

**2<sup>ème</sup> Rencontre avec les PME innovant  
dans le domaine de la santé  
19 novembre 2008**

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Bureau PME de l'EMEA





# European Medicines Agency's

## SME Office

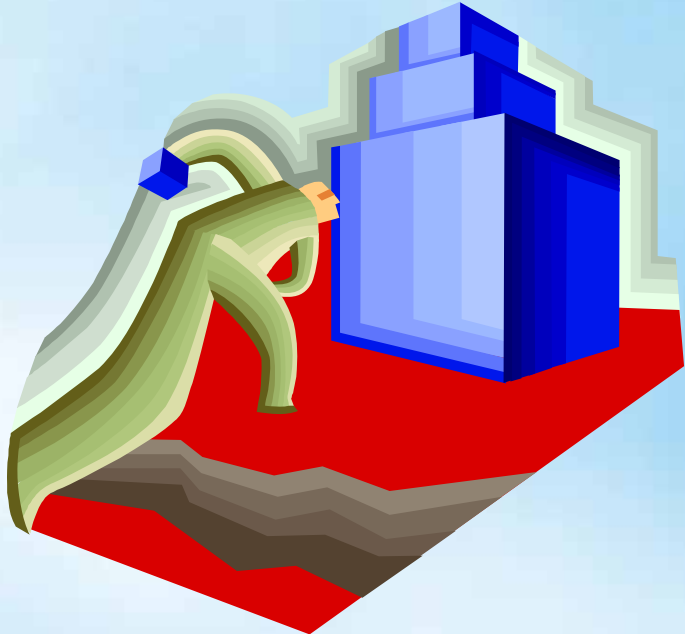
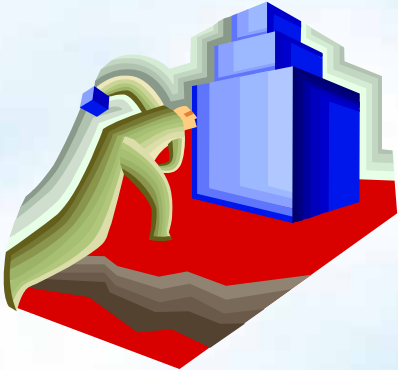
*addressing the needs of...*

# & medium-sized enterprises

micro



small



# Agenda

- Introduction
- SME Regulation and Incentives
- Type of companies assigned SME status
- What has SME Office delivered?
- Interacting with the EMEA: How SMEs can make the Most Of The Opportunities Available in the EU Regulatory Network

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## Objective of SME Incentives

- To promote innovation and the development of new medicinal products by SMEs (medical devices not included as not within the remit of EMEA)



## Legal Background

- Article 70.2 of Regulation 726/2004 of 31 March 2004 introduced a provision for financial and administrative assistance for SMEs
- Implementing Regulation (EC) No 2049/2005 adopted on 15 December 2005

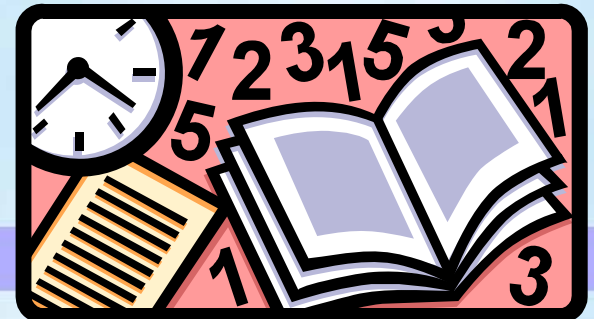


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## Incentives for SMEs

- Regulatory, administrative and procedural assistance
- Fee reductions
- Fee exemptions for certain administrative services
- Deferral of fee for application for marketing authorisation or inspection
- Conditional fee exemption
- Translation of product information



## **SME Office Established**

- A single interface ('One stop shop')
- A dedicated structure within the Agency Secretariat
  - Three full-time staff + representatives in all relevant sectors:



- and a cross-Agency network

# SME Office – Cross Agency Activity

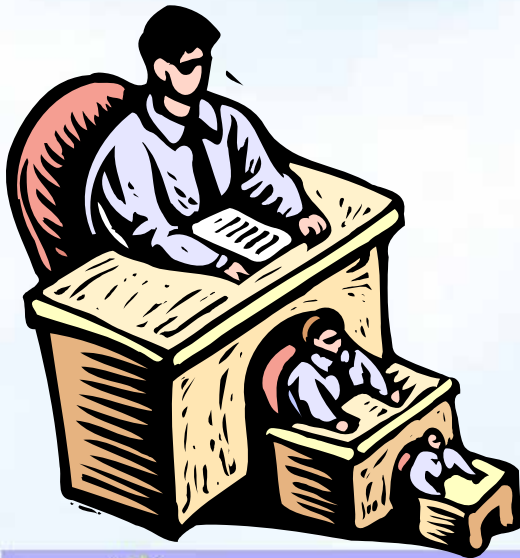


## Role of SME Office

- Registration of SMEs
- Advise applicants on regulatory, administrative and procedural issues
- Facilitate communication
- Organise workshops/training sessions

# Assignment of SME Status

- Applicant must be established in the Community
- Meet SME criteria defined in Recommendation 2003/361/EC
- Submit information necessary to demonstrate compliance with the criteria



