

EEA EFTA Comments Decision Shaping

Seminar on the European Economic Area
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Agenda

Decision shaping seen from the EEA EFTA side

What is an EEA EFTA Comment?

How do we develop and follow up on EEA EFTA Comments?

Why do we submit EEA EFTA Comments?



Decision shaping by the EEA EFTA States

The EEA EFTA States take on board EU legislation through the EEA Agreement, but the Agreement does not grant us voting (decision making) rights on the EU side.

- Objective: Contribute to the development of EU legislation and policy/strategy up until they are formally adopted

- Means available to the EEA EFTA States:
 - I. Experts' participation in Commission Experts Groups and Committees, but without the right to vote
 - II. Contributing to the management of EU programmes
 - III. Contributing to the work of EU agencies
 - IV. EEA EFTA Comments on new policies and Commission proposals for legislation



EEA EFTA Comment

- Common position paper agreed by the governments of the EEA EFTA States to raise issues of importance to them
- Issued during consultation phase, after adoption or throughout co-decision procedures
- Submitted to Secretariat-General, relevant DGs, European Parliament and current/incoming Council Presidency

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE EFTA STATES

Ref. 21-3203

10 November 2021

SUBCOMMITTEE II ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

EEA EFTA Comment

on the Commission Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act) - [COM/2020/842](#)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- *The EEA Agreement extends the Single Market to the EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway). Continued incorporation of relevant EU legislation into the Agreement ensures legal homogeneity throughout the EEA.*
- *The EEA EFTA States welcome the proposal for a Regulation on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector (Digital Markets Act, DMA). As some large platforms currently act as gatekeepers in digital markets, the EEA EFTA States fully support the overall objective of the proposal to harmonise rules in support of contestable and fair digital markets in the EEA.*
- *Concerning the designation of gatekeepers, the EEA EFTA States are of the view that the thresholds put forward by the Commission would best serve the proposal's objectives, while not imposing an unnecessary regulatory burden on smaller platforms.*
- *The EEA EFTA States acknowledge that digital gatekeepers and platforms differ substantially in their characteristics and business models. Therefore, as Articles 5 and 6 apply to all gatekeepers, caution should be shown if the lists of obligations were to be extended during the EU legislative process.*

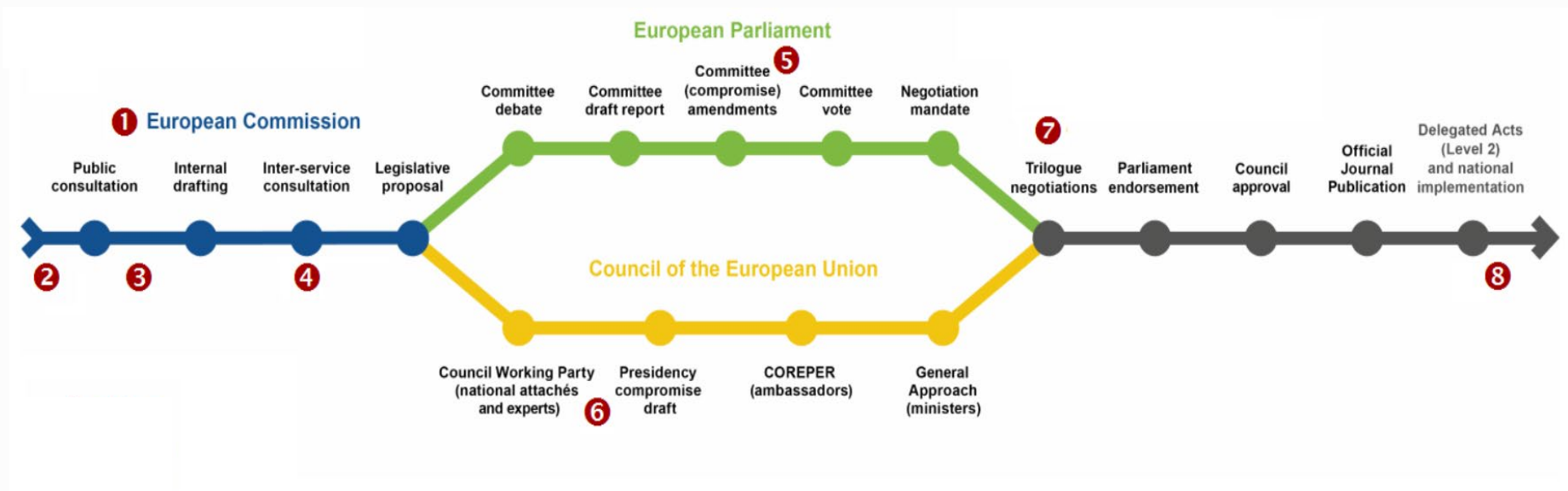


Process to develop EEA EFTA Comment



Alignment with EU legislative process

- Accommodate for milestones in the EU legislative process
- Monitor developments in Council and EP throughout the legislative process



Follow up on EEA EFTA Comments

- Discussions between representative from the EU institutions and EEA EFTA Member States
 - EFTA Working Groups/Expert Groups
 - Bilateral meetings
 - Request for further examples/experiences from EEA EFTA States
- Assessing need for follow-up Comment



Participation in the EU policy debate

- Tool for maintaining an active dialogue with the EU side and for further discussions on new initiatives
- EFTA as an intergovernmental organization concerned with public policy
- Visibility and awareness of the EEA Agreement



250 EEA EFTA Comments over 27 years

Comments by year: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996, 1995, 1994

Date	Subject
17.06.2022	EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal for Union Secure Connectivity Programme
25.05.2022	EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal for a Regulation on European Green Bonds
11.04.2022	EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal for a Regulation on general product safety
24.01.2022	EEA EFTA Comment on the legislative proposals on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism
16.12.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the Regulation for strengthening the CO2 emission performance standards
07.12.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the revision of the AFI Directive
10.11.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal for a Digital Markets Act
29.09.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal for a Digital Services Act
03.05.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the revision of the Eurovignette Directive
04.03.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the Farm to Fork Strategy for a fair, healthy and environment-friendly food system
18.02.2021	EEA EFTA Comment on the Review of the Construction Products Regulation



Thank you!



EEA EFTA Comments

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