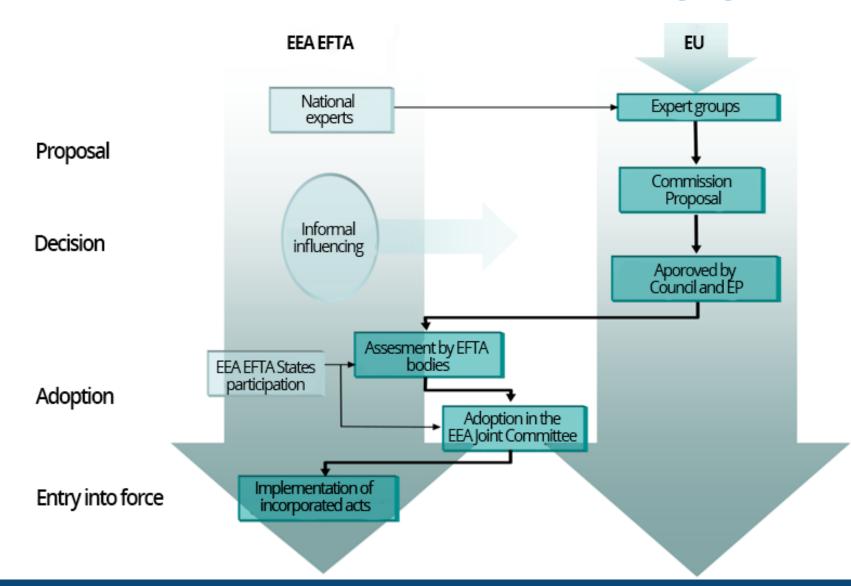
Functioning of the EEA Agreement

The Role of The EFTA Secretariat

Marit C. Schage Andria
Director Internal Market Division
maritschage.andria@efta.int



From EU to EEA – Participation, engagement and process





Numbers and key sectors

- Legal acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement
 - 1.875 acts when signing the Agreement in 1992
 - o 14 000+ acts incorporated since the signing
 - 6 000+ acts in force today
- Food and Veterinary area 35 % of all the acts incorporated
 - o Full compliance with the EU rules on the food chain
 - Frictionless export of seafood and agricultural goods
 - No veterinary import/export controls only customs
- Other high-volume sectors
 - Transport in general, air, road, rail and maritime
 - Financial Services
 - o Goods Technical regulations and specifications



The functioning of the EEA

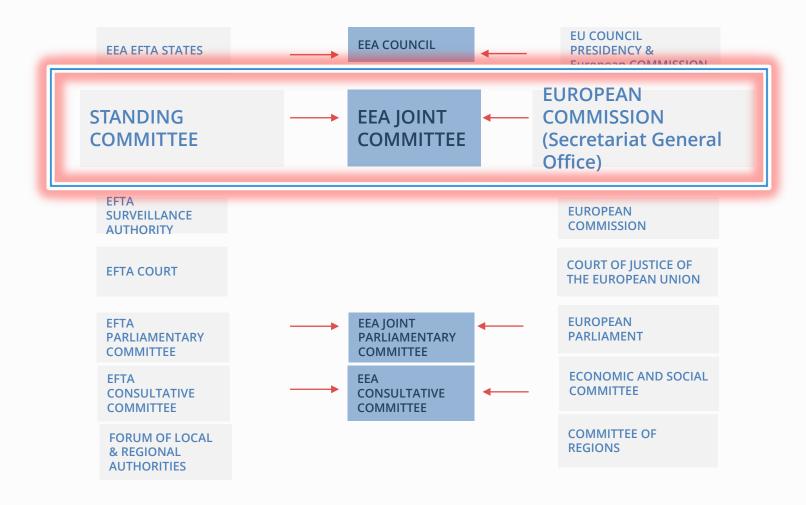
To ensure a homogeneous Internal Market throughout the EEA

Challenges

- To achieve homogeneity requires speedy incorporation
- The *EEA process* takes time by its nature
- Increased complexity of new EU acts to incorporate cause additional delays
- New powers given to EU authorities challenge to the EEA two pillar system
- Increased volume of acts adopted in the EU
- ☐ Other challenges (Brexit, COVID-19, Ukraine)



The Two Pillar Structure





EFTA Secretariat

- The facilitator

Standing Committee of the EFTA States

Subcommittee I Free Movement of Goods Subcommittee II Free Movement of Services and Capital Subcommittee III Free Movement of Persons Subcommittee IV Flanking and Horizontal Policies Subcommittee V Legal and Institutional Matters

WORKING GROUPS

- Competition Policy
- Customs Matters
- Customs Security
 Measures
- Energy Matters
- · Food Chain
- Intellectual Property
- Processed Agricultural Prod.
- Public Procurement
- State Aid
- Technical Barriers to Trade
 - Expert Groups

- Company Law
- Electronic
 Communications,
 Audiovisual Services
 and Information
 Society
- Financial Services
- Postal Services
- Transport

- Free Movement of Persons, Employment and Social Policy
- Recognition of Professional Qualifications
- Social Security