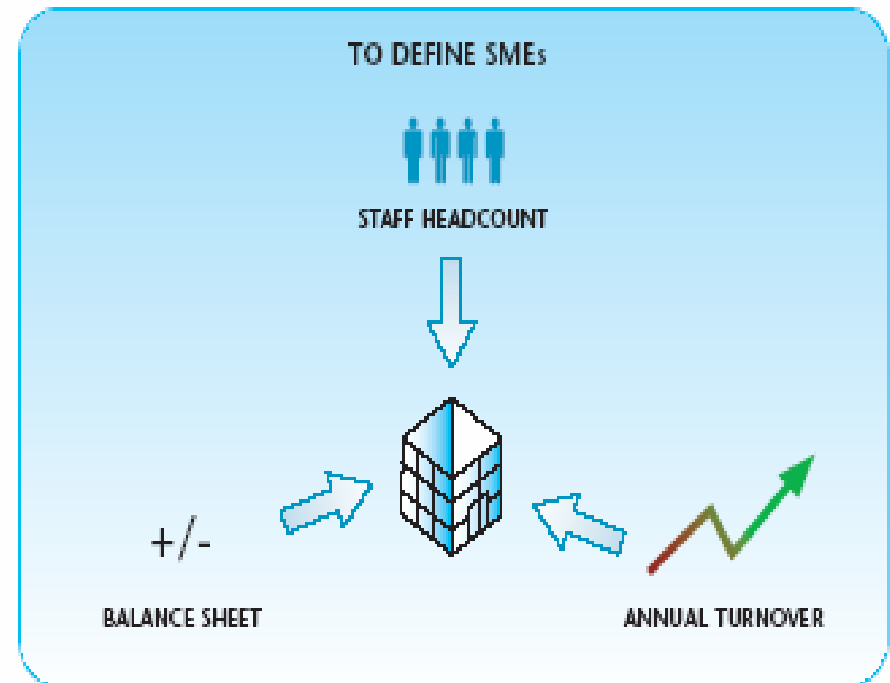
# Definition of SME

Enterprise:

- any entity engaged in an economic activity irrespective of its legal form

New thresholds based on:

- Staff headcount
- Annual turnover
- Annual balance sheet



# Definition of SME

**THE NEW THRESHOLDS (Art. 2)**

Enterprise category	Headcount: Annual Work Unit (AWU)	Annual turnover	or	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ €50 million <small>(In 1996 € 40 million)</small>	or	≤ €43 million <small>(In 1996 € 27 million)</small>
Small	< 50	≤ €10 million <small>(In 1996 € 7 million)</small>	or	≤ €10 million <small>(In 1996 € 3 million)</small>
Micro	< 10	≤ €2 million <small>(previously not defined)</small>	or	≤ €2 million <small>(previously not defined)</small>

