

EEE 1608/15

PROGRESS REPORT

Subject: Progress Report by the EEA Joint Committee to the 45th meeting of the EEA Council

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has adopted 129 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 227 legal acts since the EEA Council of 13 November 2015. In the period from 1st January to 29 April 2016, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 102 JCDs incorporating 180 legal acts. In the same period of 2015, 128 JCDs incorporating 193 legal acts were adopted.
2. As of 29 April 2016, there were 432 outstanding legal acts where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 422 acts on 1 November 2015. Since November 2015 therefore the overall number of outstanding legal acts has increased by 2.2 %.
3. Since the last EEA Council, the EFTA side has continued to identify further actions needed to permanently reduce the number of outstanding acts and avoid their re-emergence.
4. The number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements, where the six-month period had expired, increased from 11 on 1 November 2015 to 15 on 3 May 2016.

5. Important decisions incorporated since the 44th meeting of the EEA Council include:
- Decisions No 306/2015 and No 22/2016 on the definition, description, presentation, labelling and the protection of geographical indications of aromatised wine products and spirit drinks,
 - Decision 317/2015 with regard to the provision of EU-wide real-time traffic information services,
 - Decision 24/2016 with regard to labelling of energy-related products on the internet,
 - Decision 25/2016 with regard to eco-design requirements for solid fuel local space heaters,
 - Decision 30/2016 as regards interoperability of spatial data services,
 - Decision 53/2016 on allowing the use of the radio spectrum for equipment using ultra-wideband technology in a harmonised manner,
 - Decision 54/2016 laying down detailed measures for the implementation of the common basic standards on aviation security,
 - Decision 66/2016 with regard to movement of pet animals,
 - Decision 92/2016 on net neutrality and roaming on public mobile communications networks,
 - Decision 97/2016 on the public procurement legislative framework.

Decision shaping

6. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 14 EU programmes and 18 agencies, of which 13 were regulatory agencies and five executive agencies.
7. Since the last EEA Council, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of EEA EFTA Comments on the following subjects, to which the EU side has provided oral and/ or written reactions:
- Upcoming proposal regarding contract rules for online purchases of digital content and tangible goods.
 - The public consultation on the evaluation and review of regulatory framework for electronic communications networks and services,
 - Possible action addressing the challenges of work-life balance faced by working parents and caregivers,

Briefings in the Joint Committee

8. Briefings on the following subjects were provided in the EEA Joint Committee:

- Capital controls in Greece,
- Capital controls in Iceland,
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations.

Status of outstanding issues

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

- the Directive on the Deposit Guarantee Scheme,
- the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market,
- the remaining part of the 2009 TELECOM package, including the Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC),
- the Third Postal Directive,
- the Regulation on Medicinal Products for Paediatric Use,
- the Marine Strategy Framework Directive,
- the Offshore Safety Directive,
- the EU legal acts in the area of organic production.

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

Financial Services

10. The first package of 9 JCDs containing 31 legal acts in the area of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) was after successful preparatory talks submitted to the EU side for formal processing on 9 March 2016. The position on the EU side shall now be established by the Council. This package has also been submitted to the national parliaments in the EEA EFTA States for approval.

Financial Mechanisms

11. The Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism for the 2014-2021 period was signed on 3 May 2016, with a total commitment of 1548.1 million euro. The Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the 2014-2021 period, with a total commitment of 1253.7 million euro, was also signed on 3 May 2016. The aim of the Financial Mechanisms is to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthen bilateral relations.
 12. For the period 2009-2014, 993.5 million euro has been set aside under the EEA Financial Mechanism and an additional 804.6 million euro under the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. Programmes and projects under both Mechanisms may be implemented until 2016.
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