

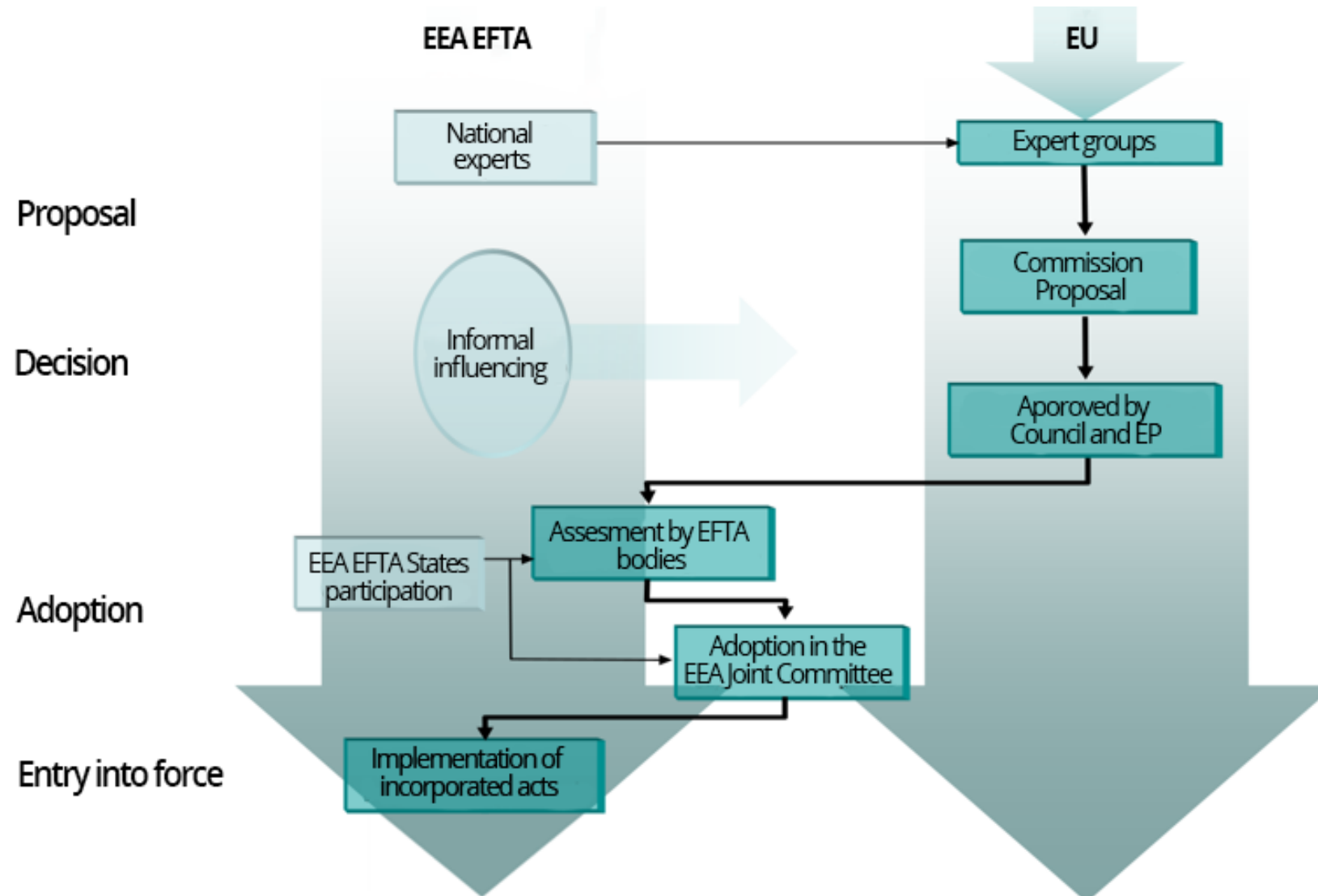
Functioning of the EEA Agreement

The Role of The EFTA Secretariat

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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
 - **14 000+ acts** incorporated since the signing
 - **6 000+ acts** in force today
- **Food and Veterinary area - 35 % of all the acts incorporated**
 - **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**
 - **Goods** - Technical regulations and specifications



