

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure

on 7 May 2018, Stavanger, Norway

on

The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2017

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Jørn DOHRMANN Member of the European Parliament
Mr Elfried HASLER, Member of the Liechtenstein Parliament

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA JPC):

- Having regard to its Resolutions on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 1994 (adopted on 29 May 1995), in 1995 (adopted on 3 June 1996), in 1996 (adopted on 14 April 1997), in 1997 (adopted on 25 May 1998), in 1998 (adopted on 19 April 1999), in 1999 (adopted on 16 March 2000), in 2000 (adopted on 24 May 2001), in 2001 (adopted on 20 June 2002), in 2002 (adopted on 20 May 2003), in 2003 (adopted on 27 April 2004), in 2004 (adopted on 25 April 2005), in 2005 (adopted on 22 May 2006), in 2006 (adopted on 27 June 2007), in 2007 (adopted on 29 April 2008), in 2008 (adopted on 25 March 2009), in 2009 (adopted on 29 March 2010), in 2010 (adopted on 12 April 2011), in 2011 (adopted on 4 May 2012), in 2012 (adopted on 30 May 2013), in 2013 (adopted on 17 December 2014); in 2014 (adopted on 19 November 2015); in 2015 (adopted on 14 December 2016); in 2016 (adopted on 23 May 2017).
- A. In accordance with its mandate to examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee (EEA JC) as laid out by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) (Article 95, paragraph 4);
- B. Emphasising that the EEA EFTA States are participants in the Internal Market;
- C. Aware of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA:

1. Welcomes the finalisation and publication of the 2017 Annual Report at an early stage and encourages the EEA JC to continue this path; agrees with the EEA JC on the main issues of concern and makes the following remarks;
2. Notes the fact that the number of legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2017 increased by almost 27 percent compared to 2016;
3. Regrets however that the so-called backlog of legal acts increased by more than 10 percent and reiterates the common interest of both the European Union and the EEA EFTA States in the timely incorporation of these legislative acts;
4. Urges therefore the EEA Joint Committee to find pragmatic solutions for the legal acts that have been pending incorporation for a long time;
5. Underlines the urgent need to ensure the swift incorporation of the remaining legal acts in financial services to safeguard a harmonised Internal Market;
6. Welcomes the progress in the discussions regarding the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and underlines the importance of rapidly incorporating the GDPR for it to become applicable in the EEA at the same time as in the EU;
7. Regrets the transposition deficit of 1.2% of the EEA EFTA States in 2017, and underlines that timely transposition is essential for the homogeneity and the proper functioning of the Internal Market;
8. Notes that a solution has not yet been found with regard to the incorporation of the 2009 Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC);
9. Welcomes the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2017 on topical issues listed in the annual report, and notes with satisfaction that the number of Comments has increased over the last years;
10. Encourages therefore the EEA EFTA States and the EU to continue sharing their views, assessments and information as early as possible in the decision-shaping process to ensure that each side's interest is duly taken into consideration;
11. Welcomes the reference made in the 2017 Annual Report of the EEA JC to the EEA JPC Resolution adopted in May 2017 and acknowledges the regular participation of the EEA JC representatives in the activities of the EEA JPC meetings and underlines in this regard the importance of upholding reciprocal high-level representation at both the political and the technical level in these meetings;
12. Calls on all parliamentary delegations to ensure the largest possible participation of their respective Members in future JPC meetings with a view to safeguarding a meaningful democratic scrutiny of the EEA Agreement;

13. Welcomes the progress made in the implementation of the Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism for the 2014-2021 period, with a total commitment of EUR 1548.1 million, and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the same period, with a total commitment of EUR 1253.7 million.
14. Takes note that Memoranda of Understanding on the EEA Grants have been signed at the end of 2017 with Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Malta, Estonia, Portugal, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Greece and Poland.
15. Reiterates that the EEA EFTA States participate in the Single Market through the EEA Agreement, and that a UK withdrawal from the EU will have an impact on the EEA Agreement and the EEA EFTA States; encourages continuation of close dialogue between the EEA EFTA States and the EU to ensure continued homogeneity in the EEA; invites the EU's Chief negotiator to participate in due time in one of the EEA JPC future meetings;
16. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee and the EEA Council.