

# Introduction to the EEA Agreement

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# The EFTA Secretariat



## The EFTA Secretariat in Brussels – main tasks

- > Support the EEA EFTA States in their work with the EEA Agreement – decision shaping and decision making
- > Coordinating role between the EEA EFTA States and the Commission
- > Secretariat for EFTA's advisory bodies



# The EEA - objectives

- > *EEA Agreement extends the EU's internal market to the EEA EFTA states*
- > *“... establishing a dynamic and homogenous European Economic Area, based on common rules and equal conditions of competition and providing for the adequate means of enforcement at the judicial level, ...”*



# The EEA - scope

## "Four Freedoms"

- > Free movement of goods
- > Free movement of services
- > Free movement of capital
- > Free movement of persons

## Horizontal Policies

- > Environment
- > Social policy
- > Consumer protection
- > Statistics
- > Company law

## Common Rules

- > State aid
- > Competition
- > Public procurement

## Cooperation

- > EU programmes
- > EU agencies

## Cohesion

- > EEA and Norway Grants



# The EEA institutional structure – reconciling two different models

## The EU model

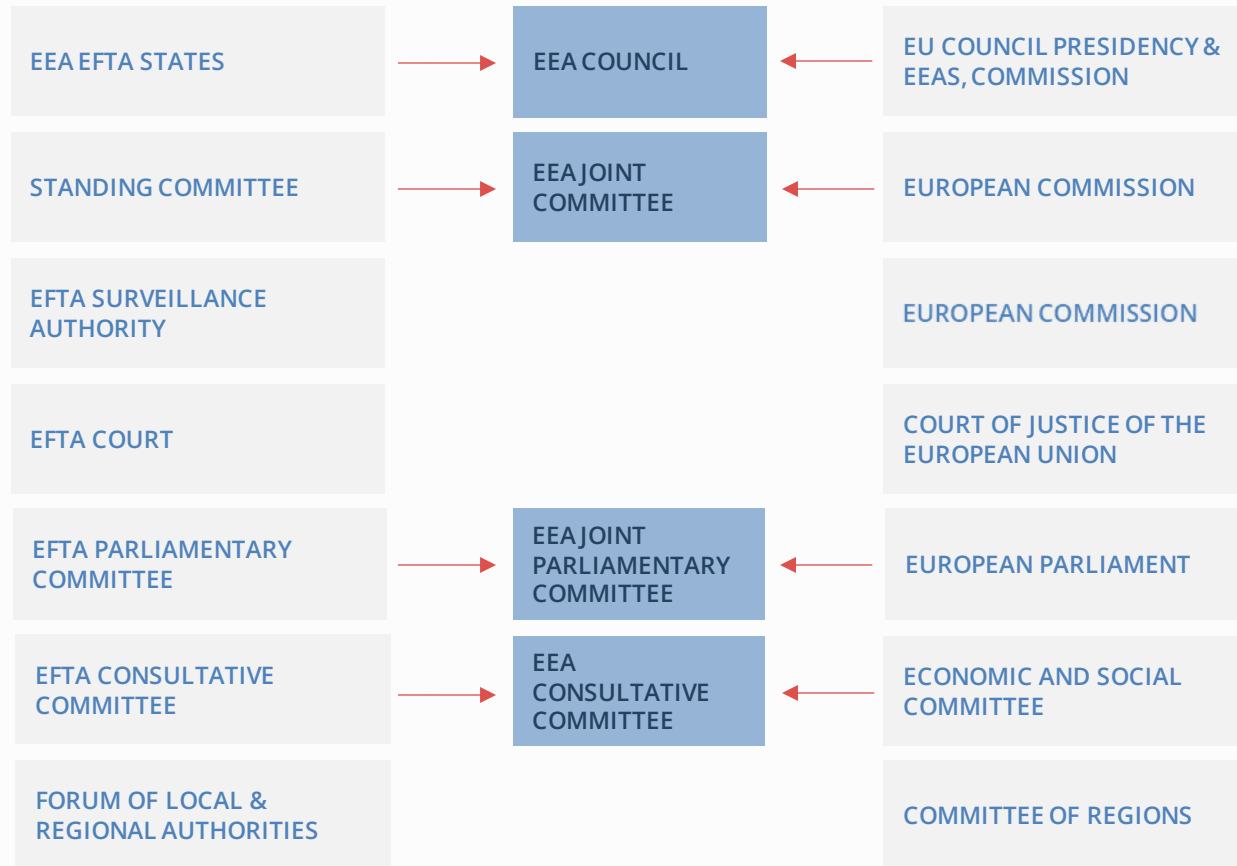
- Supranational organisation – transfer of competence
- Binding decisions by EU institutions (Commission – European Parliament – Council)
- Important concern: Preserving decision-making autonomy of the EU

## The EFTA model

- Intergovernmental cooperation – no transfer of competence
- Decisions taken by consensus between the governments of the EEA EFTA states
- Important concern: Preserving sovereignty



# The EEA two pillar structure



This diagram illustrates the management of the EEA Agreement. The left pillar shows the EFTA States and their institutions, while the right pillar shows the EU side. The joint EEA bodies are in the middle.



# EEA 25 years – EU Summit 22 March 2019

