

Policy Shaping in the EEA and the role of the EFTA Secretariat

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Tore Grønningsæter
Information and
Communication Officer



European Economic Area - extending the EU Internal Market

Four Freedoms

- Free movement of goods
- Free movement of services
- Free movement of capital
- Free movement of persons

Horizontal policies

- Environment
- Social policy
- Statistics
- Company law

Common Rules

- State Aid
- Competition

Cooperation

- EU Programmes
- EU Agencies

Cohesion

- EEA (and Norway) Grants



EEA - static and dynamic

- **Static in scope**

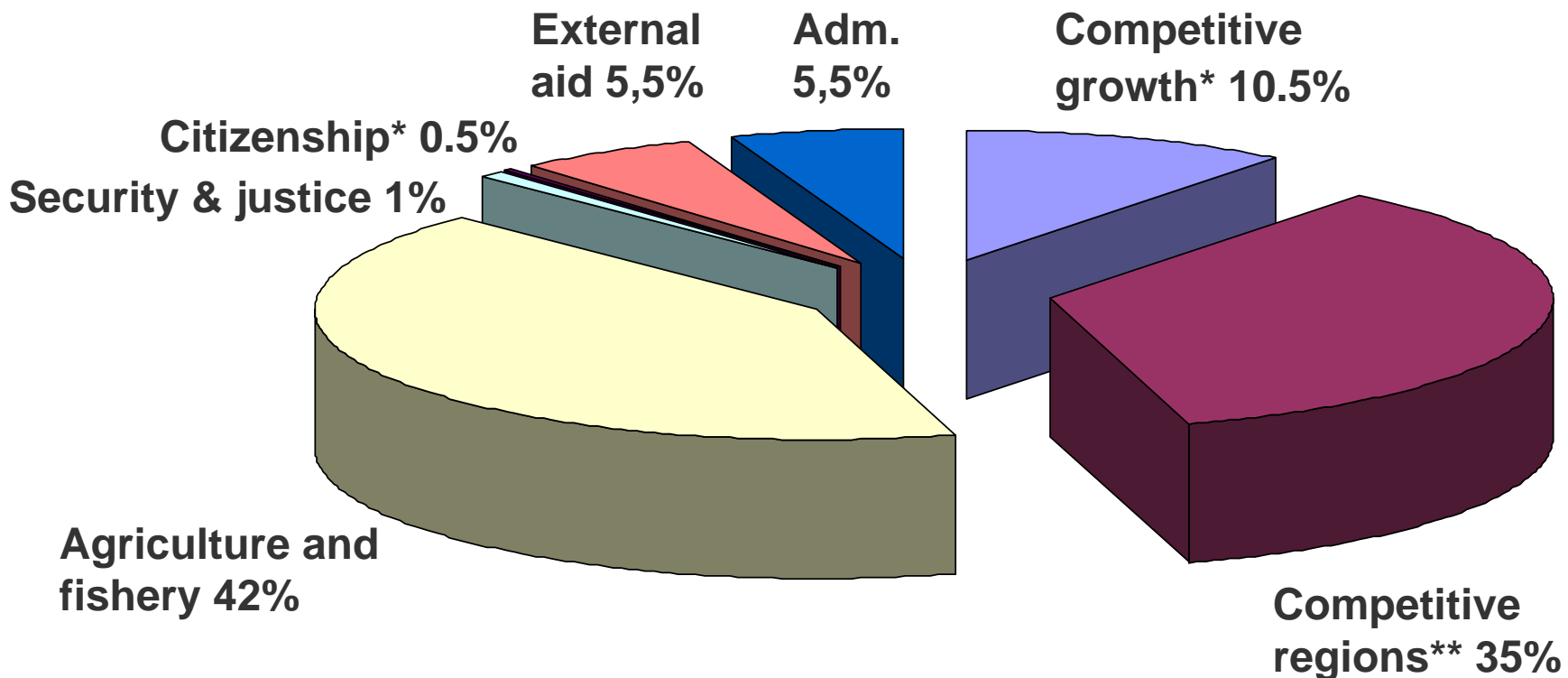
No additional areas foreseen to be included in the Agreement

