologicals, and Wyeth Vaccines*