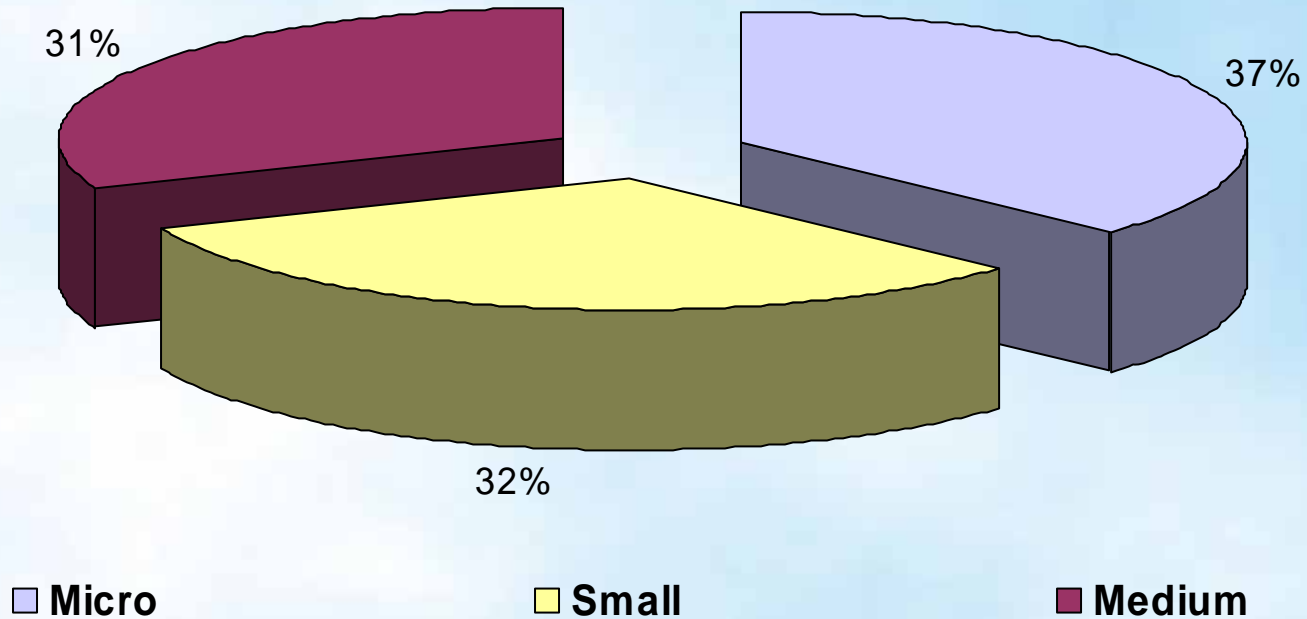
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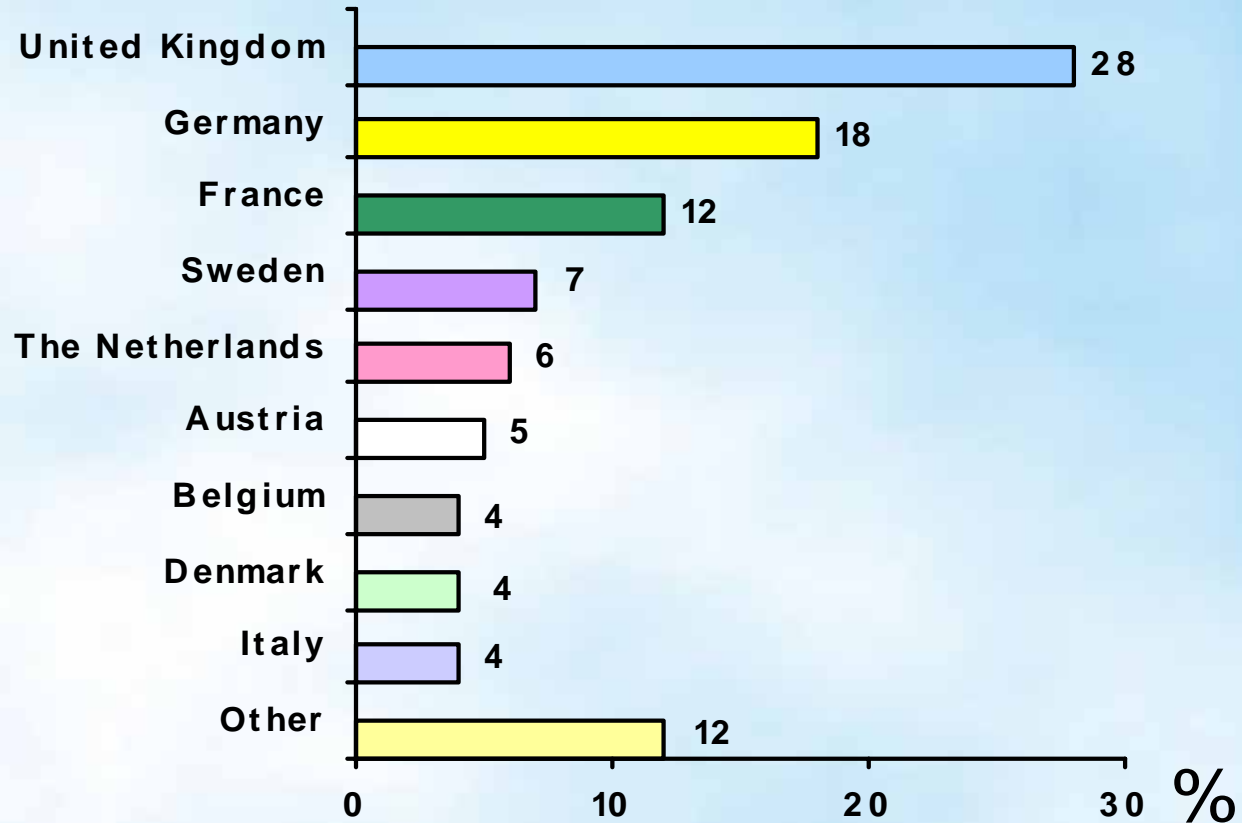
## ... SMEs to date....

- 348 companies assigned SME status
- from 19 countries across EEA
- 289 human, 14 vet, 11 human/vet & 34 consultants
- ➔ Significant increase in number of registered SMEs since beginning of SME Office

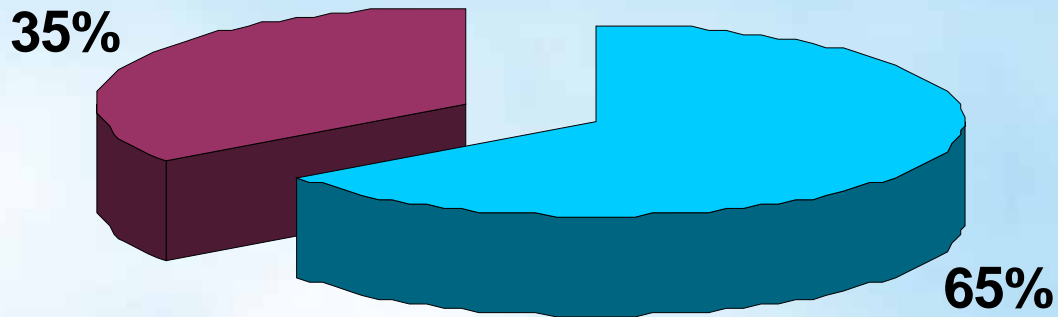
## ...micro, small or medium..



## ...geographical distribution...



# Development pipeline of registered SMEs



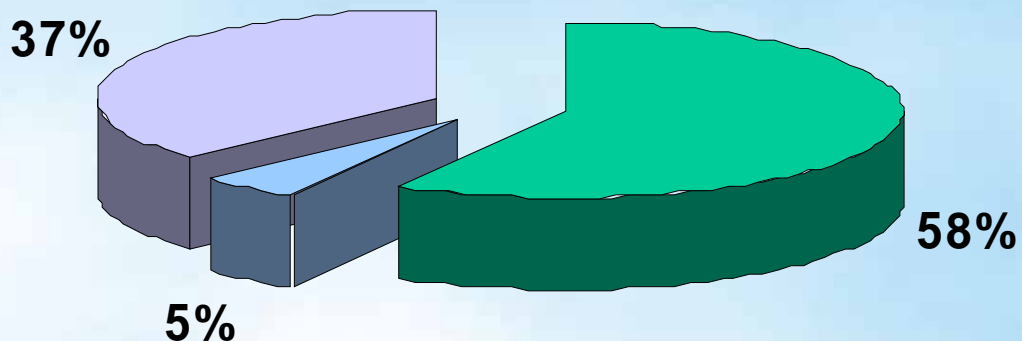
■ Innovative

■ Non Innovative

## Innovation:

- 46 % therapeutic innovation (e.g. new target disease, mechanism of action)
- 36 % technical innovation (e.g. new delivery methods/formulation)
- 18 % scientific innovation (e.g. new R&D methods/tools, biomarkers)

