

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE**

23RD MEETING

22 - 23 November 2004, Brussels

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 23rd meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels, 23 November 2004

Resolution on [*The Internal Market Strategy 2003-2006 and the EEA*](#)

Co-rapporteurs: Mrs Diana WALLIS (ALDE, UK) and Mr Jürgen ZECH (Progressive
Citizens' Party, Liechtenstein)

adopted unanimously with one abstention

Resolution on [*The decision shaping within the EEA and the role of
the parliamentarians*](#)

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Vidar BJØRNSTAD (Labour Party, Norway) and Mr Jens-Peter
BONDE (IND/DEM, Denmark)

adopted unanimously with one abstention

RESOLUTION

On the Internal Market Strategy and the EEA

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. affirming that the EEA Agreement provides for full access of the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States to the Internal Market,
- B. acknowledging that the Internal Market Strategy is the primary driver of market integration for the 28 countries of the European Economic Area,
- C. noting that the Internal Market Strategy is an essential element of the Lisbon Strategy,
- D. noting that the successful integration of the new countries of the EEA in the Single Market depends on the success of the Internal Market Strategy;
 - 1. welcomes the Internal Market Strategy as an essential initiative for making the EEA the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world by 2010;
 - 2. calls on the EEA countries to adopt an earnest and rigorous approach to implementing relevant initiatives in the Strategy's 10 point action plan;
 - 3. calls upon the EEA EFTA States to take necessary steps to ensure that the principle of mutual recognition is functioning as intended;
 - 4. calls for strengthening the understanding of CE marking and suggests an in-depth analysis of the legal and factual differences between the various directives before taking further steps on a common base directive;
 - 5. urges the EEA EFTA States to contribute to the study on voluntary marking schemes, and to contribute with more resources to the marketing and use of Europe-wide quality marks;
 - 6. notes the failure to agree a key regulation on Sales Promotions foreseen in the Commission's strategy;
 - 7. notes slow progress with regard to the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive which is aimed at giving a general level of protection to consumers;
 - 8. calls on the EEA Countries to reach agreement on points 6 and 7, otherwise both consumers and businesses will continue to experience diverse industry standards across the EEA and differentiated marketing schemes for each national market;

9. calls on the EEA Countries to continue efforts to free trade in services, and to find solutions that guarantee acceptable levels of worker and consumer protection and worker remuneration;
10. calls on EEA Countries to support progress on the latest stages of the Financial Services Action Plan, and to adopt a diligent approach to consideration of the 3rd Money Laundering Directive;
11. calls upon the authorities of the EEA EFTA States to contribute to a rapid and homogenous national implementation of the Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications when adopted;
12. recognizes the need to strengthen the administrative co-operation in order to achieve actual mutual recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications;
13. calls for the adoption of measures to ensure further development of high quality network industries;
14. is concerned to see that public health and welfare takes the highest priority when determining how the water and waste water sector should be managed;
15. supports the proposed legislative package on procurement and underlines the need for homogenous national implementation, and recommends that EEA Member States establish training programmes for officials in public administration to increase knowledge of procurement rules and procedures;
16. urges EEA Countries to support measures that improve conditions for business, and in particular to re-direct state-aid towards horizontal objectives of common interest, such as environmental protection and research and development;
17. calls for EEA Countries to continue to support efforts to simplify the regulatory environment;
18. calls for a concerted effort for EEA Countries to implement and enforce rules effectively and on time;
19. urges all EEA Countries to engage in active information campaigns to inform citizens, businesses and civil servants about their rights and obligations in the entire Internal Market, as lacking knowledge about the EEA Agreement is a particular obstacle for citizens and business of the EEA EFTA States operating in the Single Market;
20. stresses that the burden of responsibility for achieving the success of the Internal Market Strategy now lies with Member States that must marshal the political will and action to see the Strategy through.

RESOLUTION

On Decision-shaping and the Role of Parliamentarians in the EEA

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. noting that the EEA Agreement contains provisions for input from the EEA EFTA States at various stages before new EU legislation is adopted,
- B. having regard to Article 99 on EEA EFTA participation in expert committees, Article 100 on EEA EFTA participation in comitology committees, Article 101 and Protocol 37 on EEA EFTA participation in other committees to ensure the good functioning of the Agreement, Article 81 on EEA EFTA participation in programme committees, and Article 79 on EEA EFTA input on new Community programmes,
- C. noting that the EEA EFTA States may provide written input on new EEA relevant policies,
 - 1. welcomes the extensive participation from the EEA EFTA States in a number of EU committees and welcomes EEA EFTA comments on new EU policies as it ensures potentially valuable contribution to the shaping of EU and EEA legislation;
 - 2. recalls its resolutions adopted at the 16th and 21st EEA JPC where it urged the EEA EFTA States to take actions with a view to enhancing participation in the EEA decision-shaping process at the earliest possible stage of the legislative process;
 - 3. recalls its resolution adopted at the 20th EEA JPC where it expressed concern about the EEA EFTA States' ability to shape decisions and to make its voice heard in an enlarged EEA;
 - 4. acknowledges the limited legal and formal access of the EEA EFTA Parliamentarians in the early stages of EEA decision-shaping;
 - 5. notes the increasing attention afforded to the principle of subsidiarity in the EEA;
 - 6. notes that the provisions of the EU Constitution would confer a greater role to the European Parliament and national parliaments in EU decision-making;

7. notes the debate on the alleged democratic deficit in the European Union and the steps taken to address it having resulted in discrepancies in the level of involvement of parliamentarians in decision-making processes between the EEA EFTA States and the EU Member States;
8. calls on the EEA EFTA States and their respective parliaments to increase the participation of parliaments in deliberations regarding proposed EEA legislation;
9. calls on the EEA EFTA States' parliaments to increase their interaction with the parliaments of other EEA Member States;
10. calls on the EEA EFTA Parliamentarians to renew their efforts regarding an association to COSAC, with a view to obtaining e.g. observer status;
11. calls on the EEA EFTA Parliamentarians to make every effort to strengthen their role in the EEA decision-shaping process by a better use of existing channels, structures and bodies e.g. the EEA Council, diplomatic channels, the EEA JPC and the EFTA Secretariat;
12. calls on the possibility for the EU to allow EEA EFTA representatives to send observers to all Commission working groups where EEA legislation is being prepared.