

Assessment EMA - Offer by Belgium - Brussels Greater Area		
Criterion/specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
<p>1) The assurance that the agency can be set up on site and take up its functions at the date of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the Union</p> <p><i>This criterion concerns in particular the availability of appropriate office premises in time for the Agency to be able to take up its functions at the new location at the withdrawal date. This should include the necessary logistics and sufficient space for offices, meeting rooms and off-site archiving, high-performing telecommunication and data storage networks as well as appropriate physical and IT security standards.</i></p>		
<p>1.1 Necessary logistics and sufficient space (a total of 27,000 m² of office space) for...</p>	<p><i>Proposed building 1) The proposed building "The One", located in the European Quarter in Brussels, "offers 29,511 sq. m. gross office space" (p. 4).</i></p> <p><i>"The Brussels Greater Area also offers other location alternatives for the European Medicines Agency. For example:"</i></p> <p><i>Proposed building 2) "Greenhouse BXL is located at a stone's throw from Brussels Airport, providing an easy access to European capitals and beyond" [...] "22,000 sq. m. office space" [...] "Site-potential of 25,000 sq [...] and upwards" (p. 33)</i></p> <p><i>Proposed building 3) "the Brussels Greater Area offers the option of a building project to be developed in the hearth of the Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park hosting innovative biotech companies, university campuses, and research facilities easily accessible via the adjacent motorways." (p. 3) [...] "Size: turnkey office building's project of 28,000 sq. m. with 4 floored of 7,000 aq. m. each. Additional offices, meetings rooms,co-working spaces, restaurant and auditorium are foreseen and can be adapted according to the requirements of the EMA" (p. 35)</i></p>	<p>The offer indicates <i>The One</i> (29,511 m²). Two alternative options are mentioned, <i>Greenhouse BXL</i> (22,000 m²) and a building project in Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park (28,000 m²).</p>
<p>1.1.1 ...offices, to host 890 members of staff. EMA has 18,500 m² in offices and open-plan with capacity for 1,300 office work stations and adequate internal meeting rooms</p>	<p>1) <i>"A standard configuration would allow for 1,252 work stations in open plan and 130 offices, totalling 1,382 work stations"; "Smaller meeting rooms are available on every floor". (p. 4)</i></p> <p><i>"18.500 SQ. M. IN OFFICES AND OPEN-PLAN WITH CAPACITY FOR 1300 OFFICE WORK STATIONS ADEQUATE INTERNAL MEETING ROOMS [...] AVAILABLE. 1382 WORK STATIONS" (p. 7)</i></p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	<p>The offer indicates for building 1) 18.500 m² in offices and open-plan with the capacity for 1382 office work stations, as well as internal meeting rooms. The offer does not provide information on space and layout for offices, workstations and meeting rooms for buildings 2) and 3).</p>
<p>1.1.2 ...meeting rooms, a total of 6,000 m². These meeting rooms should have internet 4G connection, audio and video conference facilities, broadcasting and recording equipment and a voting system per seat. EMA has:</p>	<p>1) <i>"The requested meeting rooms and restaurants can be fitted into the existing building as planned"...</i></p> <p><i>"Large meeting rooms can be equipped with translation and secretary boots. Translation boots comply with standards of DG SCIC. Latest A/V and conferencing technology will be available in all meeting rooms: videoconferencing, high-end projection, presenter-tracking cameras, etc.". (p. 5)</i></p> <p><i>"INTERNET 4G CONNECTION, AUDIO & VIDEO CONFERENCE FACILITIES, BROADCASTING & RECORDING EQUIPMENT, VOTING SYSTEM PER SEAT [...] PART OF THE FIT-OUT" (p. 7)</i></p> <p>2) + 3)</p>	<p>The offer indicates that for building 1) internet 4G connection, audio and video conference facilities, broadcasting and recording equipment and a voting system per seat is part of a possible fit-out. The offer does not provide information on conference facilities for buildings 2) and 3).</p>