The functioning of the EEA

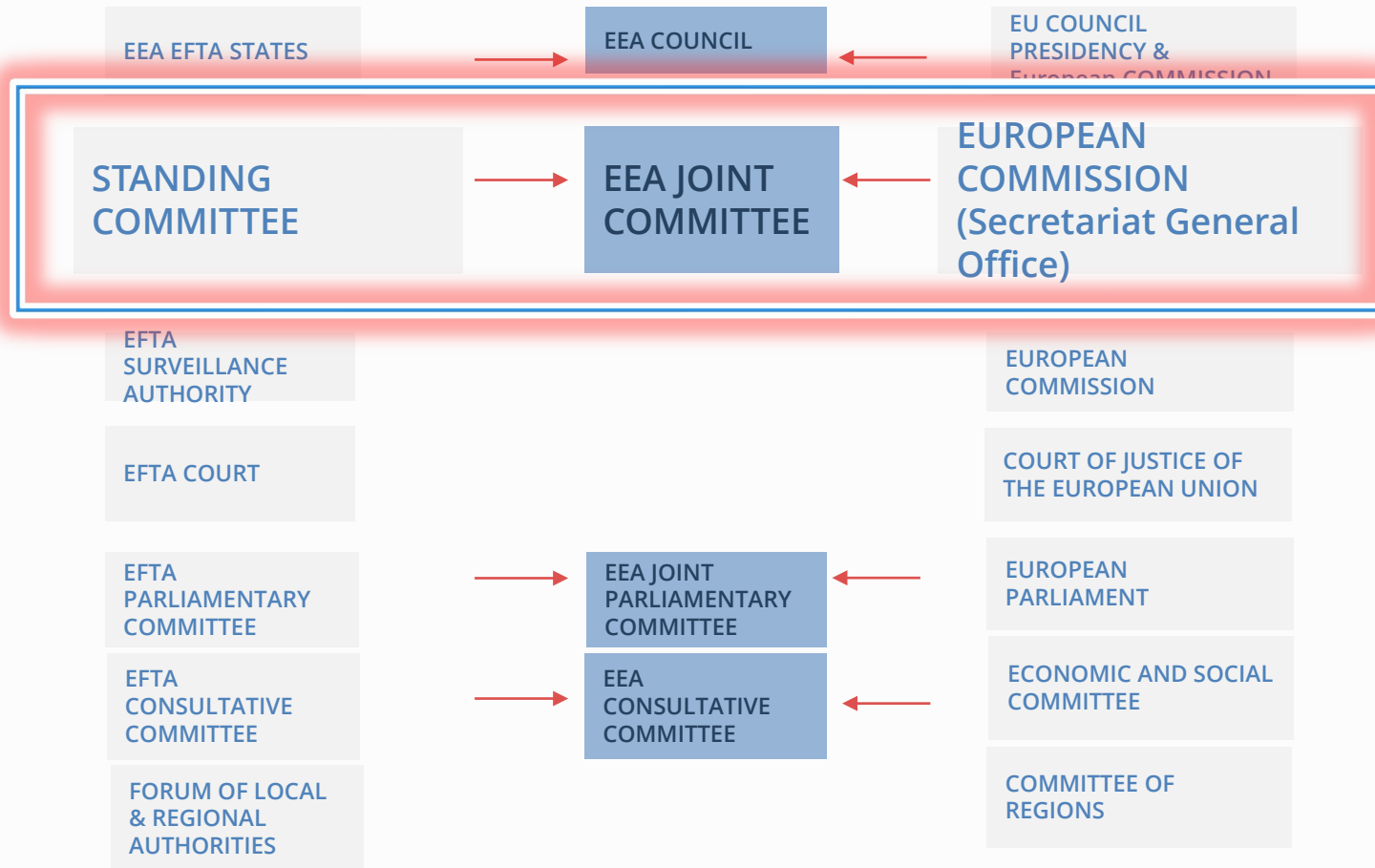
To ensure a **homogeneous** Internal Market throughout the EEA

