

**E U R O P E A N   E C O N O M I C   A R E A**  
**FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

Ref: 1127058

**EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EEA EFTA FORUM**

*Brussels*  
*18-19 November 2013*

**Opinion on the revised EU Directive on the re-use of public sector  
information**

**Rapporteur:** Jon Askeland

The EEA EFTA Forum of Local and Regional Authorities:

- A. Having regard to the Annex XI of the EEA Agreement on electronic communication, audiovisual services and information society;
- B. Having regard to the adopted Directive 2013/37/EU of the European parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information;
- A. Having regard to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions of 10 October 2012 on Review of the directive on re-use of public sector information and open data;
- B. Noting the reinforced subsidiarity principle set out in the Lisbon Treaty and its explicit reference to the local and regional dimension and self-government;
- C. Noting the proportionality principle as laid down in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union;
- D. Emphasising that local and regional authorities own and manage a substantial amount of public sector information;
- E. Acknowledging the impact of European Union law on local and regional authorities in the EEA EFTA States through the EEA Agreement;
- F. Noting the role of the Forum as a body in the EFTA structure:

1. Welcomes the initiative to improve the re-use of public sector information as this will help create new jobs, stimulate growth and improve the quality of public service;
2. Notes that local and regional authorities play a vital role in implementing the revised Directive as they own and manage a substantial portion of public sector information;
3. Welcomes the flexibility permitted in the Directive but as uncertainties surrounding compliance with the licensing and charging provisions have been identified as obstacles to public sector information re-use; through curbing both the release of data by public bodies and actual re-use, supports the adoption on guidelines on recommended standard licenses, datasets and, in particular on charging for the re-use of documents;
4. Calls on the EEA EFTA States to ensure refinancing of the administration of public sector information; the production, storage and updating of documents, so that it can be free of charge for all users. A new financing model must ensure that the current high quality of public sector information is maintained;
5. Welcomes the aim of making all public sector information available in machine-readable format. This is, however, a long term project, to be carried out in cooperation with local and regional authorities to avoid excessive administrative and economic burdens.