

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

20TH MEETING

20 May 2003, Ålesund

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 20th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Ålesund, 20 May 2003

Resolution on *The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2002*:
co-rapporteurs: Mr Gunnar BIRGISSON (Independence Party, Iceland) and Mr Gary
TITLEY (PES, United Kingdom) adopted unanimously, with one abstention.

RESOLUTION

On The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2002

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. in accordance with its task laid out by the EEA Agreement (Article 95, paragraph 4),
- B. emphasising that the EEA EFTA States are not third countries in matters concerning the internal market, but full participants,
- C. mindful of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA,
- D. noting that the information and consultation process provided for by the EEA Agreement is an essential tool for the EFTA States for the shaping of common rules,
- E. recalling its resolution on the functioning of the EEA in 1994 (adopted 29 May 1995), in 1995 (adopted 3 June 1996), in 1996 (adopted 14 April 1997) in 1997 (adopted 25 May 1998) and in 1999 (adopted 16 March 1999), in 2000 (adopted 24 May 2000), in 2001 (adopted 20 June 2001) and in 2002 (adopted 27 May 2002),
 1. welcomes the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee for 2002 and agrees with the general assessment that the EEA is functioning well in the sense that it lives up to its original function of securing the extension of the internal market to the whole of the EEA;
 2. encourages the EEA Joint Committee to draft a more comprehensive and analytical report for 2003 taking major EU developments into account when assessing the functioning of the Agreement, enabling the Report to be understood by a wider audience, which could enhance the democratic scrutiny of the functioning of the Agreement;
 3. appreciates the statement delivered by the President-in-office of the EEA Joint Committee at the 18th EEA JPC, following the JPC resolutions adopted at the 17th meeting of the EEA JPC concerning the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2001;
 4. welcomes the high, and increased, number of acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement during 2002;

5. reiterates its warning that incompleteness in the homogeneity of the Internal Market within the EEA at the time of the next enlargement of the EU could have serious consequences for the functioning of the Market, but notes with satisfaction that transposition of EEA legislation has improved significantly for Norway and Iceland during 2002;
6. urges the contracting parties to find solutions with a view to integrating the supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products and the directive on the prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering into the EEA Agreement;
7. welcomes the reduced backlog on the EFTA side as integration of new EU acts into the Agreement takes less time than before due to improved administrative procedures;
8. is concerned that although the practical impact of the Commission's safeguard measures on certain steel products was modest for the EEA EFTA States, the matter of principle in the "steel case" seems unresolved;
9. recalls its resolution adopted at the 19th EEA JPC on decision-shaping in the EEA, welcomes the increase in the number of EFTA comments on EC legislation which have been submitted to the Commission, but still urges the EEA EFTA States to take actions with a view to enhanced participation in the EEA decision-shaping process at the earliest possible stage in the legislative process;
10. reiterates its call for the participation of the EEA EFTA States in the European Agencies on Maritime and Aviation Safety (EMSA and EASA) and in the European Authority for Food Safety (EFSA);
11. notes that ten countries have applied for membership in the EEA according to Article 128 (EEA), and welcomes the enlargement of the EU and the EEA;
12. underlines the importance of the simultaneous enlargement of both the EU and EEA to avoid chaotic conditions for EU and EEA citizens and economic operators after 1 May 2004;
13. is concerned that the EEA EFTA States' ability to shape decisions and to make its voice heard in an enlarged EU could be reduced;
14. recalls its resolution on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2001 adopted at the 18th EEA JPC where it welcomes the EEA EFTA States' commitment to the Lisbon Strategy, calls on the EEA EFTA States to pursue the Lisbon Strategy in line with the EU Member States, and welcomes the inclusion of the EEA EFTA States in the Structural Indicators;

15. emphasises that the EEA Agreement is a dynamic Agreement evolving in a changing Europe, and calls on the EEA Council and the EEA Joint Committee to address recent and future EU developments e.g. the Convention on the Future of Europe and the possible impact on the EEA Agreement, and to inform the EEA JPC.
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