

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

**JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE**

25th MEETING

22 - 23 November 2005, Brussels

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 25th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels, 22 - 23 November 2005

Resolution on *The adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005*

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Morten HØGLUND (Progress Party, Norway)
Ms Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, Sweden)

adopted unanimously

Resolution on *New environmental legislation and the EEA*

adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION

On the resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000 - 2005

Recommendations for action of the EEA JPC itself:

- The JPC shall provide an annual report on its resolutions, outlining the direct requests for action and indicating the status with regards to the compliance of the stated goal. This report, which should be brief and easily comprehensible, should also touch upon outstanding issues from previous years, aiming to provide a continually updated overview of the work of the EEA JPC and its impact;
- The JPC shall, in addition to the current recipients, forward its adopted resolutions and reports to any party which is subject to a recommendation in a resolution, or is called upon in a way which requires follow up;
- The JPC shall assess the decision-shaping opportunity of the EEA EFTA States in the EEA and furthermore look closely at how to optimise their influence on EEA relevant decision-shaping in the future.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. monitoring developments in the EU and its institutions which might affect the EEA Agreement,
- B. underlining the fruitful cooperation between parliamentarians in the EEA, and the good relations between the JPC and the Joint Committee,
- C. mindful of its role as a contributor to a better understanding between the Community and EFTA States in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement, as having a democratic parliamentary control function, as having the right to scrutinize all EC legislation applying to the EEA as well as its implementation and to make direct recommendations,
- D. having adopted 23 resolutions between 2000 and the first half of 2005 on a wide variety of issues having bearing on the EEA Agreement and the functioning of the Single Market,
 - 1. Welcomes the note taken of the EEA JPC resolutions during the past five years by the appropriate bodies, and the written statements by the President-in-Office of the EEA Council and the Joint Committee which are provided at every JPC meeting;
 - 2. Welcomes the progress made on many matters raised by the JPC;

3. Expresses concern over lack of progress of some recommendations made repeatedly, namely the supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products and the .eu top level domain;
 4. Reiterates its call on the contracting parties to find a solution with regards to EEA EFTA participation in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and with regards to the simplification of decision-making procedures for EEA EFTA participation in EU programmes;
 5. Welcomes the reduced backlog with regards to transposition of legislation into the EEA Agreement;
 6. Regrets, in the name of transparency, the negative response received by the EU with regards to the EEA JPC request for the participation of the EEA JPC President and Vice-President in the EEA Council meetings, and urges the EEA EFTA parliaments to continue its work towards this end;
 7. Notes that the opportunity for EEA EFTA States to influence decision-shaping in an enlarging Internal Market is a real challenge which requires a coherent and rational approach, and urges the EEA EFTA States to take full advantage of their opportunity to influence decision-shaping at an early stage in the decision-making procedure;
 8. Urges the Joint Committee to provide regular briefings on developments in the EU, and the possible impact on the EEA Agreement, in particular the relaunched Lisbon Strategy and the European Neighbourhood Policy;
 9. Encourages the EEA EFTA States to continue to contribute and participate financially to the social and economic cohesion of the EU.
 10. Calls upon the contracting parties to ensure homogeneity in the EEA, especially in view of future enlargements of the EEA;
 11. With reference to the enhanced role of the European Parliament in EU decision-making, calls on the EEA Council to confer more closely with the JPC on issues of particular concern in the EEA context;
 12. Is concerned about the increased backlog when it comes to translation of legal acts, warns that an inadequate response by the relevant parties might affect the harmonisation of EEA legislation and calls upon the EEA EFTA States to improve their administrative procedures in order to ameliorate the situation.
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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

RESOLUTION

New environmental legislation and the EEA

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. Acknowledging that nature and pollution see no boundary;
- B. Acknowledging that environmental protection is an essential element of sustainable growth; acknowledging that the European Union is a main initiator of environmental protection measures internationally;
- C. Acknowledging that the European Community should promote a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
- D. Acknowledging the instrumental role the European Parliament has played in strengthening environmental protection;
- E. Noting that the Lisbon agenda and the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU aim at increasing wealth in a manner that respects and enhances social progress and environmental protection;
- F. Acknowledging that environment is a horizontal area according to the EEA agreement part V;
- G. Noting with concern that the marine environment is currently subject to a variety of threats, ranging from the loss or degradation of biodiversity and changes in its structure, loss of habitats, contamination by dangerous substances and nutrients and possible future effects of climate change. If not addressed these threats and pressures will put at risk the generation of wealth and employment opportunities derived from oceans and seas;
- H. Acknowledging the importance of REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) becoming the new EU regulatory framework for chemicals.
- I. Noting that the objective of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC is to establish a Community framework for the protection of inland surface waters,

transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, in order to prevent and reduce pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect the aquatic environment, improve the status of aquatic ecosystems and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;

- J. Noting with interest that the EU, through the Greenhouse gas emission Directive 2003/87/EC, has developed the world's largest company-level scheme for trading in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
1. Welcomes the strategic approach the EU has taken with its sixth action programme for the environment;
 2. Urges the EEA EFTA States to use actively their rights to access the Commission's early deliberations on legislative proposals in the field of Environment, in order to ensure that EFTA views are known and taken into account in the Commission's consultation processes;
 3. Welcomes the *Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste* which aims to further develop waste management policy, targeting environmental impact in a proportionate manner based on life-cycle thinking.
 4. Welcomes the *Thematic Strategy on the Conservation and Protection of the Marine Environment* which aims to ensure that all European marine waters are environmentally healthy by 2021 and integrating existing and proposed policies for the different uses and users of the marine environment.
 5. Welcomes the proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals (REACH).