

Fernand Sauer

Director Public Health, European Commission, DG Health and Consumer Protection

Fernand Sauer is the Director for Public Health of the European Commission (Directorate-General Health and Consumer Protection) since December 2000.

He qualified in pharmacy at the University of Strasbourg. He subsequently received a Masters in European and International Law from the University of Paris II and various post-graduate diplomas in public health, pharmaceutical legislation and European Community Studies.

From 1972 to 1979 Mr Sauer held various positions in France as a hospital pharmacist and pharmaceutical inspector at the Ministry of Health. In 1979 he joined the European Commission in Brussels and in 1986 became Head of Pharmaceuticals.

He has been involved in the completion of the European Internal Market, trilateral harmonisation of regulatory requirements (ICH) between Europe, the US and Japan, the accession of the Community to the European Pharmacopoeia Convention and the development of pricing transparency and industrial policy in the pharmaceutical sector.

He became the first Executive Director of the Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMA) based in London, from September 1994 to November 2000.

As the director for Public Health in the European Commission, he is responsible for the new public health programme (2003-2008), for health legislation on tobacco control, the quality and safety of blood, tissues and cells, for communicable diseases and the launch of the new European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in Stockholm (ECDC), for the establishment of the EU Health Forum (45 NGOs) and for relations with the World Health Organization, in particular the International Health Regulations and the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

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