

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA  
STANDING COMMITTEE  
OF THE EFTA STATES

4/SP/W/009  
29 May 1997  
Brussels

**WORKING GROUP ON SOCIAL POLICY**

**Comments by the EFTA Working Group<sup>1</sup> on a proposal for a Commission Directive on adapting to technical progress Directive 90/679/EEC concerning the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work**

1. Reference is made to a letter from Mr. Allan Larsson, Director General, DG V dated 22 May 1997. The EFTA Working Group on Social Policy is pleased to submit comments on a draft proposal for a Commission Directive on adapting to technical progress Directive 90/679/EEC which has been amended by Council Directive 93/88/EEC and Commission Directive 95/30/EEC concerning the protection of workers from risks related to exposure to biological agents at work.
2. As biological agents must be examined regularly and revised on the basis of new scientific data, the EFTA States welcome the draft proposal which sets out to amend Annex III to Directive 90/679/EEC to include new agents. The EFTA side considers an extensive list of classified biological agents to be of crucial importance to enable employers to comply with the aforementioned Directive. As concerns other changes which are introduced in Annex III, the EFTA States have no specific comments.
3. The EFTA side would like to express their satisfaction at being consulted in a timely manner and look forward to continuing a fruitful co-operation on measures to improve safety and health of workers at work.

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<sup>1</sup> Comprising the delegations of the three EFTA EEA States Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.