

Advisory bodies and the EEA

MPs, social partners and local/regional representation

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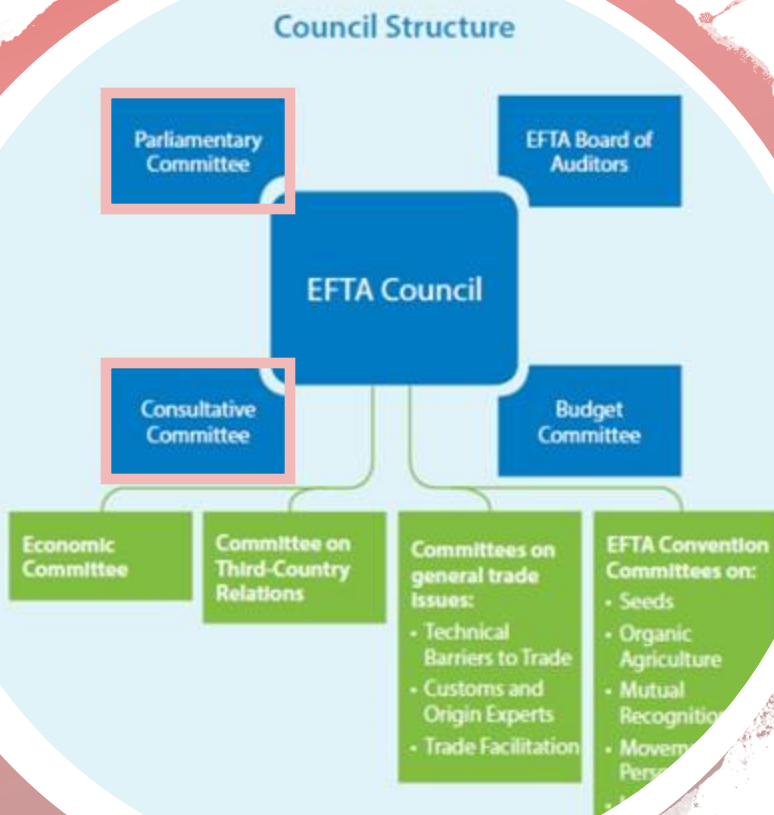


Outline

- > Introduction to EFTA advisory bodies
- > EEA parliamentary scrutiny
- > Social partners and the EEA
- > EEA regional and local
- > Questions & answers