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1.1.2.1 five rooms with 70-120 seats	1) "Three large meeting rooms with a capacity of up to 100-130 seats are planned on the first three floors [...] Two additional meeting rooms for 100 seats can be built into to the existing structure by adding two floors". (p. 4-5) "5 rooms with 100-130 seats" (p. 7) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of 3 meeting rooms with 100-130 seats and the possibility of 2 additional rooms with 100 seats for building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of meeting rooms of different sizes for buildings 2) and 3).
1.1.2.2 two rooms with 35 seats	1) "2 rooms with 35 seats" (p. 7) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of 2 rooms with 35 seats for building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of meeting rooms of different sizes for buildings 2) and 3).
1.1.2.3 ten rooms with 4-24 seats	1) "17 rooms: 6 X 4 seats, 2 X 10-12 seats, 3 X 16 seats, 6 X 20-24 seats" (p. 7) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of 17 rooms of different sizes (4-24 seats) for building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of meeting rooms of different sizes for buildings 2) and 3).
1.1.3 ...one enclosed lounge of 500 m² and another lounge for 50 persons, both lounges with desk/work stations and storage facilities	1) "Enclosed lounge of 500 m2 and another lounge for 50 persons, respectively on the 4th floor and the ground floor ." (p. 7) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of an enclosed lounge of 500 m2 and on another lounge for 50 persons in building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of lounges for buildings 2) and 3).
1.1.4 ...an auditorium for around 300 people	1) "Auditorium for 300 people [...] Available off-premises" (p. 7)	The offer does not provide information on an auditorium in any of the proposed buildings.
1.1.5 ...a 250 m² reception area, with disability access as well as with adequate security structure in the vicinity	1) "The European Medicines Agency's staff and guests have exclusive access to the building through a spacious lobby boasting a cafeteria. Guests are screened in the lobby area before being granted access to the conference areas. Access to staff areas is restricted." (p. 5) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of a lobby with a security structure, without commenting on the surface or disability access, for building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of a reception area for buildings 2) and 3).
1.1.6 ...archiving facilities:		
1.1.6.1 EMA's off-site archive is 600 m² and 9m high	"Off-site archiving with extended height is widely available in the Greater Brussels Area" (p. 6) [...] "OFF-SITE ARCHIVE ROOMS WITH EXTENDED HEIGHT [...] AVAILABLE OFF-PREMISES" (p. 7)	The offer provides general information on the availability of off-site archives in Brussels and Greater Area.
1.1.6.2 On site, EMA has an archive room of approx. 30 m² as well as on-floor filing rooms on floors 1 and 5-10 of 5 m² each	1) "archiving facilities" (p. 6) [...] "ON SITE ARCHIVE ROOMS / FILLING ROOMS [...] AVAILABLE" (p. 7) "between 600 sq. m. and 800 sq. m. of underground archiving space, as well as archive rooms on each floor". (p. 6) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of on-site archiving rooms of more than 30 m2 and on-floor filing rooms for building 1). The offer does not provide information on the availability of on-site archiving for buildings 2) and 3).

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1.2 Appropriate physical security standards	<p>1) On- and off-site security services are readily available. An access control system is fitted on all doors providing access to the building, main entrance doors but also access doors to the service room, delivery bay and car park. Furthermore, the building will be fitted with access control gates after the entrance zone. Finally, the lift command will also be subject to access control. Additional doors may be added to the system as part of the fit-out. A badge system allows the reception desk to configure visitors' badges for their movements inside the building. All entrances are also controlled by a video system. Given its strategic importance the European Quarter is continuously being monitored by Belgian security forces. The building's structure is reinforced and designed according to anticollapse and anti-blast rules. These elements can also be reinforced by developments on the public road system as part of the fit-out, to be coordinated with the authorities for authorisation purposes, as per the advice of the Belgian Royal Military School, which has provided a study on this. The glazing on the ground floor is P6B quality, i.e. anti-intrusion. (p. 5)</p> <p>2) + 3)</p>	
1.2.1 Access control systems	<p>1) "Guests are screened in the lobby area before being granted access to the conference areas. Access to staff areas is restricted". (p. 5)[...] ACCES CONTROL SYSTEM... AVAILABLE" (p. 7)</p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	The offer indicates the availability of access control systems for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.2.2 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	<p>1) "Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) available" (p. 7)</p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	The offer indicates the availability of Close Circuit Television for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3 Appropriate IT systems and security standards	<p>1) "The proposed premises will be provided with the requested IT facilities, such as a centralized Uninterrupted Power Supply, a fibre-optic vertical distribution and Wi-Fi throughout the building. All floors are equipped with IT rooms and technical rooms. All IT requirements will be fitted into the building according to the specifications defined by the IT division of the European Medicines Agency. For example, a data centre can be installed in the underground areas. A backup power infrastructure is also planned : either a single emergency power unit will be installed for the entire building, or a second one will be added in fit-out depending on EMA's requirements". (p. 6)</p> <p>"HIGH QUALITY IT FACILITIES, SUCH AS CENTRALIZED UNINTERRUPTIBLE POWER SUPPLY, WIFI THROUGHOUT THE PREMISES, TECHNICAL ROOMS, MAIN AND SECONDARY EQUIPMENT ROOMS, IT BUILD AND IT STORE ROOMS [...] PART OF THE FIT-OUT" (p. 7)</p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	The offer indicates the availability of IT facilities and IT security standards as part of the fit-out for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3.1 Centralised Uninterruptible Power Supply	<p>1) "The proposed premises will be provided with the requested IT facilities, such as a centralized Uninterrupted Power Supply" (p. 6)</p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	The offer indicates the availability of Centralised Uninterruptible Power Supply as part of the fit-out for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3.2 WiFi throughout the premises	<p>1) "The proposed premises will be provided with the requested IT facilities, such as [...] Wi-Fi throughout the building". (p. 6)</p> <p>2) + 3) -</p>	The offer indicates the availability of wi-fi as part of the fit-out for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).