# Type of products developed by SMEs



■ Chemicals

■ Others

■ Biologics

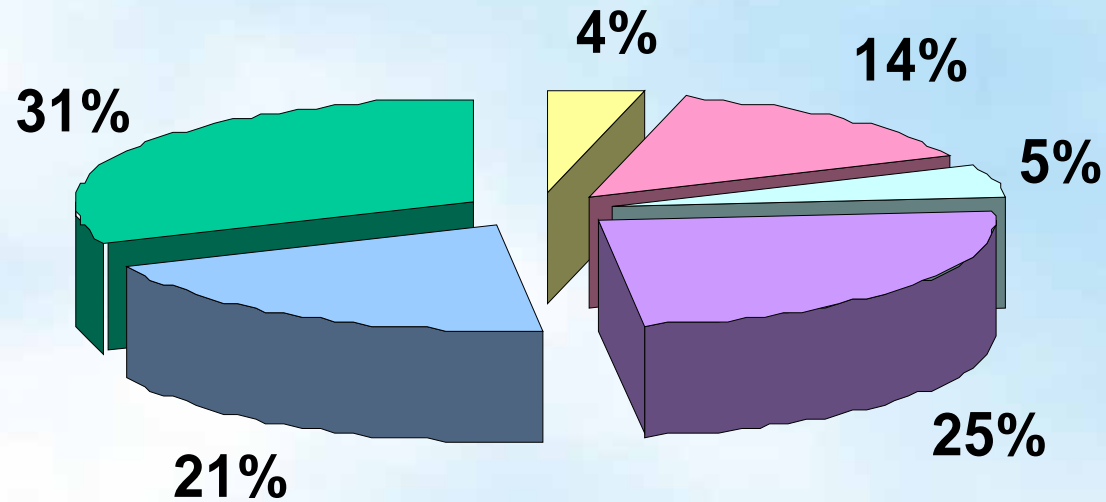
## Chemicals:

- 57% new chemical entities
- 18% new formulations
- 11% oligopeptides
- 3% generics

## Biologics:

- 50% recomb DNA derived products
- 20% cell-based products
- 11% classical biological products
- 10% nucleic acid-based compounds
- 7% tissue engineering

# Most advanced Phase of Development of assigned SMEs



- Exploratory
- Preclinical
- Clinical Phase 1
- Clinical Phase 2
- Clinical Phase 3
- Marketing

## Therapeutic Areas

- 27% anti-neoplastic &/or immunomodulating
- 12% alimentary tract & metabolism
- 10% central nervous system
- 10% general anti-infectives for systemic use
- 9% dermatologicals
- 8% musculo-skeletal system

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# Regulatory assistance

- SMEs receive direct regulatory assistance
  - Published SME User Guide on regulatory procedures
    - EMEA to publish detailed guide on aspects of 726/2004
    - Guide to reference existing national provisions for SMEs
  - SME News bulletin to update companies (every Quarter)
  - Annual training/workshops tailored for SMEs
    - 1<sup>st</sup> SME Workshop - 'Navigating the Regulatory Maze' - 2 Feb 2007
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> SME Workshop - 'Focus on Quality' - 8 Feb 2008
    - **3<sup>rd</sup> SME Workshop - 'Focus on Non-Clinical development' – 2 Feb 2009**
- 134 SMEs received direct regulatory assistance

# Fee Reductions

- 90% reduction on :
  - scientific advice
  - inspections
  - scientific services
  - maximum residue limits (veterinary medicines)
- 100% 'waiver' on administrative services (except for parallel distribution)
- To date processed fee reductions totalling €6.2 million for scientific advice

→ 118 SMEs in scientific advice

## Fee deferrals

- For MAA & inspections - fees deferred until end of MA procedure
- Conditional Fee Exemption - if scientific advice sought & followed: payment only in case of success (MA granted)
- To date, €6.1 million of deferred fees for MAA & inspections

→ 35 submitted MAAs

# Translations

- EMEA provides for the translations of:
    - SmPC
    - Conditions on supply/use
    - Labelling/package leaflet
    - (MRL statement)
  - Translation Centre in Luxembourg with check through Member States
- ➔ Experience gained with 6 SMEs to date



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→ Additional various entry doors