The EFTA advisory bodies

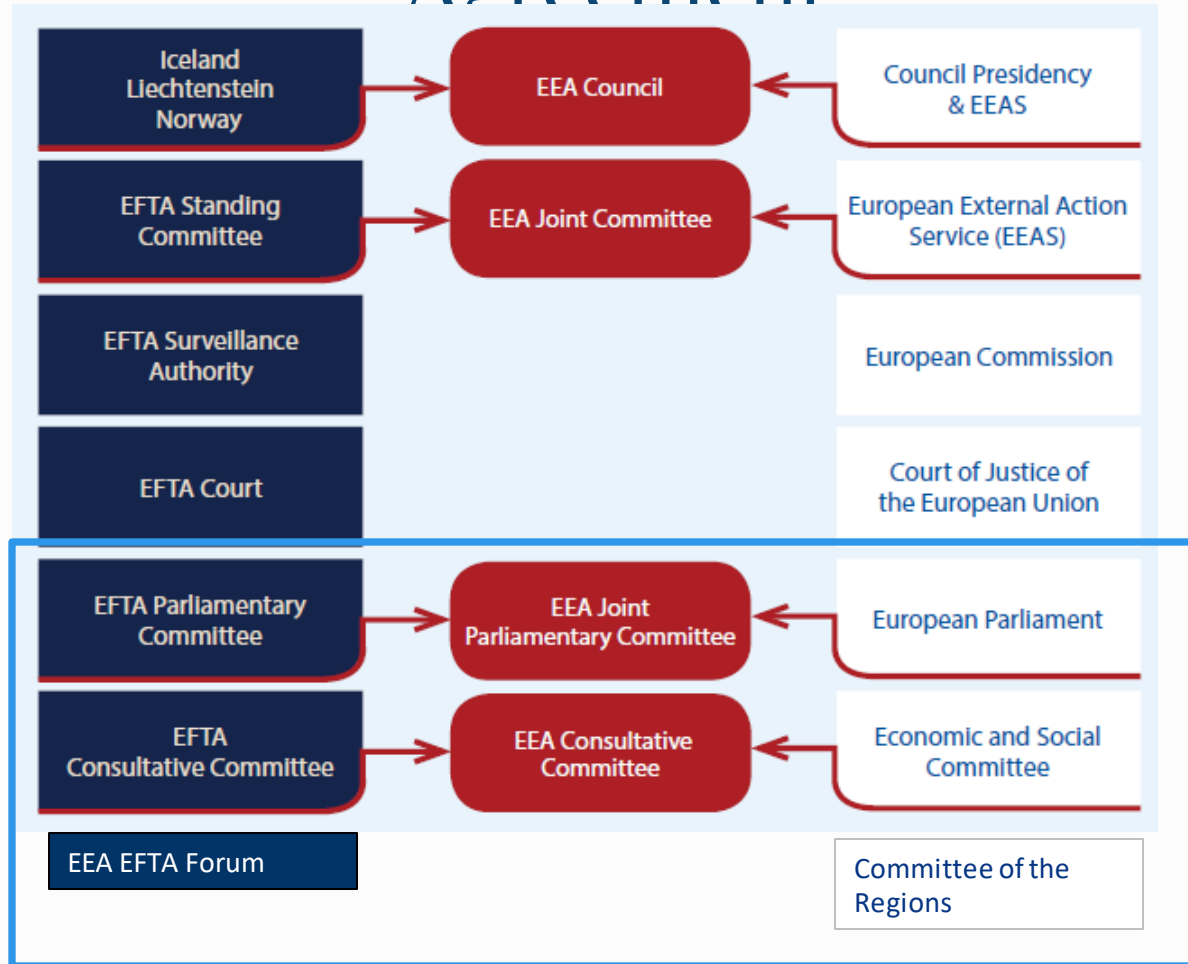


- The **EFTA Parliamentary Committee**: forum for EFTA States' Parliamentarians
- The **EFTA Consultative Committee**: forum for representatives of Trade Unions and Business and Employers Associations in EFTA States

Role and mandate:

- Provide advice to EFTA member states:
 1. Relations with the EU/EEA
 2. Relations with third-countries

EFTA advisory bodies and the EEA Agreement



EEA parliamentary scrutiny – The EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee

- > EFTA PC formally meets **twice a year** with the EP Delegation for the relations with EFTA countries and the EEA.
- > **Scrutinises** the functioning of the EEA Agreement according to **its art. 95**
- > **Monitors** EU legislative developments and their impact on the EEA Agreement
- > **Expresses its views** in the form of resolutions and reports.



57th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee on 24 and 25 May 2022 in Oslo under the co-chairmanship of Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen (EFTA) and Christophe Grudler (EP).



Socials partners and the EEA – The EEA Consultative Committee

- > EFTA CC formally meets **once a year** with representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- > **Scrutinises** the functioning of the EEA Agreement according to its **art. 96**
- > **Monitors** EU legislative developments and their impact on the EEA Agreement
- > **Expresses its views** in the form of reports or resolutions, as appropriate.

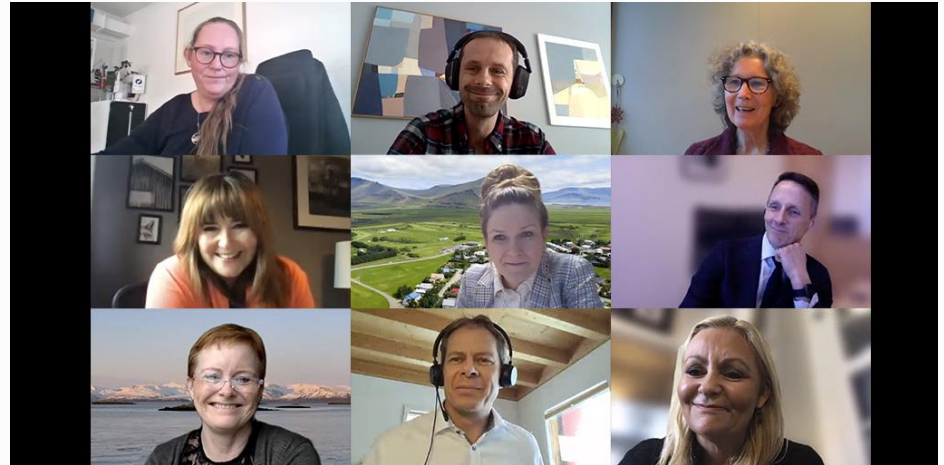


The EFTA CC meets with EEA EFTA Ambassadors in Brussels in March 2021.



The EEA locally & regionally – The EEA EFTA Forum

- > Established in 2009 by the EEA EFTA States
- > Involvement of elected representatives from local or regional authorities in EEA matters
- > Meets at least once a year
- > Informal links established with the European Committee of the Regions.
- > Formulates its views in the form of opinions addressed to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.



Delegates of the EEA EFTA Forum discussed the European Green Deal and the Proposal for adequate minimum wages in the EU at an online meeting on 28 and 29 January 2021



Other engagements of advisory bodies on EEA topics

- > Article 9 of Agreement on a Standing Committee of the EFTA States
 - > Consultation between Standing Committee and ABs
 - > EFTA PC and CC may express their views on any matter of relevance for the functioning and development of the EEA
- > Various meetings on EEA-related topics – both EFTA PC and CC
- > Meeting with EEA EFTA Foreign Ministers (margins of EEA Council)
- > EFTA CC meeting with EEA EFTA Ambassadors in spring



Topics of special interest

- > Formal resolutions and opinions of ABs
- > Climate change and the EEA
- > Green transition
- > Digital transition and EEA legislation
- > Social policy developments (especially EFTA CC)
- > Overall development of the EEA and other important issues



Final remarks

- > EFTA advisory bodies: an **essential communication channel** with political, economic, social and civil society circles in EFTA Member States
- > Grown in importance – developments in European politics
- > Brings the EEA **closer to the citizens** of the EFTA States
- > Provides **democratic accountability and legitimacy** of the EEA Agreement



Questions and Answers



www.efta.int/Advisory-Bodies-521