- Budgetary Matters
- Civil Protection
- Consumer Affairs
- · Cultural Affairs
- Education, Training and Youth
- Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs
- Environment
- Gender Equality, Anti-Discrimination and Family Policy
- Health and Safety at Work and Labour Law
- Public Health
- · Research and

22 September 2022 EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION

Two main strands of the EEA work

➤ **Decision shaping** – Participation in the development of EU legislation before EU adoption

➤ **Decision making** – Incorporation into the EEA Agreement of an adopted EU EEA relevant legislative act



Decision shaping

EEA channels for participation and influence

- □ Formal participation in EU expert groups and committees EEA EFTA experts without the right to vote
- ☐ Early assessment by EEA EFTA Experts of EEA challenges in EU proposals
- EEA EFTA-Comments (available on efta.int)
- Informal contact between EEA EFTA officials and the EU Council and European Parliament
- Secondment of National experts to the Commission



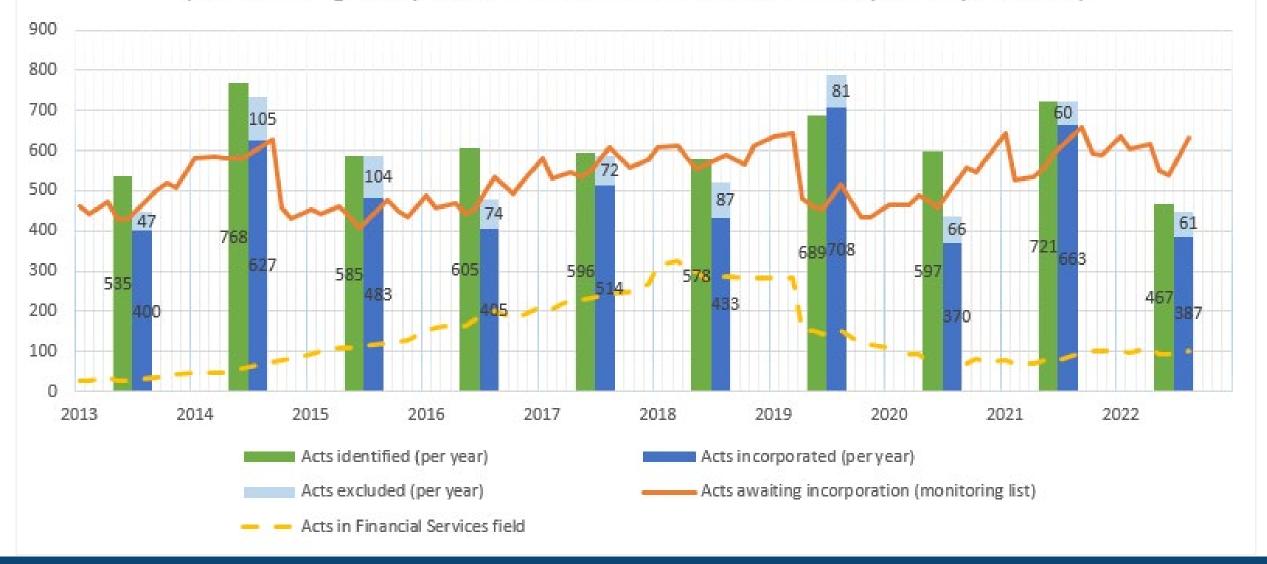
Decision making





Processing volumes and Backlog

(acts awaiting incorporation vs. acts identified & acts incorporated/excluded)



EEA EFTA States' Participation in EU Programmes 2021-2027

- Cooperation outside the four freedoms
- Legal base Part VI of the EEA Agreement
- Financial contribution
 - The EEA EFTA states make **annual payments** towards the EU programmes
 - The **contribution is based on the relative size** of the gross domestic product (GDP) of the EEA EFTA states compared to the total GDP of the European Economic Area.
 - The EEA EFTA states contribution for 2021 was close to € 600 million
- Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ accounts for almost 2/3 of the total EEA EFTA budget

EEA EFTA Participation in 2021-2027

- Horizon Europe (ICE+NOR)
- Erasmus+
- European Space Programme
- Digital Europe
- European Defence Fund
- EU4Health

- Union Civil Protection Mechanism
- Creative Europe
- European Social Fund+ (ICE+NOR)
- Single Market Programme (ICE+NOR+LIE)
- Life
- European Solidarity Corps
- InvestEU

https://www.efta.int/eea/eu-programmes



Crisis management and the EEA

Covid 19 pandemic

- More than 100 COVID-19 related legal acts incorporated since spring 2020
- 30 acts have been incorporated via 8 special urgent written procedures in order to avoid serious market implications

Ukraine

- EU measures are normally not EEA-relevant, but relevant for the EEA
- Some legal acts are EEA relevant: food chain (2+1), transport (1)

The role of EFTA Secretariat

- ➤ **Monitors** all measures adopted by the EU in response to the COVID-19 crisis and the war in Ukraine
- Assists the EEA EFTA States to ensure that relevant measures also apply in the EEA EFTA States