# Innovation Task Force

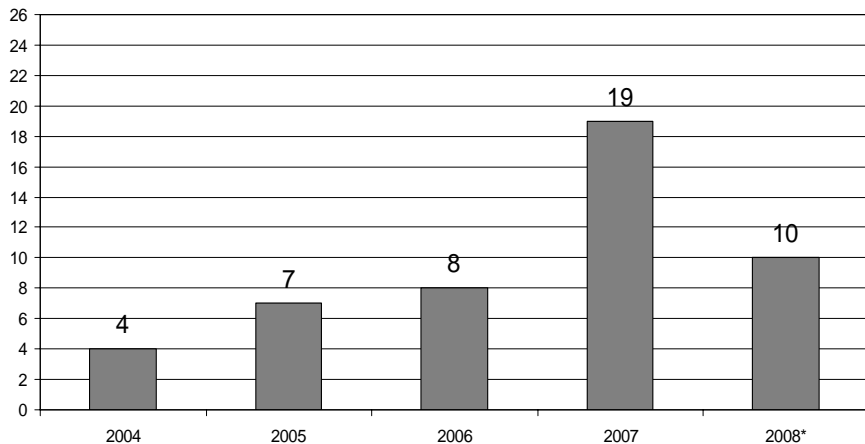


## Innovation Task Force (ITF)

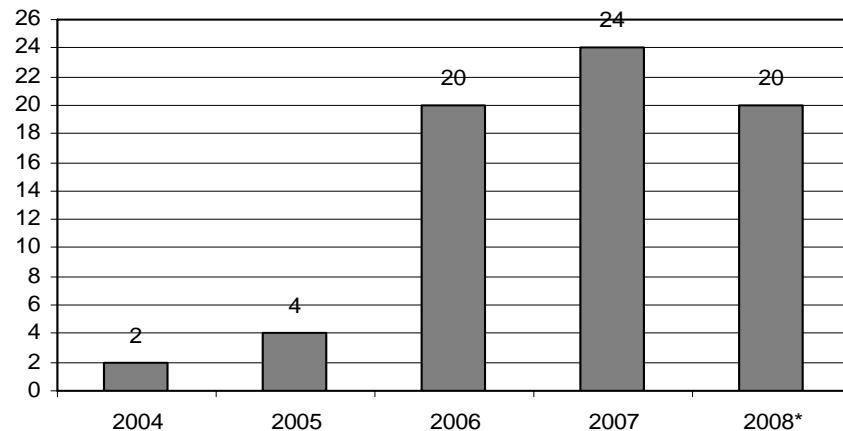
- Earliest entry door for products based on emerging science
- Multidisciplinary EMEA group set up in 2001
- Focus on emerging therapies/technologies & borderline products
- So-called “soft landing zone”
- Free of charge
- Main tasks:
  - Briefing meetings with sponsors.
  - Regulatory advice on classification for borderline products
  - Prepare for future formal steps

# ITF BRIEFING MEETINGS AND REGULATORY ADVICE

Briefing Meetings with Companies



Regulatory Advice for Companies



\*2008: January - June

# Entry through ITF

- Person or company within or outside EEA
- Emerging therapies/technologies or Borderline therapeutics
- Areas where there is no established EMEA scientific, legal and regulatory experience
- Request form + briefing document
- Free entry (no fee for ITF consultation)



**To request meeting contact ITF secretariat:**

[ITFsecretariat@emea.europa.eu](mailto:ITFsecretariat@emea.europa.eu)

**Further information:**

**<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/mes/introduction.htm>**

# Orphan Medicinal Products



# Orphan Medicinal Products

- EU Orphan legislation since 2000
- Orphan incentives:
  - 10 years of Market Protection
  - Protocol assistance (free scientific advice)
  - Fee reductions
  - Access to centralised procedure
- Pre-submission meetings with orphan section

