



EVM MEMBERS WELCOME COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON INFLUENZA SEASONAL VACCINATION AND COMMIT TO INCREASE VACCINE PRODUCTION CAPACITY ACCORDINGLY

BRUSSELS, Belgium 9 July 2009 - The European Vaccine Manufacturers -EVM- welcome the Commission's recently announced proposal for a Council Recommendation calling on EU countries to ensure that 75% of their elderly population and 75% of people with some specific underlying health problems are vaccinated every year against seasonal flu.

“Reaching the targets set out in the Commission’s proposal will be critical in the fight against seasonal influenza, which causes an estimated 3-5 million cases of severe disease and 250,000-500,000 deaths globally each year, with at least 40,000 deaths being in Europe”, said Patrick Florent, EVM President. He added *“this renewed drive against seasonal influenza would also help to increase the manufacturing capacity available to produce pandemic influenza vaccines, the need for which is apparent from the current H1N1 situation.”*

“The European influenza vaccine manufacturers are committed to responding to national and international demand for seasonal influenza vaccines by increasing vaccine production capacity. The adoption of this new Commission proposal would help reduce morbidity and mortality in Europe while also increasing global influenza vaccine capacity and availability of vaccines”, concluded Patrick Florent.

For more information about the Commission Proposal, please go to:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1103&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN>

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/com/Influenza/docs/seasonflu_rec2009_en.pdf

For more information about EVM, please go to: <http://www.evm-vaccines.org/>

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

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