- **Dynamic in character**

Updated continuously by adding new EU legislation in areas already covered by the Agreement



EU budget 2010: 141,5 billion euro



* EEA EFTA adds 265 million euro to the EU budget

** EEA EFTA + Norway provide 350 million euro outside the EU budget to beneficiary countries

EU Programmes

- Research framework programme
- Lifelong learning and Erasmus Mundus
- Satellite navigation (Galileo) (only Norway)
- Competitiveness and Innovation Programme
- Youth in action
- Media
- Employment and Social Solidarity (Progress)
- Intermodal transport (Marco Polo)
- Culture
- Health
- Community statistics
- Civil protection
- Consumer policy
- Interoperability solutions for public administrations
- Protecting children using the internet
- Combating violence (Daphne)
- Drug prevention



Cooperation: EU Agencies

- **European Environment Agency**
- **European Network and Information Security Agency**
- **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control**
- **European Medicines Agency**
- **European Railway Agency**
- **European Maritime Safety Agency**
- **European Aviation Safety Agency**
- **European Chemicals Agency**
- **European Agency for Safety and Health at Work**
- **European Food Safety Authority**

The EEA does not cover:

- **EU Customs Union (towards third countries)**
- **Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies**
- **EU Regional Policy**
- **Common Trade Policy**
- **Economic and Monetary Union**
- **Justice and Home Affairs**
- **Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policy**



Decision shaping

- a term created by EFTA?



decision shaping

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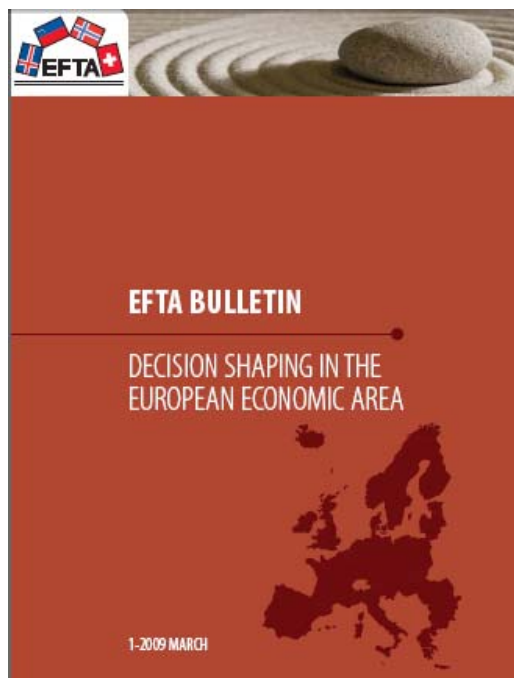
[Influencing the EU - EEA **Decision-shaping** - EFTA](#)

Decision-shaping is the phase of preparatory work undertaken by the European Commission to draw up new legislative proposals. ...

www.efta.int/eea/decision-shaping.aspx - Cached



Defined in EFTA Bulletin 1/2009



- **Process (formal/informal) of contributing to and influencing EU policy proposals**
- **Includes legislation, broader EU policies, "soft law"**
- **Includes all stages of the process**