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1.3.3 Technical rooms, main and secondary equipment rooms, IT build and IT store rooms	1) "All floors are equipped with IT rooms and technical rooms. All IT requirements will be fitted into the building according to the specifications defined by the IT division of the European Medicines Agency". (p. 6) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of IT rooms and technical rooms on all floors for building 1). The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3.4 A telecommunications network with high capacity digital network and with high-speed connectivity	1) "Connections to telecommunications operators are part of the fit-outs " (p. 6) "TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK / HIGH CAPACITY AND HIGH-SPEED [...] PART OF THE FIT-OUT" (p. 7) 2) + 3) -	The offer indicates the availability of telecommunications for building 1), without providing details on a specific telecommunications network with high capacity digital network and with high-speed connectivity. The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3.5 High-performing data storage networks	"Broadband fibre-optic internet and secure servers are widely available, offering secure cloud solutions and collaborative computing". (p. 7)	The offer indicates the availability of secure servers in building 1), without providing details on networks and the availability of such facilities. The offer does not provide information for buildings 2) and 3).
1.3.6 A main and a backup data centre for disaster recovery, both to be accessible from EMA premises via a fast high volume internet or fibre connection. Security and operational IT standards apply	"Several backup data centres for disaster recovery in the Brussels Greater Area can be made accessible from the proposed premises via a fibre-optic connection. A loop through a second operator is possible depending on the EMA's security requirements". (p. 6) "BACKUP DATA CENTRE FOR DISASTER RECOVERY, BOTH TO BE ACCESSIBLE FROM EMA PREMISES VIA A FAST HIGH VOLUME INTERNET OR FIBRE CONNECTION [...] PART OF FIT-OUT; EXTERNAL BACKUP DATA CENTER AVAILABLE OFF-PREMISES" (p. 7)	The offer provides general information on back-up data centres as part of the fit-out of the three proposed building(s) with external backup data centre available off-premises.
1.4 Availability	"The building is currently under construction and will be delivered by mid-November 2018, enabling the European Medicines Agency to be fully operational by April 2019". (p. 4) 2) + 3)	The offer indicates that building 1) is being delivered by mid-November 2018. The offer does not provide information about the availability of the two alternative buildings.

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<p>1.5 Other</p>	<p>"Brussels boasts around 210 venues for events for between 10 and 10,000 persons, totalling 1,237,400 sq. m. of convention centre space. Several nearby conference venues can provide the ideal place for conventions of up to 1,250 people, in case EMA would require larger conference facilities". (p. 5)</p> <p>The proposed building "complies with the stringent environmental and energy standards of the Brussels Capital Region and is labelled a passive building. It provides 108 dedicated parking spaces. An additional 1,115 spaces are available in the nearby private Parking Loi. A secure indoor parking area for bicycles is also provided". (p. 5)</p> <p>"The European Medicines Agency's staff and guests have exclusive access to the building through a spacious lobby boasting a cafeteria." (p. 5)</p> <p>"Belgium stands ready to assist the EMA in managing its location specific contracts, such as the maintenance of the future EMA premises. The Belgian Building's Agency can propose a comprehensive service level agreement for building related services, in close cooperation with third-party providers, in order to facilitate a smooth transition to the new premises". (p. 6)</p> <p>"The One complies with the stringent environmental and energy standards of the Brussels Capital Region and is labelled a passive building." (p. 6)</p>	<p>The offer provides additional information on the proposed building 1) on the availability of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - off-premises convention facilities; - parking spaces; - cafeteria; - building compliance with environmental and energy standards. <p>The offer provides additional information on Belgium's readiness to assist the EMA in managing its location specific contracts under a comprehensive service level agreement for building related services.</p>
<p>GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 1</p>		<p>The offer indicates <i>The One</i> (29,511 m²), to be available for EMA mid-November 2018, and comments on how the building fulfils EMA requirements as regards the offices/workstations, meeting rooms with conference facilities, lounges, a reception area with a security structure (without commenting on the surface or disability access), archives, physical and IT security systems and standards. The offer does not mention the availability of an auditorium. Two alternative options for buildings are also indicated, without providing detailed information on how they fulfil EMA requirements or when they would be available: <i>Greenhouse BXL</i> (22,000 m²) and a building to be developed in the hearth of the <i>Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park</i> (28,000 m²).</p> <p>The offer provides additional information on Belgium's readiness to assist the EMA in managing its location specific contracts under a comprehensive service level agreement for building related services.</p>

