

EEE 1603/20

REPORT

Subject: Progress report by the EEA Joint Committee to the 53rd meeting of the EEA Council

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has adopted 120 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 245 legal acts since the EEA Council of 19 November 2019. In the period from 1 January to 30 April 2020, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 64 JCDs incorporating 136 legal acts. This number includes two decisions incorporating two acts containing urgent COVID-19-related measures. These acts were adopted by written procedure on 3 April 2020. In comparison, during the period from 1 January to 8 May 2019, 128 JCDs incorporating 370 legal acts were adopted.
2. As of 7 May 2020, there were 473 legal acts outstanding where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 431 acts on 1 November 2019. Since November 2019 therefore, the overall number of legal acts outstanding has increased by around 9%.
3. As of 7 May 2020, the number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements, where the six-month period had expired was 21, compared to 23 on 4 November 2019.

4. Important decisions incorporated since the 52nd meeting of the EEA Council include:
- Decision Nos 288/2019 and 301/2019 on Medical Devices and *in vitro* Diagnostic Medical Devices
 - Decision No 302/2019 which grants the EEA EFTA States access to the European network of employment services (EURES), reinforcing the free movement of workers in the EEA
 - Decision No 311/2019 on geo-blocking and other forms of discrimination based on customers' nationality
 - Decision No 27/2020 which amends Annex XVII on intellectual property and implements the trademarks Directive (EU 2015/2436)
 - Decision Nos 38/2020 and 39/2020 on emission limits of specific types of non-road types of machinery and vehicles

Decision shaping

5. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 13 EU programmes and 22 agencies, of which 17 are decentralised agencies and five executive agencies.
6. Since the last EEA Council, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of EEA EFTA Comments on the following subjects:
- EEA EFTA Comment on the Proposal for a Directive on representative actions for the protection of the collective interests of consumers
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Creative Europe Programme

Briefings in the Joint Committee

7. In the period from 19 November 2019 to 25 May 2020 the EEA Joint Committee has received briefings on:

- The new structure of the European Commission and its priorities for 2019 to 2024, provided by Ms Clara Ganslandt, EU Chair of the EEA Joint Committee
- EU Green Deal, provided by Ms Clara de la Torre, Deputy Director General for Climate Action at the European Commission

Status of issues outstanding

8. The discussions on the following issues have not yet been concluded:

- Ship Inspection and Survey Organizations
- The Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- The Third Postal Directive
- The Single European Railway Area
- Directives pertaining to Energy Efficiency and the Energy Performance of Buildings
- The Tobacco Products Directive

9. The Joint Committee has reiterated its determination to work towards the rapid conclusion of these issues.

Financial Mechanisms

10. The Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021 amounts to total contributions of 1548.1 and 1253.7 million euro, respectively. As of 30 April 2020, Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
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