

# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

### RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure

on 23 May 2017, Reykjavik, Iceland

on

#### **The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2016**

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Elfried HASLER, Member of the Liechtenstein Parliament  
Mr Jørn DOHRMANN Member of the European Parliament

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA JPC):

- Having regard to its Resolutions on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 1994 (adopted on 29 May 1995), in 1995 (adopted on 3 June 1996), in 1996 (adopted on 14 April 1997), in 1997 (adopted on 25 May 1998), in 1998 (adopted on 19 April 1999), in 1999 (adopted on 16 March 2000), in 2000 (adopted on 24 May 2001), in 2001 (adopted on 20 June 2002), in 2002 (adopted on 20 May 2003), in 2003 (adopted on 27 April 2004), in 2004 (adopted on 25 April 2005), in 2005 (adopted on 22 May 2006), in 2006 (adopted on 27 June 2007), in 2007 (adopted on 29 April 2008), in 2008 (adopted on 25 March 2009), in 2009 (adopted on 29 March 2010), in 2010 (adopted on 12 April 2011), in 2011 (adopted on 4 May 2012), in 2012 (adopted on 30 May 2013), in 2013 (adopted on 17 December 2014); in 2014 (adopted on 19 November 2015); and in 2015 (adopted on 14 December 2016);
- A. In accordance with its mandate to examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee (EEA JC) as laid out by the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement) (Article 95, paragraph 4);
- B. Emphasising that the EEA EFTA States are full participants in the Internal Market;
- C. Aware of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA:

1. Welcomes the finalisation and publication of the 2016 Annual Report at an earlier stage than in previous years and encourages the EEA JC to continue on this path; agrees with the EEA JC on the main issues of concern and makes the following proposals;
2. Notes that the number of legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2016 decreased by almost 20% compared to 2015;
3. Notes that the so-called backlog of legal acts increased to 522 legal acts in November 2016, compared to 435 legal acts in November 2015; regrets in this regard the slowing down in the incorporation process of legal acts identified as EEA relevant;
4. Reiterates the common interest of both the European Union and the EEA EFTA States in the timely incorporation of legislative acts and urges therefore the EEA JC to find pragmatic solutions for the legal acts that have been pending incorporation for a long time;
5. Notes the slight increased transposition deficit of the EEA EFTA States in 2016, and underlines that timely transposition is essential for the homogeneity and the proper functioning of the Internal Market;
6. Welcomes the incorporation of the legal acts on EEA EFTA participation in the EU financial authorities, underlines however the urgent need to ensure the swift incorporation of the remaining legal acts in the area of financial services in order to safeguard a homogenous and well-functioning Internal Market;
7. Regrets that a solution has not yet been found with regard to the incorporation of the 2009 Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC);
8. Welcomes that the European Commission's proposal of September 2016 for a connectivity package includes the full participation of the EEA EFTA States in BEREC, and encourages the Council and the European Parliament to preserve this approach when processing the new proposals;
9. Welcomes the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2016 on topical issues listed in the annual report, and notes with satisfaction that the number of Comments has increased over the last years.
10. Encourages therefore the EEA EFTA States and the EU to continue sharing their views, assessments and information as early as possible in the decision-shaping process in order to ensure a continuous spirit of cooperation and that each side's interest are duly taken into consideration;

11. Welcomes the reference made in the 2016 Annual Report of the EEA JC to the EEA JPC Resolutions adopted in May and December 2016; acknowledges the regular participation of the EEA JC representatives in the activities of the EEA JPC meetings and underlines in this regards the importance of upholding reciprocal high-level representation at both political and technical level in these meetings;
12. Calls on all parliamentary delegations to ensure the largest possible participation of their respective Members in future JPC meetings with a view to safeguarding a meaningful democratic scrutiny;
13. Welcomes the agreement and increased funding with respect to the EEA Grants and Norway Grants for the period 2014-2021, acknowledging the positive results achieved by the Grants in reducing economic and social disparities in the EEA;
14. Takes note that Memoranda of Understanding were signed with Romania, Slovakia and Bulgaria in 2016, and in 2017 with Estonia and Malta, urges the EEA EFTA States and the Norwegian authorities to finalise agreements with the remaining beneficiary states as soon as possible;
15. Reiterates that the EEA EFTA States participate fully in the Single Market through the EEA Agreement, and that a UK withdrawal from the EU will have a direct impact on the EEA Agreement and the EEA EFTA States; encourages close dialogue between the EEA EFTA States and the EU with regard to the upcoming negotiations; invites the EU's Chief negotiator to participate in due time in one of the EEA JPC future Meetings;
16. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.