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2) The accessibility of the location <i>This criterion concerns the availability, frequency and duration of flight connections from the capitals of all EU Member States to the airports close to the location, the availability, frequency and duration of public transportation connections from these airports to the location, as well as the quality and quantity of accommodation facilities. In particular, the criterion implies the capacity to allow for the continuation of the volume and intensity of current meeting activities of the Agency.</i>		
2.1 Flight connections from the capitals of all EU Member States to the airports close to the location		
2.1.1 Availability	<i>"[...] frequent direct flights from Belgian airports to all European capitals". (p. 9)</i>	The offer indicates the availability of direct flights between Belgian airports and 23 EU capitals.
2.1.2 Frequency	The offer indicates the daily frequency of flights between Brussels and the EU capitals. The range of frequency varies from a minimum of 1 flight per day between Brussels and Larnaca, Cyprus and Brussels and Sofia, Bulgaria; and a maximum of 9 flights per day between Brussels and Madrid.	The offer indicates the frequency of direct flights per day between Brussels and 23 EU capitals, varying between 1 and 9 daily flights.
2.1.3 Duration	An illustration shows travel times to Brussels from London (flight 01:10), Amsterdam (flight 0:55), Paris (flight 0:55), Luxembourg and Frankfurt (flight 0:55) (p. 8)	The offer indicates that the duration of flights from Brussels to Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam, ranging from 55 min. to 1h10 min., without information being provided on flights to the other EU capitals.
2.2 Public transportation connections from these airports to the location		
2.2.1 Availability	<i>"The Schuman railway station, less than 100 meters away from The One premises, provides national and international train connections. A direct line to the airport is available as well." (p. 9)</i> <i>"Brussels Airport can be easily reached by [...] bus or train in just 20 minutes" (p. 9)</i>	The offer indicates the availability of public transportation (train and bus) between the airport and the main proposed premises. The offer does not provide information in relation to buildings 2) and 3).
2.2.2 Frequency		The offer does not provide information on the frequency of public transportation connections between the airport and any proposed premises.
2.2.3 Duration	<i>"Brussels Airport can be easily reached by [...] bus or train in just 20 minutes". (p. 9)</i>	The offer indicates the duration of public transportation connections between the airport and the main proposed premises being 20 minutes.
2.3 Accommodation facilities		

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2.3.1 Quality	<i>"Hotels range from international branded hotels to several unique family-owned boutique hotels. Price levels are generally much lower than in comparable European capitals. Thanks to preferential corporate agreements, all major hotels apply favourable rates for EU institutions, their staff and their visitors". (p. 9)</i>	The offer indicates the availability of hotels in a range of quality from international branded hotels to family-owned boutique hotels.
2.3.2 Quantity (daily peak hotel capacity needed of 350 rooms)	<i>"The Brussels Greater Area can easily accommodate the European Medicines Agency's 36,000 annual visitors. Brussels has close to 200 world-class hotels with around 20,000 hotel rooms. Close to the city centre, an additional 3,000 hotel rooms are available in the immediate vicinity of Brussels Airport". (p. 9)</i>	The offer indicates the availability of 23,000 hotel rooms per day in the Brussels and Brussels Greater Area.
2.4 Other	<p>Direct train connections from Brussels to Amsterdam, Paris, Cologne and London. (p. 10)</p> <p>There are direct flights from Belgian airports to second-tier cities in Europe and to all the main international airports in the world. (p. 9)</p> <p>The offer makes a reference to Brussels International Airport, Brussels South Charleroi Airport, Liege Airport and Antwerp Airport. (p. 9)</p>	<p>The offer provides additional information on train connections between Brussels and European capitals.</p> <p>The offer indicates direct flights connections between Brussels and main international airports.</p> <p>The offer indicates other Belgian airports.</p>
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 2		<p>The offer indicates the availability of direct flights between Brussels and all EU capitals, while providing information on the frequency of flights to 23 capitals ranging from 1 to 9 per day, without indicating the duration of such flights, except for Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam for which the duration ranges from 55min. to 1h10min.</p> <p>The offer indicates the availability of public transportation connections between the proposed location and the airport with a duration of 20 minutes, without indicating the frequency of these connections.</p> <p>The offer indicates the availability of 23,000 hotel rooms in the Brussels Greater Area, ranging from international branded hotels to family-owned boutique hotels.</p>

