

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

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LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE – SECOND HALF OF 2011

I. Key EEA EFTA Priorities

Ensure the continued good functioning and homogeneity of the EEA Agreement through the efficient incorporation of pending and new legislative acts into the Agreement.

- **Europe 2020 Strategy**

Follow closely the implementation and further development of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including:

- *The Single Market Act*

Monitor closely the unveiling of the proposals of the Single Market Act, most of which are scheduled to be adopted during the course of 2011. Ensure participation in the development of EEA relevant measures and consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments where relevant.

- *Flagship initiatives*

Follow closely the implementation of the seven flagship initiatives with a particular focus on EEA relevant proposals.

- *Economic governance*

Monitor further development of EU initiatives on economic governance and economic policy coordination and consider their impact on the EEA.

- *EU Financial Perspective*

Follow the discussions on the EU's post-2013 Financial Perspective and assess possible implications for the EEA EFTA States.

- **The Lisbon Treaty**

Continue to follow the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty with a particular focus on how the EEA Agreement will be managed by the European External Action Service, and on the efficient participation of the EEA EFTA States in the decision shaping of EEA relevant legislation.

- Comitology procedures

Ensure continued EEA EFTA access to the new EU comitology procedures introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

- **The EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014**

Finalise Memoranda of Understanding with the beneficiary states for the 2009-2014 period.

II. Legal Acts and Policies (not exhaustive)

- **New European Architecture of Financial Supervision**

Ensure adequate and timely 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 Proposals in the Area of Financial Services**

Follow closely new proposals in the area of financial services such as the Capital Requirements Directives.

- **European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)**

Finalise work on the incorporation of the EASA Regulation setting out that ESA will have the competence to impose fines.

- **Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS)**

Finalise the discussions on the incorporation of the AVMS Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the proposal for a Regulation on Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT) and the new Directive on Energy Efficiency.

Follow up on the development of the Energy Infrastructure Package.

Facilitate negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Renewables Directive, as well as the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market.

- **Public Procurement**

Follow up on the public consultation on the revision of EU public procurement rules, including the increased use of e-Procurement. Follow up on the expected proposal for a Directive/Regulation on Concessions.

- **Standardisation**

Follow up on the Commission's Communication on a "Strategic vision for European standards". Follow negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament on the proposal for a new Regulation on European Standardisation and consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments.

- **Telecom**

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

- **Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

Continue to discuss with the Commission a mutually acceptable solution to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, safeguarding the interests of consumers.

- **Foodstuffs**

Finalise the EEA Joint Committee Decision on Novel Food and GM Food and Feed and monitor the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food.

Monitor the revision of the novel foods proposal and the proposal on the cloning of animals for food production purposes.

Monitor the proposal for a Regulation on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes.

- **Data Privacy**

Advance work on the incorporation of the Data Retention Directive into the EEA Agreement and follow the review process in the EU on this act.

- **Climate Change**

Ensure the swift incorporation of the upcoming Benchmark Decision for ETS Aviation into the EEA Agreement.

Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the revised Emissions Trading Scheme Directive and related acts into the EEA Agreement.

- **Environment**

Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law into the EEA Agreement.

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

Hold internal discussions on the incorporation of the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks into the EEA Agreement.

- **Public Health**

Continue to prepare for the incorporation of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare into the EEA Agreement.

- **Consumer Rights**

Prepare for the incorporation of the Consumer Rights Directive into the EEA Agreement. This Directive is expected to be published in autumn 2011.

- **Internal Market Information (IMI) System**

Ensure the incorporation of the IMI Regulation into the EEA Agreement.

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

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

Follow closely the implementation of the Commission's Strategy on Intellectual Property Rights.

- **Research and Innovation**

Follow closely endeavours to implement the Innovation Union flagship initiative and measures to bring about a European Research Area (ERA), including the possibility to incorporate participation in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) into the EEA Agreement.

- **Postal Services**

Continue discussions on the Third Postal Directive.

III. Participation in Programmes

- Study closely upcoming proposals for the new generation of EU programmes 2014-2020.
- Monitor closely the ongoing EU budget review with a focus on the scope of EU programmes post-2014.
- Monitor participation in existing programmes and agencies.
- Raise awareness within the EEA EFTA States about the opportunities available within the programmes.
- Follow up on the Joint Programming Recommendations under the ERA.
- Ensure the incorporation of the Media Mundus Programme, expected to be adopted in July 2011.