

EFTA Surveillance Authority

Brussels, 27 May 2010

Per Sanderud
President

ESA

- EEA agreement grant access to the internal market - binding obligation to all EEA countries
- ESA shall survey that the EEA/EFTA countries comply with the agreement
- ESA is independent of the Governments
- College "board" with three members
- 60-70 staff from 16 nations, need more EFTA nationals

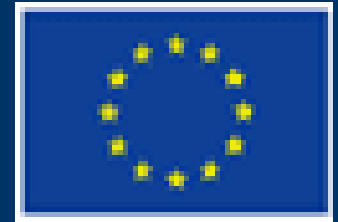
What is the EEA Agreement?

- Economic co-operation
- Internal market– the four freedoms
- Rules on competition and states aid

- The EEA Agreement **does not** include (*inter alia*)
 - Common agricultural and fisheries policy
 - Customs union and common commercial policy
 - Economic and monetary union
 - Taxation
 - Justice and home affairs (N.B.: The Schengen- agreement)
 - Common foreign and security policy
 - Consequences of Lisbon treaty?



The two pillar structure under the EEA Agreement



Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway

EEA Council

EU Council

EFTA Standing
Committee

EEA Joint
Committee

European
Commission

**EFTA Surveillance
Authority**

EFTA Court

European Court
of Justice

Committee of MP's
of the EFTA States

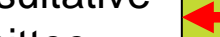
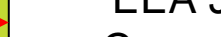
EEA Joint
Parliamentary
Committee

European
Parliament

EFTA Consultative
Committee

EEA Consultative
Committee

Economic and
Social Committee



Certain characteristics of the EEA Agreement

- The EEA Agreement is dynamic
 - New rules are adopted every month
 - EEA law is interpreted by the EU and EFTA Courts, the Commission and the Authority

- The EEA Agreement requires homogeneity
 - Same interpretation of the rules in all 30 countries

Pending cases by category

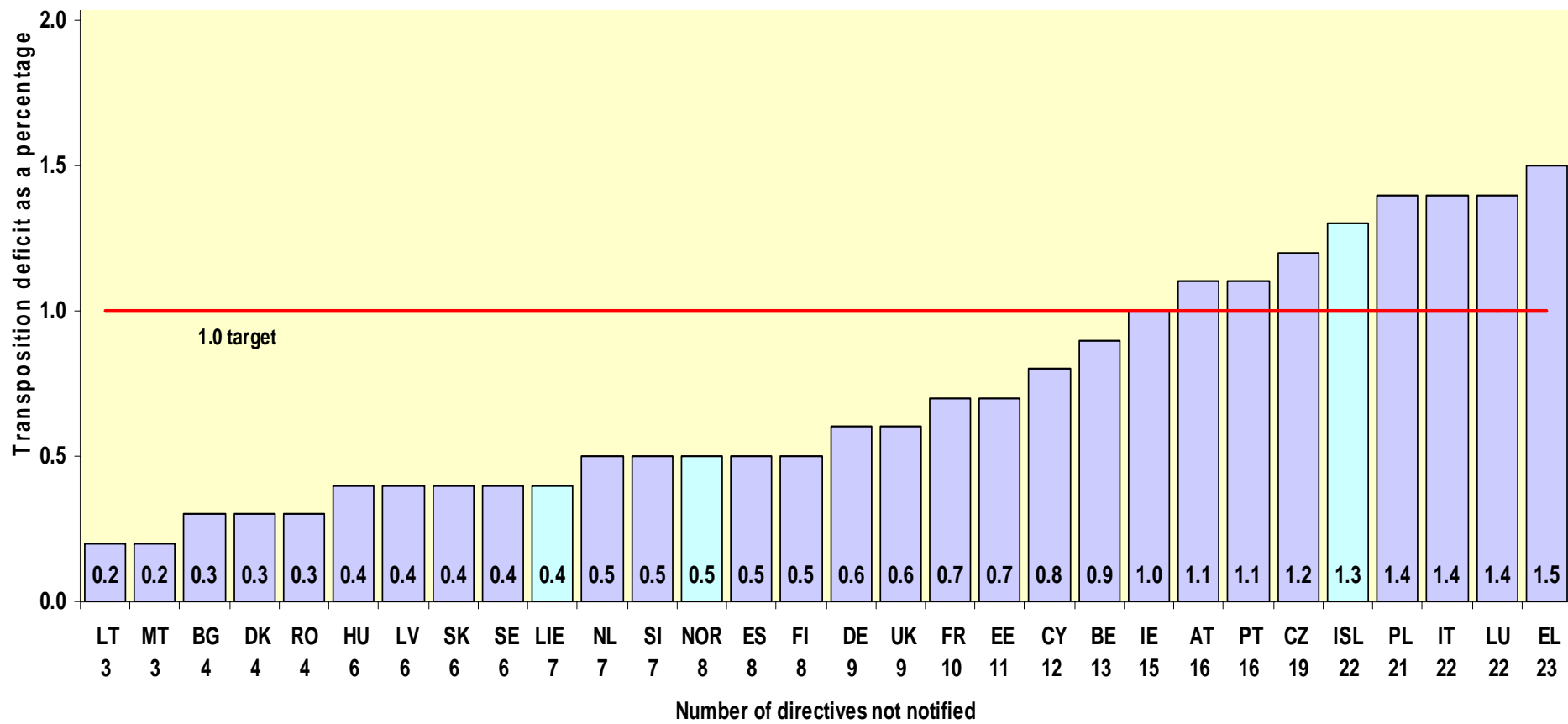
	2006	2007	2008	2009
Complaint	149	145	144	130
Notification	82	94	112	50
Obligatory Tasks	103	101	92	115
Own Initiative	265	325	269	215
Total	599	665	617	510

Exampels of cases – the four freedoms

- Waterfall reversion act (Norway)
- Earmarked positions at universities(Norway)
- Exittaxation (Norway)
- Ownershiprestrictions (Norway)
- Tollroads(Norway)
- Waterscooters (Norway)

- Financial crises (Iceland)

- Residence requirements (Liechtenstein)
 - Freedom of establishment



State Aid

- The state aid rules
 - Main principle: State aid is prohibited
 - State aid: Selective aid to undertakings, in whatever form
 - A number of exceptions (soft law)
- Requests from an EFTA State to grant state aid must be notified to and approved by the Authority, stand-still obligation
- Authority may request that unlawful aid be recovered
- Marked investor principle

Some important cases – state aid

- Financial crises (Iceland/Norway)
- Energy and environment (CCS and ETS)(Norway)
- Icelandic Housing Fund (Iceland)
- State guarantees power contracts/ companies (Norway/Iceland)

Competition rules

- Competition rules applicable to undertakings
 - Cartels and other forms of concertation between undertakings
 - Abuse of a dominant market position
- The Authority monitors competition in EFTA States, co-operates closely with national authorities and Commission
- Concentrates on cross-border problems
- The Authority may issue fines to undertakings for breaches of EEA competition rules
- Examples from Norway; Norway Post, Color line, bus companies

Other tasks

- Veterinary control - inspections
- Transport – airport and harbour security
- Electronic communications, review of national marked regulations
- Competance to take decisions/give exemptions according directives and regulations

www.eftasurv.int

Thank you for your attention!