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3) The existence of adequate education facilities for the children of agency staff <i>This criterion concerns the availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the current staff as well as the capacity to meet also the future education needs.</i>		
3.1 Availability of multi-lingual, European-oriented schooling that can meet the needs for education facilities for the children of the current staff as well as the future education needs. As of September 2016, EMA's 890 members of staff have 648 children aged 0 to 18, of which...	<p><i>"The European Medicines Agency's staff can choose from a broad range of outstanding international schools for their children...More than a third of European Schools are located in Belgium and a fifth European School for 2,500 pupils will open in the Brussels Greater Area in the near future. British and American curricula can be found alongside international and European curricula at various schools. Several universities also offer English language master programs, next to French and Dutch. Three British schools located in the Brussels Greater Area offer a British curriculum. These schools stand ready to increase their capacity in order for the children of EMA staff to complete the British education programs they have started in the UK." (p. 11)</i></p> <p>The offer indicates international and foreign language schools, including Greek, Scandinavian, French, German and British schools. (p. 11)</p>	
3.1.1 ... 117 in nursery/day care; 96 in pre-school; 231 in primary school;	See 3.1	The offer does not indicate the existence of nursery/day-care. The offer indicates the existence of 4 European schools, with a 5th to open in the near future for 2,500 pupils, without specifying their linguistic offer.
3.1.2 ... 149 in second level;	See 3.1	The offer indicates the existence of 4 European schools, with a 5th to open in the near future, as well as international and foreign language schools, including Greek, Scandinavian, French, German and British schools, without providing specific information on the number of places available.
3.1.3 ... 55 in third level/university	<p>See 3.1</p> <p><i>"Belgium is home to 12 universities of which two (UGent and KU Leuven) are in the World Top 50 of Universities in Life Sciences ." (p. 17)</i></p>	The offer provides general information on the existence of universities and higher level educational facilities in Belgium, including those that offer English language master programs, next to French and Dutch, without specifying availability of places.
3.2 Other	<p><i>"Furthermore, the claim that Belgium's educational system is one of the most outstanding in the world is backed by the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Report 2015-2016 which found that Belgium has the second best primary education system and the second best management schools in the world. The Expat Welcome Desk will provide different services to assist EMA staff while settling in as part of the relocation package. During the transition phase, information on available schools will be provided according to the needs of each individual family. During that period, appointments with schools can be arranged and registration can be taken care of, amongst others." (p. 11)</i></p>	<p>The offer comments on the quality of Belgium's educational system.</p> <p>The offer indicates the availability of support from an expat welcome desk to assist EMA staff with school information.</p>

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GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 3		<p>The offer does not indicate the existence of nursery/day-care. The offer indicates the existence of 4 European schools, with a 5th to open in the near future for 2,500 pupils, without specifying their linguistic offer. The offer indicates international and foreign language schools, including Greek, Scandinavian, French, German and British schools, without providing specific information on the number of places available.</p> <p>The offer indicates the existence of masters' programmes in English, Dutch and French.</p> <p>The offer also indicates the availability of support from an expat welcome desk to assist EBA staff with school information.</p>
<p>4) Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses</p> <p><i>This criterion concerns the capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of the current as well as of future staff for social security and medical care as well as the availability to offer job opportunities for these.</i></p>		
<p>4.1 Capacity to meet the needs of the children and spouses of the current as well as of future staff as regards...</p>		
<p>4.1.1 ... social security</p>	<p>"EMA staff and their families are subject to the social security provisions of the EU rather than to the Belgian social security ." (p. 12)</p>	<p>The offer indicates that children and spouses of EMA staff are subject to the EU social security provisions.</p>
<p>4.1.2 ... medical care</p>	<p>EMA staff and their families will have "access to Belgium's reliable healthcare system. A 24/7 access to medication thanks to pharmacy rotation and a high number of medical doctors who speak English, French and Dutch only add strength to the claim that healthcare in Belgium is among the best in Europe, and even in the world. The rankings also reaffirm this claim ." (p. 12)</p> <p>"On a worldwide scale, Belgium occupies 2nd place when it comes to building healthcare infrastructure that answers the needs of the population (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2016). In addition, Belgium is home to Europe's 4th best healthcare system [...] Belgium scores very well in patient rights and information, access to care, treatment outcomes, range and reach of services, prevention and use of pharmaceuticals. Apart from being reliable, healthcare is also affordable in Belgium ." (p. 12)</p>	<p>The offer indicates that children and spouses of EMA staff have access to the Belgian medical care, including to medication and medical doctors who speak English, French and Dutch.</p>

