

Dear Shareholder in Astra AB ,

**Compulsory Acquisition of Astra AB Shares (now renamed AstraZeneca AB)**

Following the merger of Astra AB and Zeneca Group PLC last April, AstraZeneca Holding AB ("AstraZeneca") initiated compulsory acquisition proceedings to acquire the Astra AB shares that are not owned by the AstraZeneca group. AstraZeneca's right to acquire those shares has now been confirmed by an independent arbitration panel in Sweden in an intermediate arbitration award. AstraZeneca will therefore obtain legal title to these outstanding shares in exchange for the payment of SEK 173.21 per Astra share, which is the acquisition price proposed by AstraZeneca in the arbitration proceedings. The acquisition price will be paid to each shareholder's cash account associated to his share account with VPC AB, or, if the shareholder has not furnished his account details to VPC AB, via a cheque distributed by a Swedish bank to the shareholder's address.

The arbitration proceedings will continue for the purpose of establishing the final acquisition price. Should the arbitration panel decide that the acquisition price should be higher than SEK 173.21, AstraZeneca will pay a balancing payment, including interest, to each minority shareholder .

Stockholm in May 2000

AstraZeneca Holding AB