

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

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8 February 2001
Brussels

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON
FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

EEA EFTA Statement on the Implementation of the Internet
Top Level Domain “.EU”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to secure equal terms of competition and not create new barriers to trade within the European Economic Area undermining the internal market, it is the position of the EEA EFTA States that the proposed Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the Internet Top Level Domain “.EU” should cover the whole EEA from day one. As a consequence all interested parties in the EEA should be able to apply for .EU Top Level Domain names at the same time.

STATEMENT

1. The Commission of the European Communities submitted on 12.12.2000 a proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the implementation of the Internet Top Level Domain “.EU” to the Council and the European Parliament, in order to have the necessary power to designate the “.EU” Registry Organisation and to create the public policy framework for its future activities.

2. The proposed Regulation requires a Registry for ".EU" domain names to be established in one of the EU Member States restricting its geographical scope to the territory of the European Union. A “.EU” Top Level Domain name will be an important factor in promoting electronic commerce and a virtual marketplace based on the Internet, and will thereby also strengthen the building of the Internal market. On the basis of the internal market dimension, the EEA EFTA States consider it important to be part of the “.EU” domain from day one so that entities established within the EEA EFTA States may also be allowed to register “.EU” domain names. If the EEA EFTA States do not fully participate in “.EU” from the beginning, the interested parties from the EEA EFTA States would probably find themselves in a situation where, at the time they register for names, only fewer alternatives would be available ,creating unfair competition within the EEA.

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3. On the basis of the EEA agreement, to safeguard equal terms of competition and equal rights within the European Economic Area, the EEA EFTA States up to now have adopted all relevant legislation adopted by the European Union. As a consequence, to maintain the balance within the internal market, the EEA EFTA States propose that the Regulation on “.EU” should cover the whole EEA thus including also the EEA EFTA States already upon entry into force.

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