

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

2/00/W/071
28 May 2001
Brussels

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

**EEA EFTA COMMENTS TO THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE
COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL ON
AN INTERNAL MARKET STRATEGY FOR SERVICES (COM (2000) 888)**

1. The EEA EFTA States have noted with interest the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on An Internal Market Strategy for Services (COM (2000) 888). The EEA EFTA States agree with the view set forth in the Communication that in order to reap the economic benefits embedded in the Information Society transnational services within in the Internal Market should be conducted as easily as services within national borders.
2. The legislative proposals, which the Commission urges the Council and the Parliament to adopt, are all, except one¹, EEA relevant. The EEA EFTA States have closely monitored the development of these proposals and will make the necessary preparations to be in a position to integrate the legal acts into the EEA Agreement once they have been adopted in the EU.
3. As regards new actions that the Commission indicates it will propose, the EEA EFTA States are considering those that have already been initiated and will consider those to come with interest. Furthermore, the EEA EFTA States would like to use this opportunity to recall Article 99.1. of the EEA Agreement "*As soon as new legislation is being drawn up by the EC Commission in the field which is governed by this Agreement, the EC Commission shall informally seek advice from experts of the EFTA States in the same way as it seeks advice from experts of the EC Member States for the elaboration of its proposals*".

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¹ Proposal for a directive amending Directive 77/338/EEC as regards the value added taxes arrangements applicable to services supplied by electronic means