Decision shaping

**Access varies
as to where
we are in the process**

EU policy and
consultation
documents

Commission
proposal

EP and Council
discussions

Adoption

Commission
draft

Comitology
committee

Commission
adoption



Decision shaping

Access varies as to who we are approaching

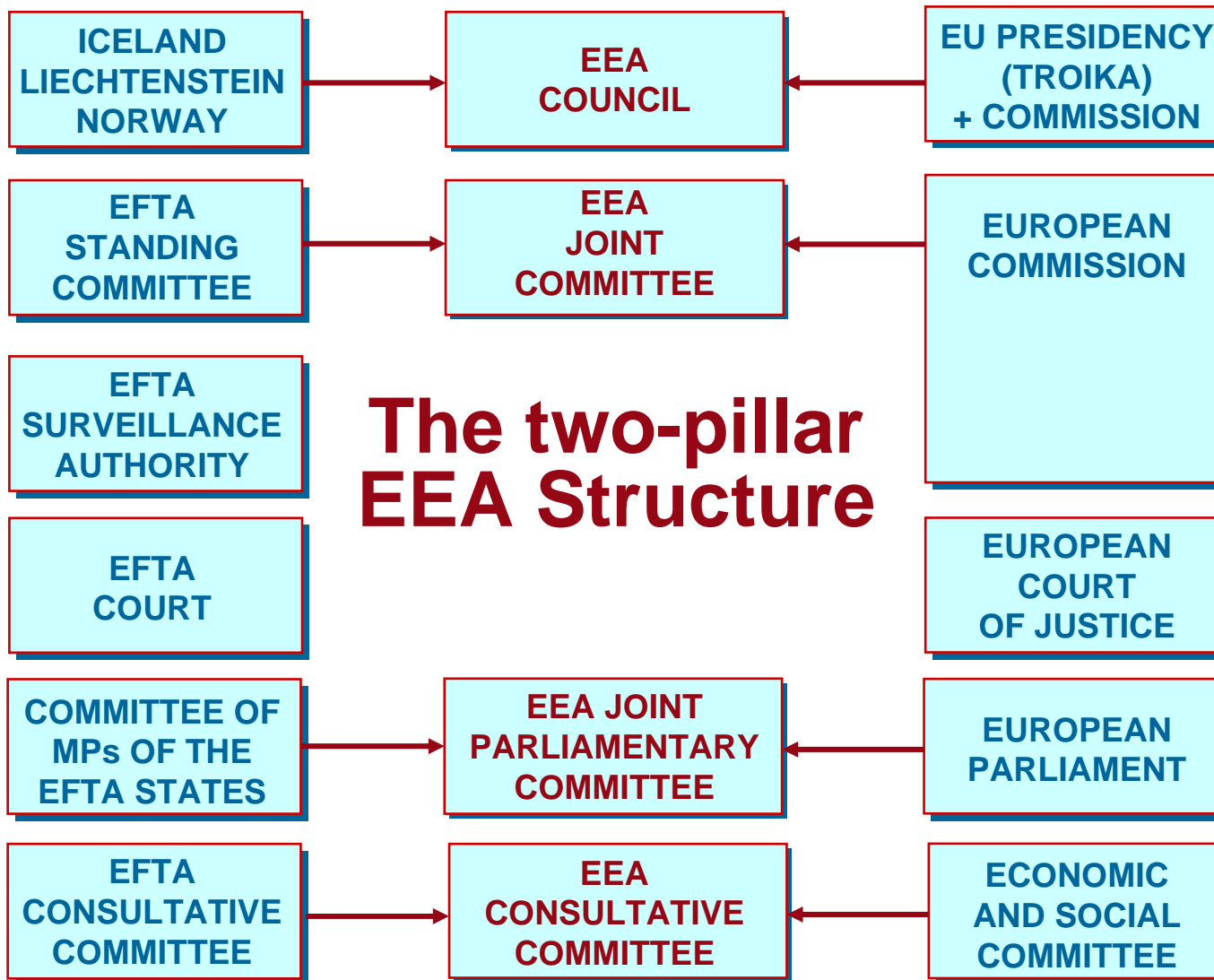
Commission: right to participate, but not to vote

- EEA Art. 99 Expert groups
- EEA Art. 100 Comitology committees
- EEA Art 101 Other (advisory) groups
- EEA Art. 81 Programme committees
- EEA decisions Agency boards

European Parliament: no access, but open process

Council: no access, but approach informally





The two-pillar EEA Structure

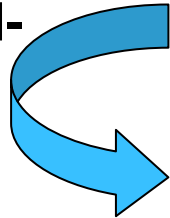


**DECISION-
SHAPING**

COMMISSION
Consultation → Proposal

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL
Discussion → Adoption

**EEA
DECISION-
MAKING**



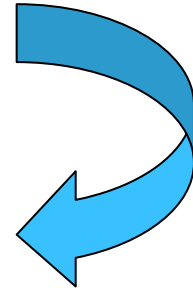
**EFTA
WORKING
GROUP**



**EFTA
SUB-
COMMITTEE**



**EFTA
STANDING
COMMITTEE**



**EEA DECISION-
TAKING**

EEA JOINT COMMITTEE
Decision

**NATIONAL
IMPLEMENTATION**



STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Committees of Members of Parliament