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4.2 Job opportunities for children and spouses of current and future staff	<i>"Belgium has a vibrant labour market with ample opportunities for international staff. Belgium is one of the most international countries in Europe, with expats making up more than 10% of the workforce. More than 140,000 European foreigners are currently working in Brussels. The city, home to numerous international institutions, advocacy groups, lobbying companies, law firms and others, offers scores of challenging employment opportunities for the family members of staff of the European Medicines Agency ."</i> (p. 12)	The offer provides general information on the presence of European foreigners in the Belgian workforce and on diverse employers that could be of interest to children and spouses of EMA staff.
4.3 Other		
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 4		The offer indicates that children and spouses of EMA staff are subject to the EU social security provisions. The offer indicates that children and spouses of EMA staff have access to the Belgian medical care, including to medication and medical doctors who speak English, French and Dutch. The offer provides general information on the presence of European foreigners in the Belgian workforce and on diverse employers that could be of interest to children and spouses of EMA staff.
5) Business continuity <i>This criterion is relevant given the critical nature of the services provided by the Agencies and the need therefore to ensure continued functionality at the existing high level. The criterion relates to the timeframe required to fulfil the four criteria above. It concerns amongst other things the ability to allow the Agencies to maintain and attract highly qualified staff from the relevant sectors, notably in case not all current staff should choose to relocate. Furthermore, it concerns the capacity to ensure a smooth transition to the new locations and hence to guarantee the business continuity of the Agencies which should remain operational during the transition.</i>		

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5.1 Timeframe required to fulfil the four criteria above	<p>"As soon as the decision is taken to move the EMA from London to Brussels, the EMA task force consisting of Belgium's federal and regional authorities will coordinate the implementation of all aforementioned measures. Belgium is dedicated to delivering the premises in time for the EMA to be fully operational by April 2019 ." (p. 16)</p>	<p>The offer indicates Belgium's intention to set up a Belgian task force to ensure implementation of all mentioned measures, including to ensure that the main proposed premises are delivered in time for EMA to be fully operational by April 2019.</p>
5.2 Ability to allow EMA to maintain and attract highly qualified staff from the relevant sectors	<p>"Belgium's excellent quality of life is valuable factor to attract and maintain staff and their families ." (p. 16 and 17)</p> <p>"[...] EMA can draw from a large pool of experts working in Belgium ." (p. 16)</p> <p>"Within the EU, Belgium has a strong reputation for R&D and innovation, primarily due to the high quality of its educational system and research facilities, the availability of skilled workers and numerous fiscal incentives for R&D ventures [...]The Belgian workforce has one of the highest productivity levels in the EU. Key contributing factors are the quality of the educational system and proficiency in multiple languages. Other attractive assets are the flexibility of the labour force, as well as its versatility and eagerness to learn in changing working conditions ." (p. 16)</p> <p>"Belgium is ranked as the 2nd largest pharmaceutical country in the world in absolute figures. Part of this success is due to the presence of the Belgian pharmaceutical industry in every part of the value chain: from research and development, to clinical trials, market access, distribution and logistics [...] Furthermore, the pharmaceutical industry in Belgium employs more than 30,000 people directly and four pharmaceutical companies are in the top 5 of the most attractive employers in Belgium. Besides, 35% of the labour force has at least one higher-education degree, well above the OECD average. This pool of talented human capital can help drive the activities of the European Medicines Agency forward ." (p. 17).</p> <p>"The Belgian government has the capacity and the commitment to enhance the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products capabilities and resources for a smooth move towards Belgium within a short timeframe and with respect for business continuity. " (p. 17)</p> <p>"Belgium is home to 12 universities of which two (UGent and KU Leuven) are in the World Top 50 of Universities in Life Sciences." (p. 17) "Belgium also has a renowned network of specialised research facilities. " (p. 17)</p> <p>"Belgium's highly-qualified and multilingual workforce clearly meets the needs of an international working environment. " (p. 17)</p>	<p>The offer indicates the possibility for EMA to recruit relevant staff from Belgium's talent pool in research and development, innovation and the pharmaceutical sector. The offer does not provide information on the ability to allow EMA to maintain staff.</p>

