

# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Ref. 15-4652

Brussels, 19 November 2015

19 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium

### **RESOLUTION**

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

in Brussels on 19 November 2015

on

#### **The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2014**

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Elfried Hasler, Member of the Liechtenstein Parliament

Mr Jørn Dohrmann, Member of the European Parliament

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- 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 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 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), and in 2013 (adopted on 17 December 2014);

- A. In accordance with its task to examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee (EEA JC) laid out by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) (Article 95, paragraph 4);
- B. Emphasising that the EEA EFTA States are full participants in matters concerning the Internal Market;
- C. Mindful of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA:
  - 1. Takes note of the 2014 Annual Report of the EEA JC, and agrees with the EEA JC on the main issues of concern in 2014;
  - 2. Welcomes the inclusion in the Annual Report of the new paragraph on the status of outstanding issues, in addition to more information in Annex I, and asks the EEA JC to include this in future Annual Reports in order for the EEA JPC to better fulfil its advisory role;
  - 3. Regret that the last two years the annual report has been made available later than in previous years and urge the EEA JC to revert to finalising the report earlier;
  - 4. Welcomes the fact that the number of legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement was high in 2014, with 627 legal acts, compared with 400 legal acts in 2013, and encourages the EEA JC to continue this positive trend;
  - 5. Notes also the lower number of outstanding legal acts in November 2014 compared with November 2013;
  - 6. Welcomes the entry into force in October 2014 of the new procedures under the EEA Efficiency Project and hopes for swift improvement in the pace of incorporation of EU legal acts into the EEA Agreement;
  - 7. Urges the EEA JC to find solutions for the legal acts that have been pending for a long time, and underlines the common interest of both the European Union and the EEA EFTA States in the timely incorporation of legislative acts;
  - 8. Welcomes the political conclusions in October 2014 on the inclusion of the European Financial Supervisory Authorities in the EEA Agreement, and urges the two parties to ensure that the relevant acts are incorporated into the EEA Agreement as soon as possible;
  - 9. Regrets the increased average transposition deficit of the EEA EFTA States in 2014, and underlines that timely transposition is essential for the homogeneity of the Internal Market;
  - 10. Notes that the EEA EFTA States request full participation without the right to vote in the management boards of existing and future EEA-relevant authorities. This has,

however, not been possible in the case of the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), where the BEREC Regulation only allows observer status for the EEA EFTA States. The EEA JPC invites the EU to consider full participation without the right to vote in the management board of BEREC;

11. Welcomes the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2014 on topics of great importance to the EEA, and encourages the EEA EFTA States to continue to share their views and knowledge as early as possible in the decision-shaping process;
12. Welcomes the feedback received from the EU in response to the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2014, and encourages the EU to continue to take the views of the EEA EFTA States transmitted in these comments into account;
13. Welcomes the reference made in the Annual Report to the EEA JPC resolutions adopted in March and December 2014, but reiterates its previous request for the EEA JC to address specific points in all resolutions of the EEA JPC, and to submit its responses well in advance of the next EEA JPC meeting;
14. Reiterates the EEA JPC's appreciation for EEA JC representatives' attendance, statements and participation in discussions at EEA JPC meetings;
15. Welcomes the positive contribution made by the EEA Grants and Norway Grants in reducing economic and social disparities in the EEA, as well as the results achieved;
16. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.