

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A
S T A N D I N G C O M M I T T E E
O F T H E E F T A S T A T E S

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NORWAY CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE

SECOND HALF OF 2018

The purpose of this programme is to give a general orientation to work and activities at all levels on the EEA EFTA side, particularly under the EFTA Standing Committee structure and in the Secretariat, which services it. This programme is supplemented by the work programmes for the subcommittees and selected EEA EFTA working groups. The list of items is not exhaustive and intended to highlight specific key issues under discussion.

I. DECISION SHAPING

Focus on key issues in the pre-pipeline and pipeline stage and encourage the preparation of EEA EFTA Comments, which serve as an important tool for influencing EEA-relevant legislation. In this respect, ensure that executive summaries be prepared for such comments, that the necessary follow-up takes place, and share responses from the Commission services with the appropriate experts. Assess legislation at an early stage in order to formulate and promote positions while it is still possible to influence the legislation. Particular priority should be given to the following areas:

New EU programmes 2021-2027

Ensure preparations for EEA EFTA participation in the new EU programmes under the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are made through regular dissemination of information to EEA EFTA working groups, on the development of the MFF and assessments of individual programme proposals.

Social Dimension

Monitor the roll-out of the European Pillar of Social Rights, including the proposal of the establishment of the European Labour Authority (ELA), particularly the taking over by the ELA of certain administrative tasks in the field of social security and EEA EFTA States participation in the management board of the Authority. Follow the discussions in the EU and promote EFTA positions on the Third Mobility package.

Financial services

Follow closely the Commission proposal for the revision of the European Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) regulations in order to seek to ensure full participation for the EEA EFTA States, except for the right to vote, and that direct supervision at European level be limited to instances where national supervision is obviously inferior due to the nature of the supervised entities.

Climate Change, Environment & Energy

Follow developments related to the circular economy, notably on plastics and chemicals. Follow closely the remaining proposals published as part of the Clean Energy package. They notably include recasts of the Electricity Directive, the Electricity Regulation and the ACER (Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators) Regulation, all of which were in the Third Energy Market package.

Internal Market

Follow the Commission proposal on the Goods package, as well as proposed legislation on the Digital Single Market, especially proposals to further develop the European Data Economy, E-privacy and the Regulation on Platform to Business. Follow the discussions on proposed consumer protection legislation, such as Contracts for the Sales of Goods and the New Deal for Consumers package.

II. DECISION MAKING

Swift incorporation of EU acquis is important to maintain homogeneity in the EEA. Continue recent progress in incorporating into the EEA Agreement legal acts that have passed the compliance date on the EU side. Ensure active and early engagement from both the EEA EFTA States and the EU side to enter into dialogue to obtain common solutions. The following areas will require particular attention:

Financial services

Acts in the financial services area constitute approximately half of the outstanding acts. Expect to see movement on several important packages of acts in the next half of the year, such as the Anti-Money Laundering Directive, Markets in Financial Instruments Directive/Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation (MiFID II/MiFIR) on investment services and Capital Requirements Directives and Regulation (CRD IV/CRR) on credit institutions.

Communication & Transport

Ensure the incorporation and entry into force of the General Data Protection Regulation. Prepare for the incorporation of the new Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the new Directive establishing the European Electronic Communication Code, replacing the current regulatory framework in telecommunication, the Single European Railway Area (3rd and 4th package), Ship Inspection and the Postal Services Directive.

Environment & Climate Change

Work toward incorporation of the regulation on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases, the Directive on Ship Recycling, the revised Directive on Emissions Trading, and the four revised waste directives of the Circular Economy package. Continue to work for a solution for joint fulfilment of Norway and Iceland's GHG emissions reduction target for 2030 with the EU, including further progress in discussions with regard to their participation in effort-sharing and Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF).

Energy

Following entry into force of the Third Energy Market package, progress is expected on the incorporation of some energy acts, notably Regulation on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT). Work towards incorporation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED), the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Network Codes. Initiate the incorporation process of the legal acts that were proposed as part of the Clean Energy package and

which have already been adopted (amended EED, amended EPBD, recast Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Directive, new Governance of the Energy Union Regulation).

Social Dimension

Seek to incorporate the Directive to Improve the Enforcement of Provisions Applicable to Posted Workers and prepare incorporation of the revised Posting of Workers Directive.

Health & Food

Ensure thorough preparation of the incorporation of the legislation regarding Animal Health, Official Controls along the Food Chain, Organic Production and regulations on Medical Devices. Continue working towards incorporation of the Tobacco Products Directive and the GM Food and Feed-package.

III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Brexit

Deepen the dialogue between the EEA EFTA States, the EU and the UK in order to preserve the integrity of the internal market. Ensure that relevant parts of the Withdrawal Agreement are extended to the EEA EFTA States and enter into force simultaneously with the Withdrawal Agreement. Continue the close collaboration and information sharing for all Brexit-related matters, including for future arrangements with the UK post-Brexit.

Cooperation

Ensure EEA EFTA participation in EEA relevant informal EU Councils. Continue and further develop political dialogues with the EU on foreign and security policy and informal dialogues with the EFTA Working Party of the EU Council on EEA and EFTA related issues. Continue the close cooperation and dialogue with the EEA and EFTA Consultative and Parliamentary Committees.

Outreach

Continue to strengthen the knowledge of the EEA Agreement and the Financial Mechanisms through the organisation of events and make full use of the available tools to disseminate EEA information. Prepare for an event on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the EEA Agreement.