

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

2/00/W/041
21 May 1997
Brussels

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON
FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

EFTA COMMENTS ON THE RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION TO VIEW
MAJOR (SPORTS) EVENTS

1. The EEA EFTA States consider it essential that a majority of the population is able to view certain important events, i.e. sporting events, on free television. The EEA EFTA States therefore, consider the principles agreed upon by the Conciliation Committee on 16 April 1997, based on the proposal from the European Parliament and the Communication from the Commission, as a balanced solution.
2. In accordance with the Commission's view and the conclusions agreed upon by the Conciliation Committee, we agree that each State must be at liberty to decide which major events should be regulated with respect to the public's access to free television and whether these events should be available via whole or partial live coverage, or whole or partial deferred coverage.
3. Furthermore, we support the conclusions agreed upon by the Conciliation Committee regarding the question of mutual recognition of national regulations.
4. The EEA EFTA States welcome the Conciliation Committee's clarification as to when the regulations will be applicable.
5. Further discussions may, however, be needed on other questions concerning the implementation of the regulations in national legislation, i.e. concerning non-national events, possible economic consequences of national regulation and other questions related to future practice.
6. The EEA EFTA States would therefore welcome a continuation of the work of the ad hoc group on the implementation of the directive, in which the EEA EFTA States will participate actively.

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