



EFTA Secretariat

EFTA Introductory Seminar on the EEA

**Tuesday, 15 September 2020
Programme**

Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the EFTA Secretariat cannot allow external visitors to access its premises. Therefore, this EEA Seminar will be conducted via videoconference. All registered participants will be provided with a link to access the Seminar through a Teams meeting. The Seminar will still be just as interactive as previous seminars, with the possibility of giving comments and asking questions throughout the day.

PART I: EEA INCORPORATION

- 09:15 Video links open
- 09:30-09:40 **Welcoming remarks**
Henri Gétaz, EFTA Secretary-General
- 09:40-10:00 **Welcome and Introduction to the EEA Agreement**
Hege Marie Hoff, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat
- 10:00-10:30 **Functioning of the EEA Agreement and role of the EFTA Secretariat**
Brit Helle, Director of Internal Market Division, EFTA Secretariat
- 10:30-10:45 **Break**
- 10:45-11:00 **EEA EFTA States in the second half of 2020 – Challenges and Priorities**
Sabine Monauni, Ambassador of Liechtenstein to the EU and Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee in the second half of 2020
- 11:00-11:15 **The EEA: The EU perspective**
Angelina Eichhorst, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service
- 11:30-12:00 **How EU law becomes EEA law**
Finnur Þór Birgisson, Head of Legal Coordination, EFTA Secretariat
- 12:00-12:10 **EEA Publications and Information sources**
Kjell Leifsen, Team Coordinator Translation and Publication, EFTA Secretariat
- Wrap – Q & A**
- 12:20-13:00 **Lunch break**



PART II: EEA IMPLEMENTATION

- 13:00-13:30 **Surveillance: How EEA law is enforced**
Catherine Howdle, Deputy Director, Legal and Executive Affairs, EFTA Surveillance Authority
- 13:30-14:00 **Judicial control: How EEA law is interpreted**
Ólafur Einarsson, Registrar, EFTA Court
- 14:00-14:15 **Questions & Answers – ESA & EFTA Court**
- 14:15-14:30 **Break**

PART III: CURRENT EEA CHALLENGES

- 14:30-14:50 **EEA-related COVID-19 Response**
Bente Angell-Hansen, President of the EFTA Surveillance Authority
- 14:50-15:10 **UK leaving the EEA – State of Play**
Andri Lúthersson, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:10-15:30 **EU Strategies for Artificial Intelligence and Data**
Trond Helge Baardsen, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:30-15:50 **European Green Deal: Delivering a Green Shift for the EU economy**
Olav Berg, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:50 **Wrap-up: Questions & Answers**
Thorfinnur Omarsson, Head of Communications, EFTA Secretariat, with inputs from EFTA Secretariat's sector officers in all EEA policy areas