EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Ref. 18-4847 20 December 2018

PRIORITIES OF THE LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR

FIRST HALF OF 2019

1. Reduce the backlog

Continue work among the EEA EFTA States and with the EU institutions to reduce the backlog of adopted EU acts awaiting incorporation into the EEA Agreement. Acts in the field of financial services will be a particular priority – especially the ca. 150 acts related to MiFID II/MiFIR and CRR/CRD IV.

2. Prepare for incorporation of challenging acts, especially regarding two-pillar issues

Assess challenges related to major pieces of new EU legislation at an early stage, especially regarding possible two-pillar issues (e.g. ELA, EASA, BEREC). Provide for detailed planning among the EEA EFTA States and with EU institutions to ensure timely incorporation and entry into force.

3. Continue efforts on decision-shaping

Continue to place great emphasis on decision-shaping, in particular by issuing further EEA EFTA Comments in appropriate cases and ensuring follow-up. In this regard, monitor the development of the EUs Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 and individual programme proposals with focus on consequences for the EEA EFTA States' related participation and forecasted financial contribution.

4. Work towards an orderly EEA Brexit

Continue the dialogue among the EEA EFTA States, the EU and the UK to ensure the UK's orderly withdrawal from the EEA Agreement. Address citizens' rights and other separation issues by concluding an agreement between the EEA EFTA States and the UK, which should enter into force simultaneously with the EU/UK Withdrawal Agreement. In the case of a no deal scenario, ensure that relevant preparedness legislation is swiftly incorporated into the EEA Agreement. Continue the close collaboration and information sharing for all Brexit-related matters, including for future arrangements with the UK.

5. Celebrate the 25th anniversary of the EEA

Organise events and other outreach activities to commemorate and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the EEA Agreement. Use this occasion to further strengthen the knowledge of the EEA Agreement in the EEA EFTA States and the EU.