

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

Ref. No.: 1099243

1 July 2010

ICELANDIC CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE – SECOND HALF OF 2010

1. General Cooperation

- **Europe 2020 strategy**

Monitor closely the seven flagship initiatives within the Europe 2020 strategy which will be adopted during the course of this year, and the specific proposals resulting from them. This is particularly important since the Single Market has become an integral part of the strategy.

Consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments where relevant.

- **The Single Market – Monti report**

Follow the possible proposals resulting from the Monti report on strengthening the Single Market.

Explore ways to coordinate and enhance participation in the Internal Market Advisory Committee, including the possibility of joint statements by the EEA EFTA States.

- **The Lisbon Treaty**

Continue to monitor the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty with special focus on possible implications for the EEA, in particular with regard to the establishment of the EEAS and how to ensure continued access to decision-shaping.

- **The EEA Financial Mechanisms 2009 - 2014**

Finalise preparations for setting up the new EEA Financial Mechanism, including establishing the Rules and Procedures.

2. Priorities of Subcommittees

Subcommittee I

- **Food Law Package**

Ensure swift incorporation of acts related to the Food Law Package, which have been waiting for the package's entry into force.

- **Novel Food and GM Food and Feed**

Carry out further discussions on the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of Novel Food and GM Food and Feed, and monitor the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food.

Finalise the EEA Joint Committee Decision on Novel Food and GM Food and Feed.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the Energy Efficiency Package (including the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). Also facilitate the negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Renewable Directive, as well as the Third Liberalisation Package.

- **The New Legal Framework for the marketing of products (NLF)**

Continue to prepare for the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the NLF. Take actions in the fields of accreditation (EFTA at four) and market surveillance. Participate in the CE-marking campaign (EFTA at four) under preparation by the EC.

- **Standardisation**

Contribute, if possible with an EFTA Comment, to the discussions on the standardisation package which will be proposed by the European Commission in the second half of 2010. This package will inter alia consist of a proposal for a revision of the 98/34 Directive and a communication to the Council and the EP on a new policy for European standardisation. Continue to mandate standardisation in parallel with the EC.

- **Medicinal products**

Monitor developments of the 2008 Pharmaceutical Package.

- **Customs rules of origin**

Follow closely implementation of the Regional Origin Convention and adapt Protocol 4 accordingly.

Contribute actively to the revision of the Pan-Euro-Med origin rules.

Align the list rules in Protocol 4 with the HS 2007 (Harmonised System).

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

Follow closely the endeavours to bring about a single European Patent and establish a new patent court in the EU.

Follow closely the follow up of the initiatives that were announced in the Digital Agenda regarding copyright, in particular the proposed Directive regarding orphan works.

- **Motor vehicles**

Finalise the incorporation of the Framework Directive on approval of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles into the EEA Agreement.

- **Plant protection products**

Initiate an assessment of the new Regulation on plant protection products.

- **Certification and Marking in Europe**

Continue the cooperation with the Nordic Innovation Centre (NICE) and the EU Nordic Countries with regard to placing the issue of certification of services on the political agenda.

- **Competition**

Prepare for a swift incorporation of a block exemption for motor vehicles, as the current block exemption expires this year.

Prepare for a swift incorporation of two block exemptions for specialisation agreements and for agreements concerning research and development, as the current block exemptions will expire on 31 December 2010.

Follow closely the Commission's work on a proposal on damages actions for breach of EU competition rules, based on the White Paper from 2008.

Subcommittee II

- **Telecom Package**

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

- **New European Architecture of Financial Supervision**

Ensure adequate EEA EFTA participation in the three new surveillance authorities for the financial markets (banks, insurance and securities markets) and the European Systemic Risk Council.

- **New EU Framework for Crisis Management in the Banking Sector**

Monitor closely the Commission consultations on the measures necessary for a new EU Framework for Crisis Management in the Banking Sector.

- **European Aviation Agency**

Finalise discussions on new common rules in the field of civil aviation and the establishment of the European Aviation Safety Agency.

