

# **Priorities of the Liechtenstein Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee**

## **Second half of 2023**

The purpose with this overview is to describe the priorities of the Liechtenstein Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee during the second half of 2023. The priorities are supplemented by the work programmes of the EFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups.

### **Introduction**

A common understanding of the principles of the EEA is crucial for the good functioning and homogeneity of the Agreement. The Standing Committee of the EFTA States is committed to ensuring efficient coordination between the Parties of the [EEA Agreement](#), adapting to a changing Internal Market and maintaining the level playing field. Against this background, the Liechtenstein Chairmanship will particularly focus on:

### **Incorporation of EEA-relevant legal acts**

In line with the objective of homogeneity, strive to ensure the incorporation of EEA-relevant EU legislation into the Agreement as closely as possible to the adoption in the EU. Focus will be placed on backlog reduction ahead of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EEA Agreement. Information sharing and enhanced cooperation and coordination between the EEA EFTA States to identify fields where progress can be made quickly will be key in this effort.

Streamline coordination between the EEA EFTA States with a special focus on new EU internal market files. This will include establishing effective working structures for incoming EU legal acts with distinct horizontal dimensions.

Against this background, initiate:

- specific briefings by the EFTA Secretariat, e.g. on the status of old acts from before 2019 in the Standing Committee meetings,
- informal ad-hoc meetings between the Standing Committee and Subcommittees I-V to coordinate the work on key files and assessment of working structures,

A particular focus will be put on:

- The proposal for a Green Deal Industrial Plan,
- The Digital Markets Act,
- The Digital Services Act,
- Green Bonds proposal,
- The MiCA Regulation,
- Review of the European Supervisory Authorities.

Seek to reduce the number of JCDs where entry into force is pending due to constitutional requirements where more than six months have passed since adoption.

Identify processes to speed up the incorporation procedures with a special focus on ensuring effective compliance with current procedures and modernising the tools underpinning them.

## **Decision-shaping**

Identify and provide input to relevant EU legislation and measures in the pre-pipeline and pipeline stages with an emphasis on the European Green Deal, the Commission proposals for a Net Zero Industry Act and a Critical Raw Materials Act and the proposal for reform of the electricity market design.

Issue EEA EFTA Comments in key areas and actively follow up with EU institutions.

## **EEA Outreach**

Highlight that the EEA EFTA States are an integral part of the Internal Market, European supply chains and the European twin transitions and invite the EU to take its EEA obligations into account also in other relevant areas including its trade policy.

Strengthen the knowledge of the EEA Agreement by:

- planning next year's celebrations of the 30-year anniversary of the EEA Agreement, including preparations for high-level events,
- using EFTA House as a dynamic platform for outreach activities
- fostering transparency of EEA processes, including through the regular dialogue with the Advisory Bodies,
- enhancing productive dialogue on key issues with EU counterparts, including through Joint Subcommittee V.

## **Financial Mechanism**

Advance negotiations with the European Commission on a new Financial Mechanism, mindful of the parallel process on market access for fish and marine products, with a view to a swift conclusion.