# Orphan Designation Criteria

**Rare Condition < 5 per 10,000 or  
Insufficient return on investment ?**



**Serious Condition or Life threatening?**



**Existence of satisfactory methods?**

No



Yes



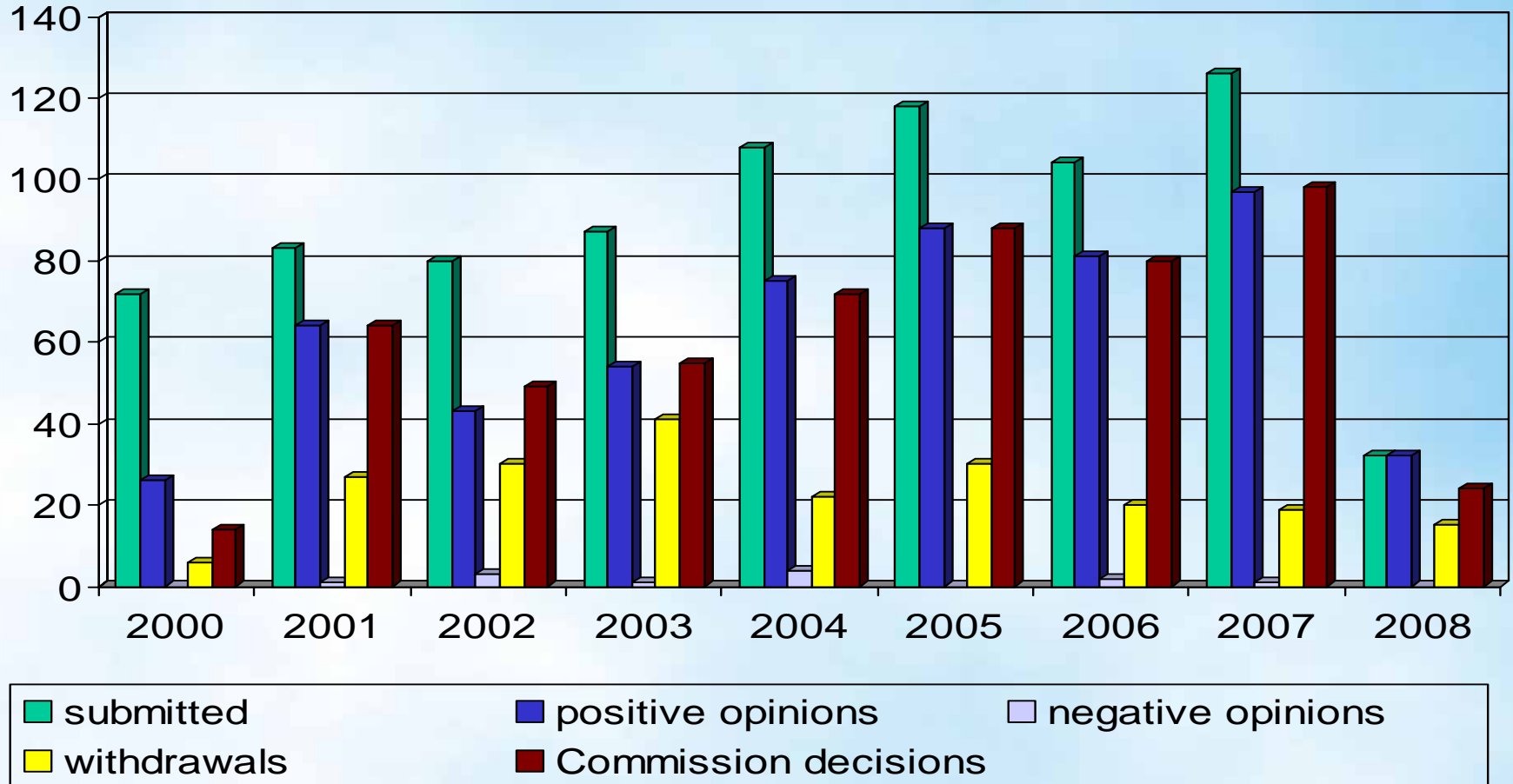
**+Significant Benefit?**

**ORPHAN DESIGNATION**



Yes

# Status of Orphan Applications 2000 to May 2008



## Assistance for Orphan Medicinal Products



- Person or company established in EEA
- For all medicinal products meeting orphan designation criteria
- Pre-submission through orphan section
- Protocol assistance once designated
- Free entry (no fee for orphan designation)

**For queries relating to Orphan initiative**

[orphandrugs@emea.europa.eu](mailto:orphandrugs@emea.europa.eu)

**Further information**

<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/orphans/intro.htm>

## Scientific Advice



# SCIENTIFIC ADVICE & PROTOCOL ASSISTANCE

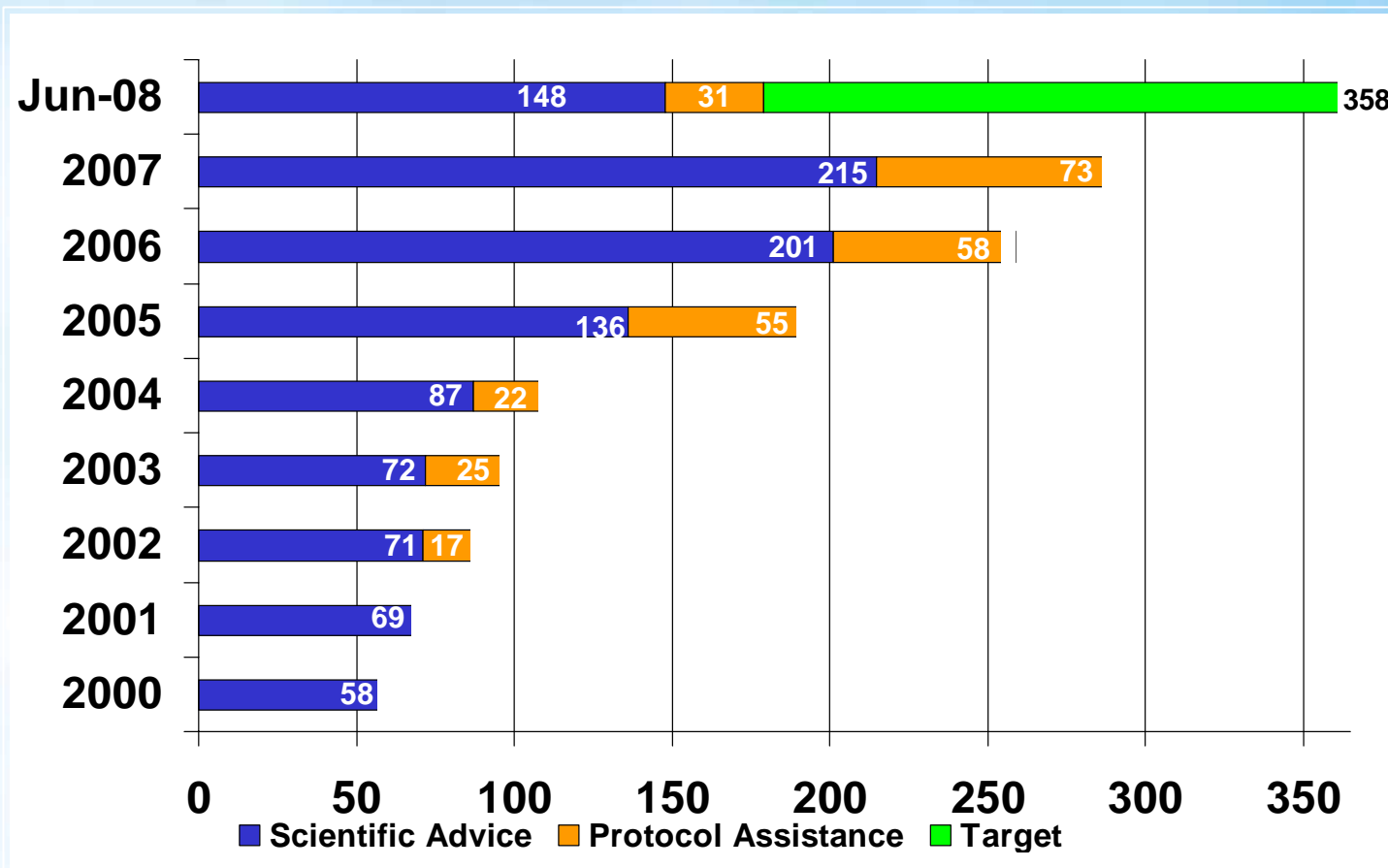
- Scientific Advice initiated in 1996
- Advice on development & agreement of future strategy
- New extended scope introduced in 2006
- Procedure shortened to 70 days, possibly 40 days
- Pre-submission meetings involve working party's coordinators
- Face to face meetings for 50% of scientific advice
- Fee-related activity (fee waiver for orphan products, reduction for SMEs)