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*)

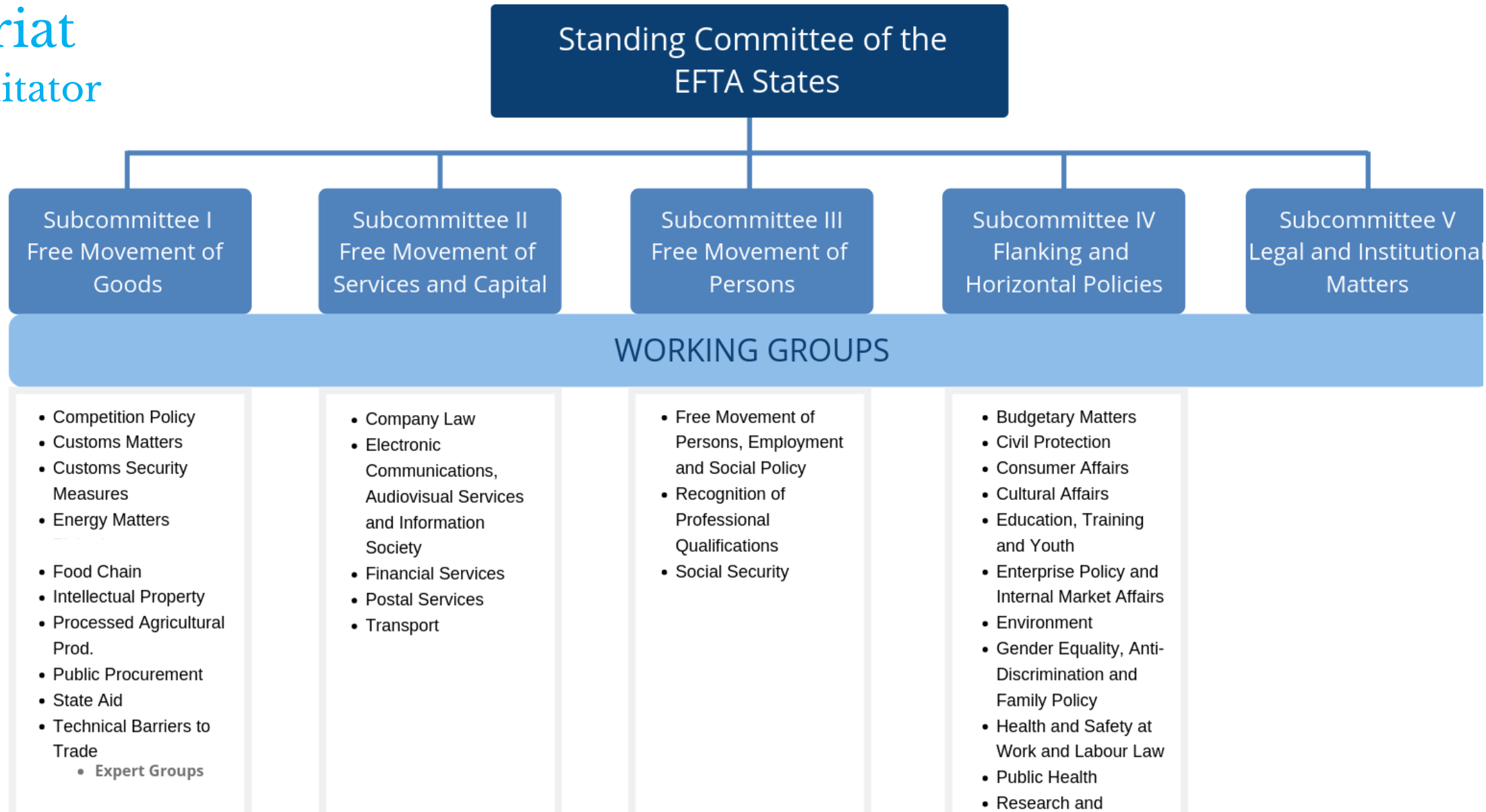


The Two Pillar Structure



EFTA Secretariat

- The facilitator



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**

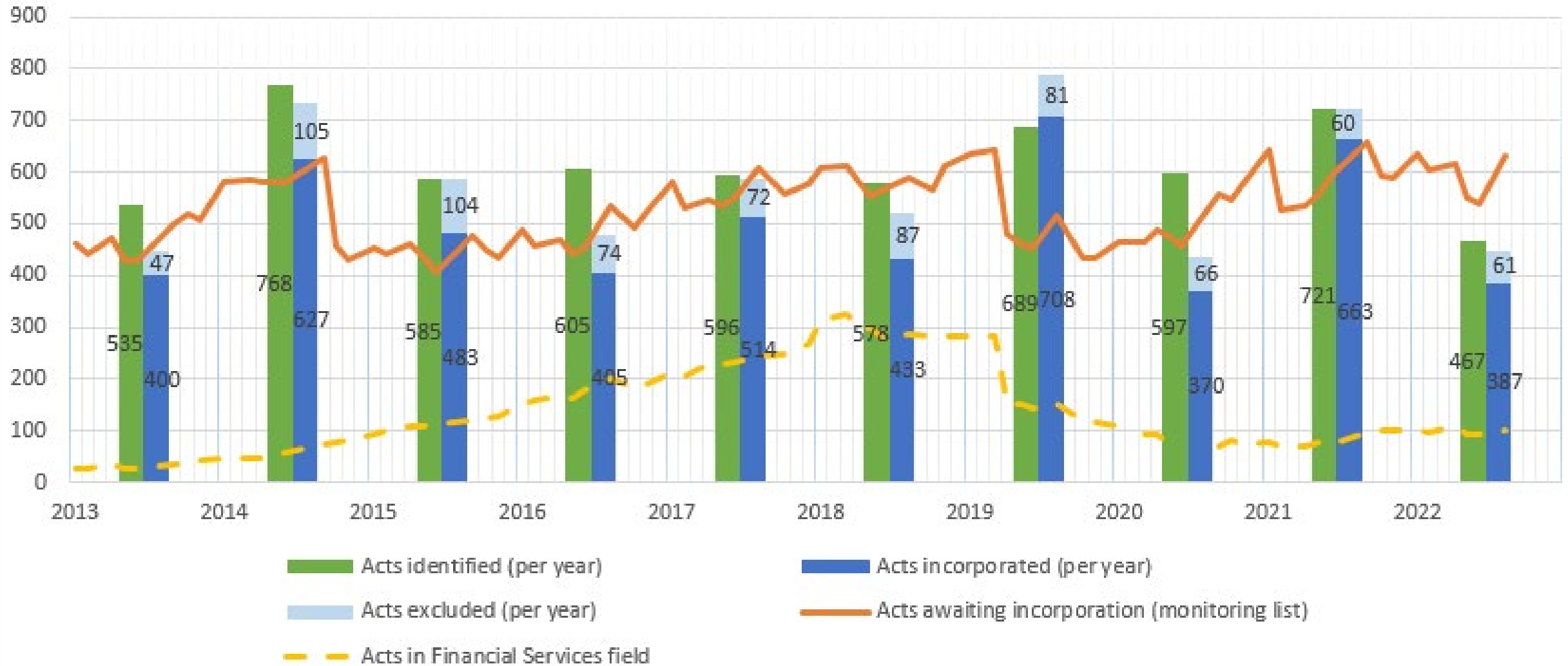


Decision making



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+*
(ICE+NOR+LIE)
- *European Space Programme*
(ICE+NOR)
- *Digital Europe*
(ICE+NOR+LIE)
- *European Defence Fund*
(NOR)
- *EU4Health*
(ICE+NOR)
- *Union Civil Protection Mechanism*
(ICE+NOR)
- *Creative Europe*
(ICE+NOR+LIE)
- *European Social Fund+*
(ICE+NOR)
- *Single Market Programme*
(ICE+NOR+LIE)
- *Life*
(ICE)
- *European Solidarity Corps*
(ICE, LIE)
- *InvestEU*
(ICE+NOR)

<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



