

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Ref. 1131172

Brussels, 28 May 2014

SUBCOMMITTEE IV ON FLANKING AND HORIZONTAL POLICIES

EEA EFTA Comment

on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work – COM(2014) 221

1. The EEA EFTA States welcome the Commission's proposal for a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work. We fully agree that undeclared work has negative consequences for those directly involved and indeed the labour market as a whole. Fighting various forms of undeclared work should therefore be a top priority.
2. The EEA EFTA States would also like to thank the Commission for including us in the scope of the proposal. We would, however, like to suggest a change to the proposed text regarding our participation in the Platform. According to Article 1(3) of the proposal, representatives of the EEA States may attend meetings of the Platform as observers.
3. In line with standard practice under the EEA Agreement, the modalities of our association with the Platform shall be discussed and agreed upon in the EEA Joint Committee and set out in the relevant sectoral Protocol/Annex to the EEA Agreement. Therefore, we recommend that a separate paragraph be introduced into Article 1 stating that participation in the Platform shall be open to the EEA EFTA States and that arrangements shall be made under the relevant provisions of the EEA Agreement, specifying the nature, extent and manner of our participation.¹ A commonly applied adaptation text on EEA EFTA participation in EU bodies could then be inserted upon the incorporation of the act into the EEA Agreement.
4. The EEA EFTA States look forward to contributing to the work of the Platform, particularly as significant action is being undertaken in our states to combat undeclared work. We also plan to submit more comprehensive comments on the text of the proposal at a later stage, once we have compiled the necessary input from the relevant stakeholders. For the time being, however, we hope the EU will consider our request for a change to Article 1 of the proposal.

¹ See for example Article 24 of [Regulation \(EC\) No 460/2004](#)