## When request Scientific Advice ?

- During initial development
- Post-authorisation phase
- As initial request (e.g. new product, new indication)
- As a follow-up request (further clinical trials e.g. phase III, new subset, change in information, state of art)

# SCIENTIFIC ADVICE & PROTOCOL ASSISTANCE THE WEIGHT OF SUCCESS

New  
Scientific  
Advice



## Access to Scientific Advice



- Person or company within or outside EEA
- For all medicinal products (irrespective of eligibility for centralised procedure)
- Briefing document outlining questions on development/future strategy (broad and specific topics on Pharmaceutical, Non-clinical and Clinical development)
- Fee payable

**To request SA pre-sub meeting contact SA secretariat  
ScientificAdvice@emea.europa.eu**

**Further information:**

**<http://www.emea.europa.eu/pdfs/human/sciadvic/426001en.pdf>**

# Impact of scientific advice on MAAs

- Adherence to scientific advice or protocol assistance:
  - contributory factor to a successful outcome
  - less major objections from CHMP in areas of SA

## Conclusion:

- Fee reductions facilitate SME access to SA
- Emphasise importance of adhering to advice & seek follow-up advice if necessary

# Application for Marketing Authorisation

## Pre-submission Meeting



## MAA Pre-submission Meeting

- Take place 6-7 months prior to filing
- Assist applicants with finalisation of upcoming MAA
- Focus on product-specific legal, regulatory & scientific issues
- Participation of EMEA product team
- Possibility to meet with (Co-Rapporteur) assessment teams at national level
  
- 'Regulatory-strategy meeting' 18-24 prior to filing may also be requested

# Pre-submission Meeting for MAA



- Company established within EEA
- For medicinal products eligible for centralised procedure
- Completion of on-line request form
- Submission of briefing package, including draft product information + MAA table of contents
- Free entry (no fee for pre-sub meeting)

To request MAA pre-sub meeting contact Central Information Group: [h-cig2@emea.europa.eu](mailto:h-cig2@emea.europa.eu)

Further information

<http://www.emea.europa.eu/htms/human/presub/index.htm>

# Future challenges

- Implementation of Advanced Therapies Regulation e.g. certification of Quality and/or Non-clinical data
- Address period between SA and MAA
- Develop network of SME Innovation Offices (e.g. sharing/exchange/dissemination of information, referral of queries)

