

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

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LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE
FIRST HALF OF 2013

The main focus of the Liechtenstein Chair during the first half of 2013 will be to:

- Ensure the continued good functioning of the EEA Agreement through the efficient incorporation of legislative acts, including a further reduction of outstanding legal acts in the EEA Agreement.
- Conduct the negotiations on the accession of Croatia to the EEA with a view to their conclusion in time to allow for the respective simultaneous enlargement of the EU and EEA in 2013.
- Consider measures to ensure that appropriate information of the EEA Agreement is available in order to further strengthen the knowledge of the Agreement, both in the EEA EFTA States and in particular in the EU institutions and the EU Member States.

This Programme will be supplemented by the Work Programmes for the Subcommittees and for selected EEA EFTA Working Groups.

I. Horizontal issues and EU developments

- **Processing of EU acquis in the EEA Agreement**

Ensure the continued good functioning and homogeneity of the EEA Agreement through the efficient incorporation of pending and new legislative acts into the Agreement. Implement the revised procedures for the incorporation of EU acts into the EEA Agreement and assess the potential for further improvements of working methods.

- **Single Market Act II and other EEA relevant EU initiatives**

Follow closely the implementation of the Single Market Act II. Monitor further development of EU initiatives related to the Single Market such as on better governance and the 'Services Package'. Ensure participation in the development of EEA relevant measures and submit EEA EFTA Comments where relevant.

- **Economic and Monetary Union and EU economic policy coordination**

Monitor closely the development of EU initiatives regarding Economic and Monetary Union and strengthened economic policy coordination and consider their impact on the EEA, in particular the new proposals for a 'Banking Union' and its impact on the Single Market in financial services, and the possible inclusion of the Single Market into the European semester.

- **Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020**

Follow the discussions on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020 and assess its implications for the EEA EFTA States. Furthermore, due to the need to indicate to the EU side in which programmes under the MFF the EEA EFTA States might consider participating, a thorough assessment is required in order to identifying those areas and activities where closer cooperation will contribute to the achievement of common objectives in relevant fields.

- **Reviews of the EEA**

Follow closely the ongoing EEA review processes in the EU and in the EEA EFTA States.

II. Legal acts and policies (not exhaustive)

- **New European architecture of financial supervision**

Seek to reach an agreement on the EEA EFTA participation in the three new Financial Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) and the European Systemic Risk Board. While such a solution is pending, EU acts linked to the ESAs should be assessed and processed as far as possible.

- **Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive**

Ensure a timely incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive to allow for its applicability as from 22 July 2013.

- **Services**

Support the on-going peer review in order to identify barriers to service providers and follow the development of the internal market for services in general.

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

Ensure the incorporation of the Internal Market Information Regulation into the EEA Agreement.

- **Consumer affairs**

Follow up the new ‘Consumer Agenda’ and follow closely the preparation of the Consumer Programme 2014-2020, Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comments on a proposal for a Regulation on a Common European Sales Law, as well as on alternative dispute resolution and on-line dispute resolution mechanisms submitted in 2012.

- **Data protection**

Monitor closely the proposal for EP/Council Regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the proposals for a Directive on Energy Efficiency, and an Energy Infrastructure Regulation. Facilitate negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market.

- **Research and innovation**

Follow closely the proposal for a new Research and Innovation Framework Programme (Horizon 2020), the Commission Communication “A Reinforced European Research Area Partnership for Excellence and Growth“, the upcoming Commission initiatives foreseen in

the Communication and EEA EFTA participation in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC).

- **Labour law**

Follow closely the proposal for a directive concerning the enforcement of the provisions applicable to the posting of workers, the current negotiations of the social partners regarding the revision of the working time directive and proposal for a Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchange and related measures

- **Road package**

Seek to finalise discussions on the incorporation of the Road Package into the EEA Agreement

- **Single European Sky II**

Conclude the discussions on the Single European Sky II Regulation as soon as possible in order to ensure incorporation as soon as possible into the Agreement.

- **State aid**

Provide contributions to the Commission's work on modernising the EU state aid rules. Any revised guidelines will be mirrored by equivalent guidelines from ESA, whereas revised legislation will have to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

- **Public procurement**

Continue to provide input to the on-going revision of the current EU and EEA legislative frame as important components of the Single Market Act and the Europe 2020 Strategy.

- **Climate Change and environment**

Finalise outstanding acts related to the third phase of the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) starting on 1 January 2013. Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the 2011 ETS Union Registry Regulation. Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law, the Regulation on CO₂ emissions from passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, the Timber Regulation, the Directive on Clean Road Transport and the Directive on the Industrial Emissions into the EEA Agreement. Assess the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.

- **Standardisation**

Prepare for the incorporation of the Standardisation Regulation in the EEA Agreement.

- **Technical barriers to trade**

Prepare for the incorporation of the Alignment Package in the EEA Agreement and monitor the ongoing revision of other new approach directives with regards to the New Legislative Framework for Goods.

- **Defence related products**

Finalise the Joint Committee Decision on the Directive on defence related products.

- **Telecom Package**

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 work towards a mutually acceptable solution to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, safeguarding the interests of consumers.

- **Foodstuffs**

Finalise the 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 proposals on the cloning of animals for food production purposes, a Regulation on food intended for infants and young children, and on food for special medical purposes.

- **Veterinary matters**

Monitor the presentation of the new Animal Health Law legislation and the revision of the Regulation on official controls along the food chain.

- **Medicinal products**

Finalise discussions with the EU on the incorporation of the Paediatrics Regulation

- **Plant protection**

Finalise discussions on the possible implementation of the new Regulation on plant protection products.

- **Public health**

Ensure a timely incorporation of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare into the EEA Agreement and follow the implementation process on the EU side.