

AGREEMENT ON A COMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF THE EFTA STATES^{1}

THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES AND TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EFTA STATES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY AND A COURT OF JUSTICE,

HAVING REGARD to Article 95 of, and Protocol 36 to, the Agreement on the European Economic Area;

CONSIDERING that Article 9 of the Agreement on a Standing Committee of the EFTA States and Article 47 of the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice refer to a committee consisting of the members of Parliament of the EFTA States who are members of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee;

CONVINCED of the important role that the Parliaments of the EFTA States will play for the development of the European Economic Area;

RECALLING the objective of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to contribute to the strengthening of the cooperation between the members of the European Parliament and of the Parliaments of the EFTA States;

DESIRING to further strengthen the cooperation between the Parliaments of the EFTA States;

HAVE DECIDED to conclude the following Agreement:

Article 1

1. The Parliaments of the EFTA States shall, from among their own members, each appoint members for participation in the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee provided for in Article 95 of the EEA Agreement, in accordance with the following:
 - from the Parliament of Norway 22 members; and
 - from the Parliament of Iceland 11 members.

As from the entry into force of the Parliamentary Committee Agreement for Liechtenstein, the number of members to be appointed by each Parliament shall be:

- from the Parliament of Norway 20 members;
 - from the Parliament of Iceland 10 members; and
 - from the Parliament of Liechtenstein 3 members.^{2}
2. The members of parliament thus appointed shall form a Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States, hereinafter referred to as the Committee. Each parliament may appoint alternate members. The Committee may in its rules of procedure decide to invite observers from the EFTA States.

^{1} The Agreement on a Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States amended by the Protocol Adjusting the Agreement on a Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States signed in Brussels on 17 March 1993 ("Adjusting Protocol") and subsequently by the Agreement Adjusting certain Agreements between the EFTA States signed in Brussels on 29 December 1994 ("Adjusting Agreement").

^{2} Paragraph replaced by the Adjusting Protocol and subsequently replaced by the Adjusting Agreement.

Article 2

For the purposes of this Agreement the term 'EFTA State' means a Member State of the European Free Trade Association which is a Party to the EEA Agreement, the Agreement on a Standing Committee of the EFTA States, the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice as well as to the present Agreement.

Article 3

1. The Committee shall serve as a consultative body to the EFTA States on matters of relevance to the EEA. It shall further serve as a channel of information on such matters between the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Parliaments of the EFTA States as well as between the latter Parliaments.
2. Furthermore the Committee may express its views to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States on any matter of relevance for the functioning and development of the EEA. It shall also carry out the tasks laid down in Article 9, first paragraph, of the Agreement on a Standing Committee of the EFTA States and Article 47, first paragraph, of the Agreement between the EFTA States on the Establishment of a Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice.

Article 4

Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, the Committee shall act by an absolute majority of the votes cast.

Article 5

The Committee may adopt recommendations or resolutions. Minority opinions shall be attached to a recommendation or resolution which has been adopted by a majority.

Article 6

1. The Committee shall elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members for a period of one year.
2. The Chairman shall call the sessions of the Committee on his own motion. He shall furthermore call sessions either at the request of one third of its members or at the request of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.

Article 7

The Committee may set up working parties among its members which shall report to the Committee.

Article 8

1. The Committee may hold joint meetings with Ministers of the EFTA States in conjunction with meetings at Ministerial level of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.
2. At other meetings of Ministers of the EFTA States, the Committee may be invited to be represented in order to present the views of the Committee.

Article 9

The Chairman of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States as well as Members of the EFTA Surveillance Authority may, upon invitation by the Committee, attend meetings of the Committee to be heard by it. They may reply orally or in writing to questions put to them by members of the Committee.

Article 10

The Chairman of the Committee shall keep the Standing Committee of the EFTA States informed of the names of the members of Parliament who are members of the Committee.

Article 11

1. The costs for participation in the Committee shall be borne by the Parliament which appointed a member.

2. If the Committee has been invited to meet in another place than Geneva or Brussels the costs for the meeting facilities and interpretation equipment shall normally be borne by the inviting EFTA State.

Article 12

The Committee shall adopt its rules of procedure acting by a majority of the National delegations, members appointed by each Parliament forming a National Delegation.^{3}

In case only two EFTA States are Parties to this Agreement the rules of procedure shall be adopted by common accord of the Contracting Parties.^{4}

Article 13

The Committee may by a separate decision of the parties to this Agreement be entrusted with other tasks than those mentioned above.

Article 14

Any EFTA State acceding to the EEA Agreement shall accede to the present Agreement.

Article 15

1. Any EFTA State which withdraws from the EEA Agreement shall ipso facto cease to be a Party to the present Agreement on the same day as that withdrawal takes effect.
2. Any EFTA State which accedes to the European Community shall ipso facto cease to be a Party to the present Agreement on the same day as that accession takes effect.
3. The Governments of the remaining EFTA States shall, by common accord, decide on the necessary amendments to be made to the present Agreement.

Article 16

1. The present Agreement, drawn up in a single authentic copy in the English language, shall be ratified by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.
2. The present Agreement shall be deposited with the Government of Sweden which shall transmit a certified copy to each EFTA State.

The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of Sweden which shall notify all other EFTA States.

3. The present Agreement shall enter into force on the date and under the conditions provided for in Article 1 of the Protocol Adjusting the Agreement on a Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States.^{5}

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Reykjavik, this 20th day of May 1992, in a single authentic copy in the English language, which shall be deposited with the Government of Sweden. The Depositary shall transmit certified copies to all Signatory States and States acceding to this Agreement.

{3} Article 12 replaced by the Adjusting Protocol.

{4} Sentence added by the Adjusting Agreement.

{5} Article 16(3) replaced by the Adjusting Protocol.