# For further information : SME Web-pages



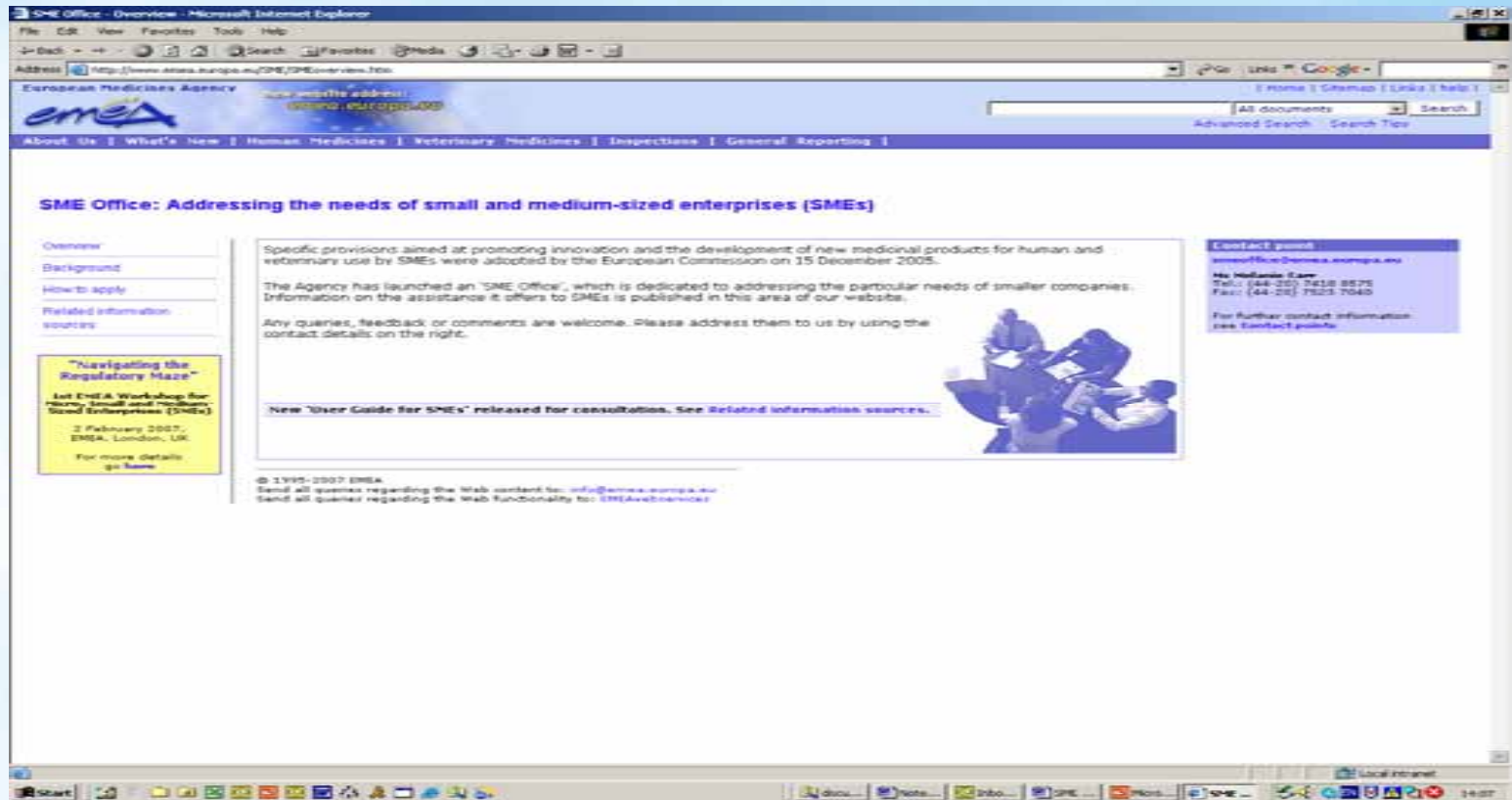
The screenshot shows the EMEA website interface. The main content area features several news items:

- Improved access to veterinary scientific guidelines on EMEA website** (Published 18/01/2007): A notice about updated scientific guidelines for human medicines.
- EMEA prepares for entry into force of the Paediatric Regulation** (Published 12/01/2007): Information regarding the new Paediatric Regulation (EC) No 1901/2006.
- Latest Press Releases**: A table of recent press releases from January 2007.

The right-hand navigation menu includes sections like 'PRODUCT INFORMATION', 'PAYMENT GUIDES', and 'SME OFFICE'. The 'SME OFFICE' link is circled in red, and a red arrow points to it from the text 'For further information : SME Web-pages'.

Date	Agency	Topic
25/01/07	CHMP	Press Release from the January meeting
19/01/07	CVMP	Press Release from the January meeting
15/01/07	COMP	Press Release from the January meeting
12/01/07	EMEA	Press Release - EMEA prepares for entry into force of a new legislation on paediatric medicines
21/12/06	Management Board	Press Release: EMEA Management Board adopts the 2007 work programme and budget
15/12/06	EMEA	Press Release: European Medicines Agency adopts first positive opinion for mock-up pandemic influenza vaccine
08/12/06	EMEA	Press Release: Fournier Laboratories withdraws its marketing authorisation application for <b>Synordia</b>
06/12/06	EMEA	Press Release: EMEA launches EudraPharm - the European medicines database
28/11/06	EMEA	Press Release: EMEA workshop on homeopathic medicinal products concludes to strengthen harmonisation, but accept different national traditions
22/11/06	EMEA	Press Release: Defect in Herceptin vials identified but supply for patients is maintained
17/11/06	CVMP	Press Release: 2006 EMEA/IFAM-Europe Info day
15/11/06	EMEA	Press Release: The EMEA and CND(H) review Europe-wide experience with user consultation in the readability context of medicine labels

http://www.emea.europa.eu/SME/SMEoverview.htm



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "SME Office - Overview - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.emea.europa.eu/SME/SMEoverview.htm>. The page content includes:

- Navigation Menu:** About Us | What's New | Human Medicines | Veterinary Medicines | Inspections | General Reporting
- Section Header:** SME Office: Addressing the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- Overview:** Specific provisions aimed at promoting innovation and the development of new medicinal products for human and veterinary use by SMEs were adopted by the European Commission on 15 December 2005.
- Text:** The Agency has launched an "SME Office", which is dedicated to addressing the particular needs of smaller companies. Information on the assistance it offers to SMEs is published in this area of our website.
- Text:** Any queries, feedback or comments are welcome. Please address them to us by using the contact details on the right.
- Image:** A photograph of four people sitting around a table, engaged in a meeting.
- Text:** New "User Guide for SMEs" released for consultation. See [Related information sources](#).
- Contact point:**
  - Address: [smeoffice@emea.europa.eu](mailto:smeoffice@emea.europa.eu)
  - Ms. Helmutia Carr
  - Tel: (+44 20) 7618 8575
  - Fax: (+44 20) 7625 7040
- Footer:** © 1995-2007 EMEA. Send all queries regarding the Web content to: [info@emea.europa.eu](mailto:info@emea.europa.eu). Send all queries regarding the Web functionality to: [EMEAwebmaster@emea.europa.eu](mailto:EMEAwebmaster@emea.europa.eu)

**Thank you for your attention**

E-mail queries: [smeoffice@emea.europa.eu](mailto:smeoffice@emea.europa.eu)