

# EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

## JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

### RESOLUTION

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

on 14 December 2016, Strasbourg, France

on

#### **The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2015**

Co-rapporteurs:

Mr Svein Roald Hansen, Member of the Norwegian Parliament (Labour Party)

Mr Jørn Dohrmann, Member of the European Parliament, Denmark (ECR)

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); and in 2014 (adopted on 19 November 2015);
- A. In accordance with its task 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. Mindful of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA:

1. Takes note of the 2015 Annual Report of the EEA JC, and agrees with the EEA JC on the main issues of concern;
2. Regrets that in recent years the Annual Report of the EEA JC has been made available very late, and urges the EEA JC to finalise the report earlier;
3. Notes that the number of legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement decreased in 2015, at 483 legal acts, compared with 627 legal acts in 2014;
4. Urges the EEA JC to find solutions for the legal acts that have been pending for a long time, and underlines the common interest of both the European Union and the EEA EFTA States in the timely incorporation of legislative acts;
5. Welcomes the decreased average transposition deficit of the EEA EFTA States in 2015, and underlines that timely transposition is essential for the homogeneity of the Internal Market;
6. Welcomes the incorporation in September 2016 of the legal acts on EEA EFTA participation in the EU financial agencies; underlines, however, that a lot of work remains to ensure that a backlog of more than 150 legal acts is reduced; urges the relevant authorities to work hard on incorporating the remaining legal acts. This is important to ensure a homogenous internal market.
7. Noting that the EEA EFTA States request full participation without the right to vote in the management boards of existing and future EEA-relevant authorities and bodies, welcomes that the European Commission's proposal from September 2016 for a connectivity package includes the full participation of the EEA EFTA States in the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC), and urges the relevant EEA authorities to speed up the incorporation of the 2009 BEREC Regulation into the EEA Agreement.
8. Welcomes the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2015, and encourages the EEA EFTA States to continue to share their views and knowledge as early as possible in the decision-shaping process;
9. Welcomes the feedback received from the EU in response to the EEA EFTA Comments submitted in 2015, and encourages the EU to continue to take the views of the EEA EFTA States transmitted in these comments into account;
10. Welcomes the reference made in the 2015 Annual Report of the EEA JC to the EEA JPC Resolutions adopted in March and November 2015;
11. Reiterates the EEA JPC's appreciation for EEA JC representatives' attendance, statements and participation in discussions at EEA JPC meetings;

12. Acknowledging the positive contribution made by the EEA Grants and Norway Grants in reducing economic and social disparities in the EEA, as well as the results achieved, welcomes the agreement of May 2016 on a new period for the EEA Grants and Norway Grants (2014-2021);
13. Noting that the first Memoranda of Understanding in this respect have been agreed with Romania and Slovakia, urges the EEA EFTA States and the Norwegian authorities to finalise agreements with the remaining beneficiary states as soon as possible;
14. Noting that the EEA EFTA States participate fully in the Single Market through the EEA Agreement, and that a UK exit from the EU will have a direct impact on the EEA Agreement and the EEA EFTA States' relations with the United Kingdom in the Single Market, encourages close dialogue between the EEA EFTA States and the EU with regard to the upcoming Brexit negotiations;
15. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.