

#BCN4EMA

Citizens' manifesto in support of the candidacy of Barcelona for the European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Barcelona wants to be the new home for the European Medicines Agency.

We, the social, economic and cultural institutions and professionals from a wide variety of industries and sectors, all representatives of civil society, hereby sign this manifesto to express our full support for the EMA candidacy presented by the Government of Spain.

We welcome the spirit of cooperation between the Government of Spain, the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council in jointly promoting the candidacy.

On behalf of civil society, we wish to add our effort and support for Barcelona to become the new medicines capital of Europe.

The European Medicines Agency's mission to safeguard the health and wellbeing of all European citizens will be strengthened by moving to Barcelona, because the city meets all the requirements and guarantees that this project demands.

The experience and capabilities of Barcelona will ensure that the Agency's relocation will be quick and efficient. The ideal conditions will be in place to secure the continuity of current programmes and projects. In addition, the city's scientific, technological and industrial potential mean that it has the appeal to retain talent and will facilitate scientific excellence.

Barcelona is currently the main research hub for Southern Europe. It has a wide network of outstanding institutions, universities and biomedical, hospital and technological research centres. This scientific strength is a major reason why Spain is ranked second in Europe in the number of clinical trials for advanced therapies, with a significant increase in the last decade. The city also has a robust information and communication technology ecosystem.

Barcelona has excellent transport links to all major European cities thanks to a constantly growing airport, a high-speed rail network and one of the most important port and logistics centres in the world. As a city of industry, business and tourism, it has a wide range of hotels, with the capacity to host over 19.5 million overnight stays per year.

Barcelona is ready and confident that it has the energy, determination and conditions to guarantee the best possible relocation for the agency's activities, its employees and their families. Here they will enjoy excellent quality of life, one of the best public health systems in the world and a full range of international schools.

Twenty-five years after organizing one of the best Olympic Games in history, Barcelona is ready and willing to be a great location for the European Medicines Agency. This is guaranteed by the evident, undeniable passion for and commitment to Europe in the city's institutions and citizens, the enthusiasm and conviction with which it has always faced major challenges and projects, and the full institutional, civil and social support it enjoys.

We, the signatories of this manifesto, want Barcelona to be the new home of the EMA.

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