



EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Adopted by Council Decision No. 5 of 1961, as amended by Council Decision No. 10 of 1968, Council Decision No. 11 of 1988, Council Decision No 1 of 1994, and Council Report EFTA/C.SR 9/95 of 1995.

1. A Consultative Committee of the Association is hereby established for the exchange of views and information. The Committee may consider any matter within the scope of the work of the Association, and may, as appropriate, be invited by the Council to give its opinion on major issues facing the Association. Furthermore, according to Article 9 of the Agreement on a Standing Committee of the EFTA States, the Consultative Committee may express its view to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States on any matter of relevance for the functioning and development of the European Economic Area (EEA). The Standing Committee may also seek the advice of the Consultative Committee.
 2. The members of the Consultative Committee shall be persons designated by Member States. These Members and their alternates shall be chosen from personalities representative of the main sectors of economic life, including labour, but shall be designated in their personal capacity. Up to six members, and/or alternate members, from each Member State may be present during any meeting of the Committee. Experts from the organizations represented in the Consultative Committee may be present as observers. The Council and the Standing Committee shall also have the right to appoint persons to the Consultative Committee, as observers, with such rights as the respective organ may determine.
 3. The Committee shall elect a Chairman, and two Vice-Chairmen, from among its members with a term of office of two years. In the absence of the elected Chairman, the functions incumbent upon him shall be assumed by one of the Vice-Chairmen. The elected Chairman shall also preside over the meetings of the Agenda Committee when this Committee is convened.
 4. The Committee shall meet as often as required in order to fulfil its functions. It shall normally meet once a year with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council at Ministerial level and , at least once a year, on the occasion of a Ministerial meeting of the Council, with all Ministers. Such meetings shall be chaired by the Ministerial Chairman.
 5. The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure.
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