

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

2/00/W/072
7 June 2001
Brussels

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

**EEA EFTA COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ESTABLISHING A
EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY (EMSA)**

1. The EEA EFTA States believe that it is important that the Commission is strengthened on tasks related to technical competence and following up of its legislation on maritime safety. The realisation of a policy for improving the safety at sea and the prevention of pollution from ships is not only dependent on the establishment of adequate legislation, but also on the application and enforcement of the legislation once adopted.
2. Should the Community set up such an agency as proposed, the EEA EFTA States are pleased to note that the Commission's proposal opens up for the participation of European countries, which have entered into agreements with the European Community whereby they have adopted and are applying the Community law in the field covered by the proposed Regulation. Consequently, the EEA EFTA States consider that Article 18 constitutes an adequate basis for negotiations on formal arrangements for involving the EEA EFTA States.
3. The objective of the EEA EFTA States is a broad participation in the Agency. We believe that the EEA EFTA States have considerable knowledge and experience in the field of safety at sea and the prevention of pollution from ships, which can make a useful contribution to the work of the proposed agency.
4. Consequently, the EEA EFTA States suggest a dialogue be initiated with the Community, to prepare the envisaged terms, conditions and modalities for participation from the EEA EFTA States in the proposed European Maritime Safety Agency.

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