Consultative Committee

Subcommittee I

Free Movement of Goods

WORKING GROUPS

- Competition Policy
- Customs Matters
- Efficient Trade Procedures
- Energy Matters
- Feedingstuffs
- Fisheries
- Intellectual Property
- Plant Health
- Processed Agricultural Products
- Product Liability
- Public Procurement
- State Aid
- Technical Barriers to Trade
- Veterinary Matters

Subcommittee II

Free Movement of Capital and Services

WORKING GROUPS

- Audio-visual Services
- Company Law
- Financial Services
- Information and Telecom Services
- Postal Services
- Transport

Subcommittee III

Free Movement of Persons

WORKING GROUPS

- Free Movement of Workers and Employment
- Mutual Recognition of Diplomas
- Social Security

Subcommittee IV

Flanking and Horizontal Policies

WORKING GROUPS

- Budgetary Matters
- Civil Protection
- Consumer Protection
- Cultural Affairs
- The Disabled, the Elderly and Social Exclusion
- Education, Training and Youth
- Enterprises
- Environment
- Gender Equality and Family Policy
- Heads of Nat. Stat. Institutes
- Health and Safety at Work and Labour Law
- IDA
- Public Health
- Research and Development

Subcommittee V

Legal and Institutional Matters

Ad hoc Working Group on Services in the Internal Market

EFTA Advisory Bodies:

Consultative Committee

- **Shape EFTA and EEA policies**
- **Influence relevant policies**
- **Raise awareness of important issues**
- **Provide forum for dialogue**

Meetings with

EFTA Ministers and Ambassadors

EFTA Parliamentarians

EU Social Partners



EFTA Advisory Bodies:

Committees of Members of Parliament

- **Scrutinise EFTA policies and EEA legislation**
- **Raise awareness of important issues**
- **Build a political consensus**
- **Advocate for the EEA in the national parliaments**
- **Facilitate political dialogue**

Meetings with

EFTA Ministers and Social Partners

Representatives from the EEA Council and Joint Committee

Members of the European Parliament



Decision shaping - through EFTA

- **formal EU counterpart**
- **representing 3 (4) countries**
- **legal assistance**

How?

- **EEA EFTA comments**
- **Workshops hosted by EFTA**
- **Informal dialogues in EFTA meetings**



Example:

Food Information

- Jan 2008 EC proposal on food information to the consumers
- Oct 2008 Extensive EEA EFTA Comments issued
Sent to the Commission, EP, and the Council
Distributed during bilateral contacts with EU
and stakeholders
- March 2009 Norway invited to the Council Working Group to present the EEA EFTA position
- Dec 2010 Norway invited to the EP Committee Rapporteur
- May 2010 Proposal is still being discussed on the EU side



Example:

New European System of Financial Supervision

Challenge

- New EU Systemic Risk Board + Supervisory Authorities
 - Goal: Ensure EEA EFTA participation in the new architecture

Process

- Exchange of views with the Commission in EFTA Consultative Committee
- Two EFTA Comments submitted
- Exchange of views in EEA Joint Committee and in EFTA WG
- Discussions held and still ongoing on bilateral basis

Status

- Council compromise text (Oct. 2009): Article allowing for limited EEA participation in the Systemic Risk Board



More examples

In EFTA Bulletin 1/2009

- REACH
- Goods Package
- Open Method of Coordination



Effective Decision Shaping

- **Be active in the process from the beginning**
- **Prepare well for meetings**
- **Use formal and informal contacts**
- **Focus on quality rather than quantity**
- **Follow the process until final adoption**
- **Use the both bilateral and EFTA track**

