

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF THE EFTA STATES

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**LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME  
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE  
FIRST HALF OF 2016**

The purpose of this programme is to give a general orientation to work at all levels on the EEA EFTA side, particularly under the EFTA Standing Committee structure and in the Secretariat which services it. This programme is supplemented by the work programmes for the Subcommittees and for selected EEA EFTA working groups.

Items under "main focus" are issues that the Chair will pay special attention to. The listing of items in sections I and II is intended to highlight key issues under discussion.

**The main focus of the Liechtenstein Chair during the first half of 2016 will be:**

- **Legal acts awaiting incorporation.** Continue the work to further reduce the number of legal acts awaiting incorporation in the EEA Agreement. Efforts will in particular focus on acts and packages that have been outstanding for a long time, and on the review of the Standing Committee procedures for the incorporation of legal acts.
- **European financial supervision.** Swiftly incorporate the first package of acts related to the European Financial Supervisory Authorities. Furthermore, continue working towards swift incorporation of all legal acts related to the European Financial Supervisory Authorities.
- **EEA Financial Mechanism.** Finalise the necessary procedures to allow for the signing of the Agreement on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 and possibly the provisional application of the Agreement.
- **Information and knowledge of the EEA Agreement**  
Strengthening the knowledge of the EEA Agreement in the EU institutions and EU Member States as well as in the EFTA institutions and in the EEA EFTA States, including through the organisation of events and spreading knowledge of available EEA information tools and systems. Enhance cooperation and knowledge transfer between the EFTA institutions.

## **I. Horizontal issues and EU developments to be followed closely**

- **Internal Market Strategy for Goods and Services**

Monitor closely the implementation of the Strategy and consider possible further actions and contributions by the EEA EFTA States.

- **Better Regulation package**

Consider possible further actions and contributions by the EEA EFTA States, in particular with a view to ensuring EEA EFTA participation in the REFIT platform.

- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

Continue to follow the development of EU-US negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement and assess the implications for the EEA Agreement and EEA EFTA States. Follow up and further develop the dialogue and exchange of information on TTIP with the EU side, both in the EEA Joint Committee and at technical level, inter alia through the EFTA Working Groups.

- **EEA EFTA decision shaping of EEA-relevant EU legislation and policies**

Be actively involved in all stages of EU decision making of EEA-relevant legislation and actions in a timely fashion and based on key EEA EFTA priorities and expertise. Encourage the submission of EEA EFTA comments and ensure appropriate follow-up.

- **Cooperation and dialogue with the EU**

Seek to ensure EEA EFTA participation in EEA-relevant informal EU Councils, and to continue and further develop the political dialogues with the EU on foreign and security policy and the informal dialogues with the EFTA Working Party of the EU Council on EEA and EFTA related issues.

- **Cooperation and dialogue with the Advisory Bodies**

Continue the close cooperation and dialogue with the EEA and EFTA Consultative and Parliamentary Committees.

## **II. Legal acts and policies (not exhaustive)**

Particular emphasis will be placed on the following areas at all levels:

- **Telecom and Digital Single Market**

Work towards the incorporation of the BEREC Regulation and related acts. Follow closely initiatives set out in the Commission Digital Single Market Strategy published in May 2015. In particular ensure that the revision of the framework for electronic communications will take into account full EEA EFTA participation without the right to vote. In the area of telecommunications, monitor developments on the Commission cyber-security package that aims at making the internet more secure in the EEA. In the area of audiovisual services, monitor the future revision of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive.

- **Energy, climate change and environment**

Follow closely the legislative proposals implementing the 2030 framework for climate and energy policies and the Energy Union as well as relevant developments in the context of international negotiations on climate change (COP21):

- **Energy**

Seek to finalise negotiations with the EU side regarding the incorporation of the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market. Reach an EEA EFTA position for the incorporation of Network Codes. Follow closely political and legislative developments related to the Energy Union package, including revision of existing legal acts and tabling of new legislative proposals.

- **Climate change and environment**

Intensify the efforts to reach a solution enabling the EEA EFTA States to aggregate their allowances with those of the EU Member States and auction them on the Common Platform EEX. Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles. Reach a common position on the EEA relevance of the Regulation on ship recycling. Agree on a way forward for the incorporation of the Regulation on fluorinated greenhouse gases, notably regarding the question of whether the EEA EFTA States want to be included in the Union system of quotas. Follow developments related to the Circular Economy, the reform of the Emissions Trading System and emissions reduction targets for non-traded sectors.

- **Data protection**

Continue to follow closely the negotiations on the regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Work towards future EEA EFTA State participation in the proposed committee and in the European Data Protection Board.

- **Consumer protection**

Ensure the incorporation of the consumer ADR/ODR regulations which will allow consumers and traders to solve their contractual disputes without going to court, in a quick, low-cost and simple way.

- **Transport**

Follow Council discussions on the three proposals forming the market pillar of the Fourth Railway Package as well as developments on the new Aviation package and the possible future Road package. Prepare and adopt an EFTA Standing Committee Decisions on the Designation of Eurocontrol as the Network Manager of the Single European Sky.

- **Modernised Professional Qualifications**

Ensure the incorporation of the Modernised Directive on Professional Qualifications 2013/55/EU which is one of the twelve levers for growth set out in the Single Market Act I and aims at further facilitating professional mobility across the EU.

- **Labour law and Health and Safety at Work**

Seek to incorporate the directive concerning the enforcement of the provisions applicable to the posting of workers and follow closely the planned review of the original posting of workers directive in the context of the Labour Mobility Package. Participate in the new Platform against undeclared work, once established, and monitor the Commission's planned review of the entire occupational health and safety *acquis*.

- **Employment and Social Policy**

Follow the planned revision of the EURES network and the establishment of the new Pillar of Social Rights.

- **Social Security**

Monitor the Labour Mobility Package and the proposal on reforming the social security coordination rules regarding unemployment benefits, long-term care and family benefits.

- **Deposit Guarantee Schemes**

Continue to work towards a solution on the incorporation of the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive, which is part of the list of EU acts pending incorporation, because of their link to the European Financial Supervisory Authorities.

- **Postal services**

Work towards the incorporation of the Third Postal Directive.

- **Medicinal products**

Ensure the incorporation of the Paediatrics Regulation and follow the developments with regard to import/export of drug precursors between EEA/EFTA States and EU Member States.

- **State aid**

Work towards the incorporation of updated and revised state aid rules in relation to the State Aid Modernisation Initiative.

- **Public procurement**

Work towards the incorporation of the Public Procurement Reform.

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

Follow, and react to, the upcoming reviews of the Trademark and Copyright systems in the EU as well as the upcoming Directive on Trade Secrets.

- **Food and Veterinary Matters**

Work towards the incorporation of the legislation on organic production and prepare for the incorporation of the Regulation on Genetically Modified Food and Feed. Continue to follow the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food and the proposals on the cloning of animals for food production purposes. Follow the development of the legislation for the food chain regarding animal health and Official Controls along the Food Chain.

- **Product Safety and Market Surveillance**

Continue to closely monitor developments on the Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package (currently blocked on the EU side) and contribute to the actions on market surveillance proposed in the Single Market Strategy.

- **Statistics**

Seek to incorporate the amended Regulation on European Statistics. Follow closely the Commission's planned extension of the European Statistical Programme 2013-2017 to 2020 in order to synchronise it with the EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020.