- **Single European Sky II**

Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation to improve the performance and sustainability of the European aviation system into the EEA Agreement.

- **Data Retention Directive**

Advance the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Postal Services Directive**

Conclude the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Audiovisual media services Directive**

Conclude the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Transport**

- Ensure the incorporation of the Third Maritime Safety Package into the EEA Agreement.

- Provide input to and monitor the preparations of the White Paper on the Future of Transport.
- Continue to follow closely the proposals on the rights of passengers in bus, coach and maritime transport.
- Follow closely the proposal for a Directive on the framework for the deployment of Intelligent Transport systems in Europe.
- Follow developments and initiatives on the EU side under the EU Maritime Transport Strategy until 2018.
- Follow closely the proposal for a regulation concerning a European rail network for competitive freight.

Subcommittee III

- **Social security**

Ensure the incorporation of the new Annex VI into the EEA Agreement.

- **Employment and social policy**

- Follow the developments on the EU side on the European Year for Active Ageing 2012.
- Follow the developments on the EU side regarding the next PROGRESS Programme.
- Follow the developments on the EU side with regard to the Green Paper on pensions.

Subcommittee IV

- **Emissions Trading Scheme**

Finalise the negotiations with the Commission on the incorporation of the Directive to Include Aviation into the Emissions Trading Scheme and to continue the dialogue on the revised Emissions Trading Scheme Directive.

- **The Marine Strategy**

Finalise internal discussions on the EEA relevance of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

- **Assessment and Management of Flood Risks**

Finalise internal discussions on the EEA relevance.

- **Protection of the Environment through criminal law**

Finalise internal discussions on the EEA relevance.

- **Labour law**

Follow closely the discussions on the proposal for amending the Directive on Working Time, the reconciliation package (self-employed and maternity leave) and on a possible revision of the Posting of Workers Directive.

- **Civil Protection**

Closely follow the upcoming revision of the Civil Protection Mechanism and ensure the timely incorporation of the EPCIP Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Consumer Rights**

- Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comment which was submitted on the proposal for a Directive on Consumer Rights.
- Follow up on the inclusion of the EEA EFTA States in the Consumer Market Scoreboard.

- **Cross-border Health Care Directive**

Continue to follow closely the discussions on the EU legal framework on health services and assess its impact on the EEA EFTA States.

- **Cultural Affairs**

Assess the need for EEA EFTA Comments on the Green Paper on unlocking the potential of cultural and creative industries and on the implementation of the sport provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.

- **Education, training and youth**

Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comment on the Green Paper on Mobility.

- **Legal instrument for the European research infrastructure consortium (ERIC)**

Assess the Regulation and its implications for the EEA EFTA States.

- **Participation in programmes 2007-2013**

- Monitor participation in existing programmes and agencies.
- Raise awareness within the EEA EFTA States about the opportunities available in the new generation of programmes.
- Closely monitor developments with regard to the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012.
- Follow up on the Joint Programming Recommendations under the European Research Area (ERA).
- Ensure the incorporation of the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) programme.
- Ensure the incorporation of the Media Mundus programme.
- Monitor closely the EEA EFTA participation in the different strands of the Progress programme.

3. Support to the EEA Agreement

- Continue to be actively involved in all stages of decision-shaping. Focus in particular on how to ensure participation in the changed system of comitology which is being established under the Lisbon Treaty.
 - Continue to increase knowledge of the EEA Agreement within the EEA, in particular within EU institutions and EU Member States.
 - Discuss with the EU the possibility to increase national experts from the EEA EFTA States in EU institutions, such as in the European Parliament, the European Economic Social Committee and in the Committee of the Regions.
 - Further strengthen the cooperation between the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, parliamentarians from the national parliaments of the EEA EFTA States and the European Parliament.
 - Explore further how to adapt the work of the Secretariat and delegations to handle horizontal policy in a more coherent and efficient manner.
 - Increase the number of briefings in the Standing and Joint Committee on issues of particular interest.
 - Finalise the review of EEA EFTA Working Groups and Committees with the aim of facilitating discussions on horizontal policy issues.
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