

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A
S T A N D I N G C O M M I T T E E
O F T H E E F T A S T A T E S

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PRIORITIES OF THE ICELAND CHAIR

SECOND HALF OF 2019

The purpose of this overview is to highlight the priorities of the EFTA Standing Committee during the second half of 2019. The programme is supplemented by work programmes prepared for the subcommittees and selected EEA EFTA working groups.

EEA Outreach

Taking advantage of the occasion of the EEA's 25th anniversary year, we will seek to strengthen knowledge of the EEA Agreement and Financial Mechanisms, including with the incoming Commission and European Parliament, and make full use of the available tools to spread information on the EEA. A seminar will be organised to assess and disseminate as widely as possible information on the EEA, focusing on decision shaping and the two-pillar system.

New EU programmes 2021-2027

We will accelerate preparations for EEA-EFTA participation in relevant EU programmes under the new Multiannual Financial Framework. Submitting indicative positions on individual programme proposals and monitoring developments on forecasted financial contributions will be a priority.

Decision-shaping

The effort to scrutinize pre-pipeline and pipeline issues will be continued. EEA EFTA comments will be submitted where appropriate and emphasis will be placed on identifying at an early stage possible two-pillar issues. The priorities of the incoming Commission and new European Parliament will be followed closely with focus on the internal market, the digital single market, financial services, climate change, energy and environment, transport, health and food law, social development and research, innovation and education.

Incorporation of legal acts

Building on the progress achieved, we will continue efforts to ensure the timely incorporation of new EEA relevant EU acts, and to further reduce the backlog, particularly in the area of financial services. The assessment of two-pillar challenges (e.g. ELA, EASA, BEREC) and finding adequate solutions in close cooperation with the EU side, will be given priority.

Other activities

Developments on all Brexit-related matters will be monitored and we will continue collaborating and preparing for future arrangements with the UK.