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<p>5.3 Smooth transition to the new locations - EMA can remain operational during the transition</p>	<p><i>"The current building schedule for The One allows for the necessary flexibility to accommodate the requirements of the EMA, whilst adhering to the strict and tight timeline." (p. 16)</i></p> <p><i>"As soon as the decision is taken to move the EMA from London to Brussels, the EMA task force consisting of Belgium's federal and regional authorities will coordinate the implementation of all aforementioned measures" (p. 16)</i></p> <p><i>"A point of contact for EMA has been established at the Embassy of Belgium in London in order to streamline interaction with the EMA. Belgium stands ready to second a dedicated on-site point of contact to EMA once the decision has been taken to move to Brussels." (p. 16)</i></p> <p><i>"The Belgian government has the capacity and the commitment to enhance the Belgian Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products capabilities and resources for a smooth move towards Belgium within a short timeframe and with respect for business continuity." (p. 17)</i></p> <p><i>"Centrally located in the heart of Europe and close to the current headquarters of the European Medicines Agency, Brussels Greater Area provides the ideal conditions for a swift and smooth transition." (p. 3). "Excellent land, sea and air connections with London will facilitate movement of EMA staff and equipment during the transition phase" (p. 16).</i></p>	<p>The offer provides information about the ability to ensure a smooth transition by referring to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - availability of EMA premises; - the establishment of a Belgian task force for the coordination of relocation measures; - a point of contact for EMA in the Embassy of Belgium in London and the possibility to have a on-site point of contact; - the intention of Belgium of enhancing the Belgian Federal Agency's resources; - geographical proximity by land, sea and air between EMA's current headquarters and Brussels;
<p>5.4 Other</p>	<p><i>"Belgium is located at the crossroads of three major European cultures, Germanic, Latin and Anglo-Saxon. Visitors will easily find a host who speaks their language fluently. French, Dutch and German are official languages in Belgium. English is fluently spoken by most Belgians for whom multilingualism is a given ." (p. 17)</i></p> <p>The offer indicates Belgium's intention to offer support to EMA staff and their families pre and post relocation (see Section 4.3). In particular, it indicates the Brussels Expat Welcome Desk providing administrative free of charge and multi-lingual assistance to internationals who come to work in Brussels in or around the European and international institutions. <i>"Belgium stands ready to reinforce the capacity of the Expat Welcome Desk during the transition from London to Brussels, by temporarily increasing staff levels and by cooperating with a private relocation agency so as to provide a bespoke service to EMA staff and their families. During the transition period (2018 – 2019) an extended and personalised relocation package will be provided, included amongst others facilitating the search for temporary accommodation, oneday property search, settling-in assistance and schooling assistance. These facilities come on top of the myriad of services already provided on a continuous basis by the Expat Welcome Desk." (p. 13)</i></p> <p>Detailed information on package also made available in the offer. (p. 14-15)</p>	<p>The offer provides additional information in particular on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - languages spoken in Belgium; - support to be offered to EMA staff and their families during the transition.

Criterion/specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF CRITERION 5		<p>The offer indicates the delivery of the premises in time for the EMA to be fully operational by April 2019.</p> <p>The offer indicates the possibility for EMA to recruit relevant staff from Belgium's talent pool in research and development, innovation and the pharmaceutical sector. The offer argues that Belgium's quality of life is a factor to allow EMA to maintain staff.</p> <p>The offer provides information about the ability to ensure EMA's smooth transition by referring to the intention of Belgium to enhance its medicines agency's resources and the geographical proximity between EMA's current headquarters and Brussels.</p> <p>The offer also provides information about a Belgian task force for the coordination of measures to ensure EMA's business continuity.</p> <p>The offer indicates the availability of support to EMA staff and their families during the transition, as well as a contact point in the Embassy of Belgium in London and a possible on-site contact point.</p>
6) Geographical spread <i>This criterion relates to the agreed desirability of geographical spread of the agencies' seats, and to the objective set in December 2003 by the representatives of the Member States, meeting at Head of State or Government level and confirmed in 2008</i>		<p>Belgium hosts one EU decentralised agency, namely the Single Resolution Board (SRB) in Brussels.</p>
SPECIFIC ISSUES		
a) The Member State's plan for... ... when would the relocation take place	<p>"As soon as the decision is taken to move the EMA from London to Brussels, the EMA task force consisting of Belgium's federal and regional authorities will coordinate the implementation of all aforementioned measures. Belgium is dedicated to delivering the premises in time for the EMA to be fully operational by April 2019 ." (p. 16)</p> <p>The offer refers to "a smooth move towards Belgium within a short timeframe and with respect for business continuity ." (p. 17)</p>	<p>The offer indicates an intention to have EMA fully operational by April 2019, without providing information on when exactly the relocation would take place.</p>

