Paediatric Committee elects Koenraad Norga as its new chair

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At its July 2019 meeting, EMA’s [paediatric committee](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/paediatric-committee" \t "_blank" \o "The committee that is responsible for assessing the content of paediatric investigation plans, which describe how a medicine should be studied in children, as well as waivers and deferrals. Abbreviated as PDCO.   More information can be found under 'Paediatric Committee (PDCO)'.) ([PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco)) elected Koenraad Norga from Belgium as its new chair, for a three-year mandate starting in September. Professor Norga will replace Dr Dirk Mentzer who is retiring as [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) Chair, having served the maximum of two three-year mandates.

Professor Norga was nominated to the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) by the Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP) in Belgium and is head of paediatric oncology at Antwerp University Hospital. He has been a member of the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) since 2011 and its vice chair since 2013. He also serves on EMA’s human medicines committee ([CHMP](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/chmp)) and was nominated by the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) to take part in EMA’s [scientific advice](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/scientific-advice) [working party](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/working-party) (SAWP).

Professor Norga thanked Dr Mentzer, outgoing chair of the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco), for his excellent leadership of the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) over the past six years and for their close collaboration.

“The [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) is an enabler ensuring that the needs of children are adequately considered in the product development of a medicine,” said Professor Norga. “As chair, I would like to continue the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco)’s interaction with other scientific committees at EMA, as well as with academia and patient/parent groups to ensure that the committee plays an active role throughout a medicine’s lifespan. In addition, with the added value of the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) now firmly established in the EU regulatory system, we can be confident partners, with other scientific committees at EMA, in exploring how to work together to make the system even stronger,” he added.

The main role of the [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) is to prospectively guide sponsors or companies on how to consider a medicine’s use in children during its development. In this context, the committee assesses the content of [paediatric investigation plans](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/paediatric-investigation-plan" \t "_blank" \o "A development plan aimed at ensuring that the necessary data are obtained to support the authorisation of a medicine for children, through studies in children. All applications for marketing authorisation for new medicines have to include the results of studies as described in an agreed paediatric investigation plan, unless the medicine is exempt because of a deferral or waiver  More information can be found under 'Paediatric investigation plans'.) (PIPs) as well as applications for a full or partial waiver and for deferrals.

The [PDCO](https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/glossary/pdco) will elect a new vice-chair at its September 2019 meeting.