

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

1/IP/W/001
4 May 1994
Brussels

WORKING GROUP ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

On the status quo as regards the work in the area of the
legal protection of biotechnological inventions

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Working Group on intellectual property would like to inform Subcommittee I on the following state of affairs concerning the planned EU legislation for a Council Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions, which is likely to be finally adopted during June 1994.
2. The group has discussed the issue continuously during the past years and has had several exchanges of views with the European Commission as to the developments of the respective legislation.
3. During 1993 several attempts were made to achieve a common EFTA position. Until the present Austria, Finland, Iceland and Liechtenstein have not been able to present their comments on any of the draft EFTA position papers.
4. On 7 February 1994 the common position for a Council Directive on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions was adopted by the EU Council. Delegations were asked to present their positions at the latest by 20 April 1994 on envisaged adaptations to the text to be discussed with the Commission. No EFTA Country has submitted its position as regards that request, which was agreed unanimously by the group at its last meeting on 27 March 1994.
5. Following from this the Secretariat, after having consulted with the Chairman of the Group, would like to inform Subcommittee I that it seems unlikely that a common position can be found at expert level.

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