Criterion/specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
... how would the relocation take place?	"As soon as the decision is taken to move the EMA from London to Brussels, the EMA task force consisting of Belgium's federal and regional authorities will coordinate the implementation of all aforementioned measures. " (p. 16)	The offer indicates Belgium's intention to establish a task force for the coordination of implementation measures, without providing specific information on these measures.
How would this plan ensure that the Agency remains operational?	See Section 5.3	The offer indicates the intention of Belgium of enhancing the Belgian Federal Agency's resources; and on the connections by land, sea and air between EMA's current headquarters and Brussels.
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC ISSUE a)		The offer indicates that EMA would be fully operational by April 2019, without providing information on when exactly the relocation would take place. The offer anticipates EMA's smooth move, given the proximity between London and Brussels. The offer indicates the creation of a task force for the coordination of implementation measures, without providing specific information on these measures, and provides general information on the Belgian government's intention to enhance the resources of its own medicines agency in order to ensure EMA remains operational.
b) The premises that would be offered to be rented or put at the disposal of the Agency indicated in the offer, including temporary premises	The offer provides indicates the premises that would be offered: <i>The One</i> in Brussels. The offer also indicates two alternative sites in Brussels Greater Area.	The offer indicates the premises that would be offered: <i>The One</i> in Brussels, with information on two alternative sites in Brussels Greater Area.
How would these premises meet the specific needs of the Agency?	See 1.1-1.3	The offer comments on indicates in a detailed way all the requirements concerning the layout and facilities, apart from the auditorium, for the main proposed premises.
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC ISSUE b)		The offer indicates the proposed premises: <i>The One</i> in Brussels, with two alternative sites proposed in Brussels Greater Area (<i>Greenhouse BXL</i> and a building in <i>Louvain-la-Neuve Science Park</i>). The offer indicates in a detailed way how <i>The One</i> fulfils EMA requirements, without providing information on some technical aspects.
c) The financial terms for the Agency's use of these premises	[confidential]	The offer indicates the financial terms for the lease of the premises, [confidential].

Criterion/specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
Would the Member State pay the rent for a given period or indefinitely?		The offer does not provide information on the Member State paying rent.
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC ISSUE c)		The offer indicates the financial terms for the lease of the premises, [confidential].
d) The terms concerning maintenance of the building	"Belgium stands ready to assist the EMA in managing its location specific contracts, such as the maintenance of the future EMA premises. The Belgian Building's Agency can propose a comprehensive service level agreement for building related services, in close cooperation with third-party providers, in order to facilitate a smooth transition to the new premises ." (p. 6)	The offer indicates Belgian's intention to assist EMA as regards the management of contracts for maintenance and the availability of a service level agreement for building related services from the Belgian Building's Agency. The offer does not provide information on the terms concerning maintenance.
The terms concerning upgrading the building or future extensions of the building		The offer does not provide information on the possibility and terms for upgrading and expanding the premises.
GENERAL ASSESSMENT OF SPECIFIC ISSUE d)		The offer does not provide information on the terms concerning maintenance, upgrading and expansion. It indicates Belgian's intention to assist EMA as regards the management of contracts for maintenance and the availability of a service level agreement for building related services from the Belgian Building's Agency.
e) Any special conditions offered with regard to all costs and dedicated infrastructures		The offer does not provide information on special conditions to be offered with regard to costs and dedicated infrastructures.
f) Any benefits that would be granted to the Agency and/or its staff (in addition to those following from Protocol No 7 on the privileges and immunities of the European Union)	"Belgium stands ready to sign a text in which the application of the Protocol 7 is confirmed, and where insurances are given that the host nation will guarantee the European Medicines Agency's external security. " (p. 16)	The offer indicates external security as a benefit to be granted to the Agency in addition to Protocol No 7.
Member State's commitment to confirm the conditions offered in a headquarters agreement with EMA	" [...] signing a new "headquarters agreement" is not strictly necessary. However, Belgium stands ready to sign a text in which the application of the PPI is confirmed, and where insurances are given that the host nation will guarantee the European Medicines Agency's external security. (p. 16)	The offer indicates that a headquarters agreement will be signed with EMA.
OTHER POSSIBLY RELEVANT ISSUES MENTIONED IN THE OFFER		

Criterion/specific issue	Information provided in the Offer	Commission assessment
Quality of life	<p><i>"With its rich cultural life and historical heritage, Belgium is an attractive place to live. Brussels hosts more than 18,000 cultural events every year. The Brussels Greater Area is also a lovely environment to take a walk [...] The cost of living is lower in the Brussels Greater Area than in most of the other European metropolitan areas. In a survey on the cost of living, Brussels has a more affordable cost of living than 50% of the OECD cities in the affordability rankings ." (p. 17) "Belgium is one of the most international countries in Europe. " (p. 12) "Belgium offers an exceptionally high standard of living for expatriates and their families with first-class healthcare, high-quality housing at affordable prices and an excellent education system with many international schools ." (p. 17)</i></p>	