

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE EFTA STATES**

Ref. 1122573  
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**ICELAND CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME**  
**EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**SECOND HALF OF 2013**

The purpose of this programme is to give a general orientation to work at all levels on the EEA EFTA side, but particularly under the EFTA Standing Committee structure and in the Secretariat which services it. Items under the "main focus" are issues on which the Chair can make a direct contribution, in close cooperation with all partners. Items in the other sections are dealt with in Subcommittees and Working Groups. The listing of items here is intended to highlight the general orientation and awareness of key issues under discussion.

The main focus of the Iceland Chair during the second half of 2013 will be to:

- Continue to work towards the more efficient incorporation of pending and new legislative acts into the Agreement in order to ensure homogeneity of the EEA. Review the procedures for the incorporation of EU acts into the Agreement and potentially follow up on the results. [Furthermore, assess the potential for further improvements of working methods in the working groups.]
- Continued work on measures to ensure that appropriate information on the EEA Agreement is readily available, in order to further strengthen knowledge of the Agreement, both in the EEA EFTA States and in particular the EU institutions and EU Member States.
- Facilitate the swift finalisation of negotiations on the accession of Croatia to the European Economic Area.
- Launch the dialogue with the European Union on the reviews to be undertaken regarding a new grants period for the EEA Financial Mechanism starting in 2014 in line with the agreement in the Joint Committee meeting of 14 June.

This programme will be supplemented by the work programmes for the Subcommittees and for selected EEA EFTA working groups.

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

- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

Monitor the development of EU-US negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement and assess the implications for the EEA Agreement and EEA EFTA States.

- **Single Market Act II and other EEA-relevant EU initiatives**

Continue to follow closely the implementation of the Single Market Act II. Monitor the further development of EU initiatives related to the Single Market, for example on better governance and the “Services Package”.

- **Economic and Monetary Union and EU economic policy coordination**

Consider the impact on the EEA of the EU initiatives regarding Economic and Monetary Union and economic policy coordination, in particular the new proposals for a Banking Union and its impact on the Single Market in Financial Services, as well as the possible inclusion of the Single Market in the European Semester.

- **EU programmes for the period 2014 to 2020**

Reach a conclusion on EEA EFTA participation in the new EU programmes and ensure participation in the first calls for proposals.

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

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

- **New European architecture of financial supervision**

Continue the dialogue with the EU with the aim of reaching an agreement on EEA EFTA participation in the three new European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) and the European Systemic Risk Board. While such a solution is pending, EU acts linked to the ESAs should be assessed and processed to the extent possible. Ensure incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive as soon as an agreement has been reached with the EU.

- **Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

Continue to work towards a mutually acceptable solution to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, safeguarding the interests of consumers.

- **Internal Market Information System**

Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on the Internal Market Information System (the IMI Regulation) into the EEA Agreement.

- **Data protection**

Monitor closely the proposal for a regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Ensure future EEA EFTA State participation in the proposed committee and in the European Data Protection Board.

- **Energy**

Follow closely the finalisation of the Regulation establishing the Connecting Europe Facility. Facilitate negotiations with the European Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market.

- **Recognition of Professional Qualifications**

Ensure the timely incorporation of the modernised Directive on the Recognition of Professional Qualifications into the EEA Agreement after its adoption in October 2013, and follow the implementation process on the EU side.

- **Labour law**

Follow closely the proposal for a directive concerning the enforcement of the provisions applicable to the posting of workers and the proposal for a directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on the stock exchange.

- **Health and safety at work**

Follow closely preparations to launch the new EU Strategy for Health and Safety at Work 2013-2020 and potentially contribute to the public consultation.

- **Transport**

Seek to finalise discussions on the incorporation of the Road Package into the EEA Agreement and follow closely the three proposals forming the Roadworthiness Package.

- **Single European Sky II**

Conclude the discussions on the Single European Sky II as soon as possible in order to ensure its incorporation into the Agreement. Follow closely the new Single European Sky II+ proposal.

- **Telecom Package**

Ensure the incorporation of the Telecom Package into the EEA Agreement and establish the required level of EEA EFTA participation in the new Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC).

- **State aid**

Continue to provide contributions to the European Commission's work on modernising the EU state aid rules.

- **Public procurement**

Follow closely the ongoing revision of the European Public Procurement Directives and the parallel decision-making process regarding a new directive on concession contracts.

- **Climate change and environment**

Finalise preparations for the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, the Regulation on carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles, the Directive on the promotion of clean and energy-efficient road transport vehicles, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Fuel Quality Directive, and the Regulation on the export for recovery of certain waste to certain non-OECD countries. Assess the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and pursue discussions with the EU side regarding the participation of the EEA EFTA States in the Common Auction Platform.

- **Chemicals**

Prepare for the incorporation of the new Regulation on Plant Protection Products. Ensure the participation of the EEA EFTA States in the activities of the European Chemicals Agency concerning biocides with the timely incorporation of the new Biocidal Products Regulation.

- **Technical barriers to trade**

Prepare for the incorporation of the Alignment Package into the EEA Agreement and monitor the ongoing revision of other new approach directives with regard to the New Legislative Framework for Goods.

- **Foodstuffs**

Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on Novel Food and prepare a revised Joint Committee Decision for genetically modified food and feed. Monitor the finalisation of a new regulation on novel food and the proposals on the cloning of animals for food production purposes.

- **Veterinary matters**

Monitor the presentation of the new animal health legislation and the revision of the Regulation on official controls along the food chain.

- **Medicinal products**

Finalise discussions with the EU on the incorporation of the Paediatrics Regulation.

- **Public health**

Ensure the timely incorporation of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare into the EEA Agreement and follow the implementation process on the EU side.