

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE
No 33/2018

of 9 February 2018

**amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement,
on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”), and in particular Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 157/2014 of 9 July 2014¹, the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement includes participation in the telecommunications sector of the Connecting Europe Facility established by Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council².
- (2) It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to include Regulation (EU) 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulations (EU) No 1316/2013 and (EU) No 283/2014 as regards the promotion of internet connectivity in local communities³.
- (3) Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2018,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The following is added in the thirteenth (Regulation (EU) No 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council) and fourteenth (Regulation (EU) No 283/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council) indents in Article 2(5) of Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement:

‘, as amended by:

- **32017 R 1953**: Regulation (EU) 2017/1953 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 (OJ L 286, 1.11.2017, p. 1).’

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following the last notification under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement*.

¹ OJ L 15, 22.1.2015, p. 85.

² OJ L 348, 20.12.2013, p. 129.

³ OJ L 286, 1.11.2017, p. 1.

* [No constitutional requirements indicated.]

It shall apply from 1 January 2018.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, 9 February 2018.

*For the EEA Joint Committee
The President*

Claude Maerten

*The Secretaries
to the EEA Joint Committee*

Dag Wernø Holter Vaclav Navratil

Provisional text