

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

40th Meeting

29-30 May 2013, Brussels, Belgium

RESOLUTION

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

at the 39th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels

on 30 May 2013

on

Resolution on **The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2012**

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Pat the Cope GALLAGHER (ALDE, Ireland)
Mr Albert FRICK, (Progressive Citizen's Party, Liechtenstein)

adopted unanimously

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- Having regard to its resolutions on the functioning of the EEA 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 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 2008 (adopted on 25 March 2009), in 2009 (adopted on 29 March 2010), in 2010 (adopted on 12 April 2011), and in 2011 (adopted on 4 May 2012);
- A. In accordance with its task to examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee laid out by the EEA Agreement (Article 95, paragraph 4);

- B. Emphasising that the EEA EFTA States are not third countries in matters concerning the Internal Market, but full participants;
- C. Mindful of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA;
1. Takes note of the 2012 Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee, and agrees with the EEA Joint Committee on the main issues of concern in 2012;
 2. Reiterates the need for more information on the main issues for discussion in future Annual Reports in order for the EEA JPC to fulfil its advisory role as laid out in the EEA Agreement;
 3. Welcomes timely processing of acquis as a permanent item in the Annual Report; highlights the shared interest of both the EU and the EEA EFTA States in the timely and appropriate incorporation of legislative acts; and asks for more elaborated statistics on yearly developments on number of EEA-relevant legal acts adopted on the EU side that have not been incorporated into the EEA Agreement, on transposition delays, and on legal acts with constitutional requirements on the EEA EFTA side not entered into force within the six-month period foreseen by the EEA Agreement;
 4. Urges the EEA EFTA States to take the necessary measures to reduce the number of outstanding legal acts;
 5. Notes with regret the increased average transposition deficit and the increased transposition delays of the EEA EFTA States in 2012, compared to 2011; urges the EEA EFTA States to prioritise timely incorporation of EEA-relevant acquis;
 6. Compliments the EU Member States on the achievement of their lowest average transposition deficit historically;
 7. Reiterates its request to the EEA Joint Committee to include information from both biannual internal market scoreboards in the Annual Report, comparing each one with the one of the previous year, in order to show yearly developments; underlining that the current practice does not give an accurate picture;
 8. Urges the EU and EEA EFTA sides to seek early conclusion to the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the legal acts that have long been pending on the EEA EFTA side, including modalities for EEA EFTA participation in relevant EU agencies, authorities and bodies;
 9. Welcomes the EEA EFTA participation in EU programmes; and reiterates the importance of the EEA EFTA States to make early conclusions on the participation in the new EU programmes, and of having draft Joint Committee Decisions ready to ensure participation of all stakeholders from the start of the new programmes;
 10. Notes that the EEA EFTA States request their full participation, without the right to vote, in the management boards of existing and future EEA relevant agencies; urges the EEA EFTA States and the European Commission to find a mutually acceptable

solution in order to ensure the EEA EFTA States' participation in the European Financial Supervisory Authorities;

11. Welcomes the increased number of EEA EFTA Comments in 2012; regards EEA EFTA Comments to be an important instrument for participation in decision shaping in the EEA, and encourages the EEA EFTA States to continue involving themselves as much as possible and from as early a stage as possible in the decision-shaping processes;
12. Requests the EEA Joint Committee to elaborate in future Annual Reports on the possible feedback received from the EU side to the EEA EFTA Comments and on the effect of these comments on the decision shaping in the EEA;
13. Welcomes the reference to EEA JPC resolutions in the Annual Report and the comments on the follow-up by the EEA Joint Committee on some of the requests made by the EEA JPC; requests the EEA Joint Committee to continue and broaden this good practice by providing written reply to the requests made in this resolution and reflect the requests in future Annual Reports;
14. Reiterates the appreciation of the EEA JPC for the attendance, statements and participation in discussions of EEA Joint Committee representatives in the meetings of the EEA JPC;
15. Welcomes the positive contribution of the EEA Grants and Norwegian Grants at local level by bringing about specific reductions in disparities, and compliments all stakeholders on the high rate of timely completion of projects and the results achieved;
16. Urges the EU and EEA EFTA States to seek ways of enhancing the predictability of the negotiations for the next financing period of the EEA Grants and Norwegian Grants;
17. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee.