

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A

J O I N T P A R L I A M E N T A R Y C O M M I T T E E

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R E S O L U T I O N

Approved at the 44th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee
in Fredrikstad, Norway, on 17 March 2015
(pursuant to Rules 11 of the Rules of Procedure)

Adopted by written procedure

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and its possible implications for the EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

Co-rapporteurs:

Member of the Icelandic Parliament Mr Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson (Independence Party)

Member of the European Parliament Ms Angelika Mlinar (ALDE)

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

- A. Having regard to the ongoing negotiations between the European Union (EU) and the United States (US) on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP);
- B. Underlining the importance of such an agreement for the EEA Agreement and the EEA EFTA States as deeply integrated economies in the EU's Internal Market and as important trading partners for the US;
- C. Emphasizing the possible impact of changes in EU regulation through harmonization and regulatory coherence in TTIP on regional and national authorities in the EEA EFTA States through the EEA agreement;
 - 1. Welcomes the ongoing free trade negotiations between the EU and the US towards an ambitious TTIP agreement and the positive consequences that it could have on the EU and US economies through increasing economic growth and employment;
 - 2. Acknowledges that a successful and ambitious TTIP agreement could have positive effects on the EEA area by means of increased demand for goods and services and easier market access in both the EU and US;
 - 3. Underlines that TTIP will most probably affect a wide range of sectors in the EEA highlights that as participants in the EU's Internal Market, the EEA countries will be affected by any regulatory changes due to TTIP and changes in the area of trade in services and public procurement in particular;
 - 4. Urges the European Commission, therefore, to increase the continuous dialogue with the EEA EFTA States' governments and parliaments with regard to important developments in the negotiations to the extent possible, in particular keeping in mind the need to ensure the

homogeneity of the EEA and the fact that the changes in the EU Internal Market generated by this agreement will also affect the EEA EFTA States;

5. Welcomes the recent transparency initiative by the European Commission and urges to uphold and further increase the level of information sharing with the EEA EFTA states;
6. Expresses its intention to closely monitor the development of the negotiations and the possible implications for the EEA EFTA States;
7. Notes that the EU and the EEA have achieved high standards on food safety, animal welfare, health, the environment, labour, consumers and data protection; emphasizes the importance of safeguarding this level of standards and anchoring them on a global level while ensuring effective free trade through removing unnecessary regulatory barriers and improving regulatory cooperation.