

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION

Approved at the 46th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee,

in Liechtenstein on 19 May 2016

(Pursuant to Article 11 of the Rules of Procedure)

adopted by written procedure

Resolution on the Collaborative Economy

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Jørn Dohrmann, Member of the European Parliament (ECR)

Ms Irene Johansen, Member of the Norwegian Parliament (Labour Party)

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

- A. Having regard to Article 1 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), enshrining the objective of a homogeneous EEA in which there is free movement of goods, persons, services and capital;
- B. Having regard to Article 102 EEA, which lays down the requirement of incorporation of EU acquis into the EEA Agreement as closely as possible to the adoption by the European Union of the corresponding new EU legislation with a view to permitting simultaneous application of the latter;
- C. Having regard to the European Council Communication entitled “Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business” of 28 October 2015 (COM(2015) 550 final);
- D. Having regard to the European Commission Communication of 6 May 2015 on a Digital Single Market Strategy for Europe (COM(2015) 192 final);
- E. Having regard to the EEA JPC Resolution of 19 November 2015 on the Digital Single Market Strategy;
- F. Having regard to the European Parliament study of January 2016 on “The Cost of Non-Europe in the Sharing Economy – Economic, Social and Legal Challenges and Opportunities”;
- G. Having regard to the European Parliament report on "Towards a Digital Single Market Act" adopted in plenary in January 2016;

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1. Notes the transformative nature of the collaborative economy and welcomes initiatives towards mapping its impact and regulatory status, as included in the Single Market Strategy for Goods and Services;
2. Welcomes the positive aspects of the collaborative economy and its potential for increased efficiency, growth and jobs;
3. Points out that new business models in the collaborative economy can contribute to a better and more sustainable distribution and utilisation of goods and services, improved choice and lower prices for the consumer, and new employment opportunities for a more digitally tuned labour force;
4. Notes at the same time the societal and regulatory challenges arising from the collaborative economy, and that an efficient and proportional regulatory regime is needed in order to realise its full and long-term potential, both in the EU Member States and in the EEA EFTA States;

5. Underlines the positive aspects of the collaborative economy for the consumer, but also stresses the need for clarification in terms of consumer protection and responsibility towards the consumer with regard to safety, handling of complaints, and compensation;
6. Welcomes the efforts to identify and examine the applicability of the current regulatory regime, and the identification of any regulatory gaps and need for additional regulation by taking into account specific aspects of the collaborative economy, especially in the field of consumer protection, taxation and the labour market, and especially when it comes to defining employment status and to clarifying the responsibility for insurance for both the consumer and service provider and for health, safety and the environment (HSE) at work;
7. Calls for the balanced development of the collaborative economy to ensure increased growth and jobs as well as efficient regulation of enterprises and individuals participating in the collaborative economy;
8. Underlines the need for effective enforcement of competition law to ensure a level playing field and fair and effective competition between traditional industries and innovative collaborative economy businesses; highlights the need to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach;
9. Expresses its intention to monitor upcoming developments in the field of the collaborative economy closely, as well as the potential impact of the collaborative economy on EEA-relevant legislation;
10. Calls on the EU to work closely with the EEA EFTA States when developing new EEA relevant legislation affecting the collaborative economy;
11. Encourages closer contact between the European Parliament and the national parliaments of the EEA EFTA States on issues linked to the collaborative economy.