

# Advisory bodies and the EEA

## Parliamentarians, social partners and local representation

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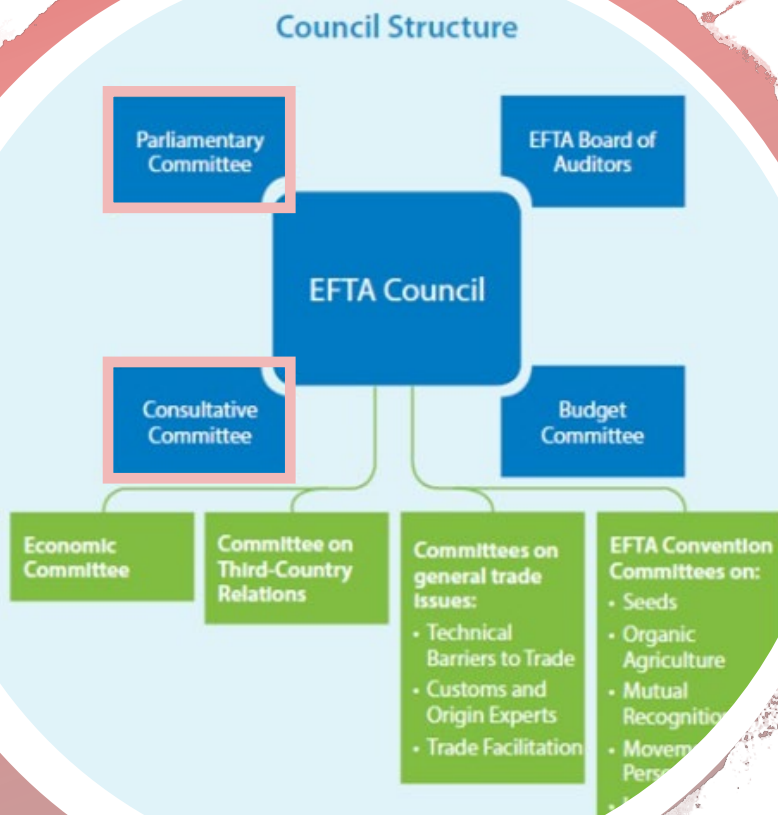


# Outline

- > Introduction to EFTA Advisory Bodies
- > EEA parliamentary scrutiny
- > Social partners and the EEA
- > EEA regionally and locally
- > Questions & answers



# The EFTA Advisory Bodies

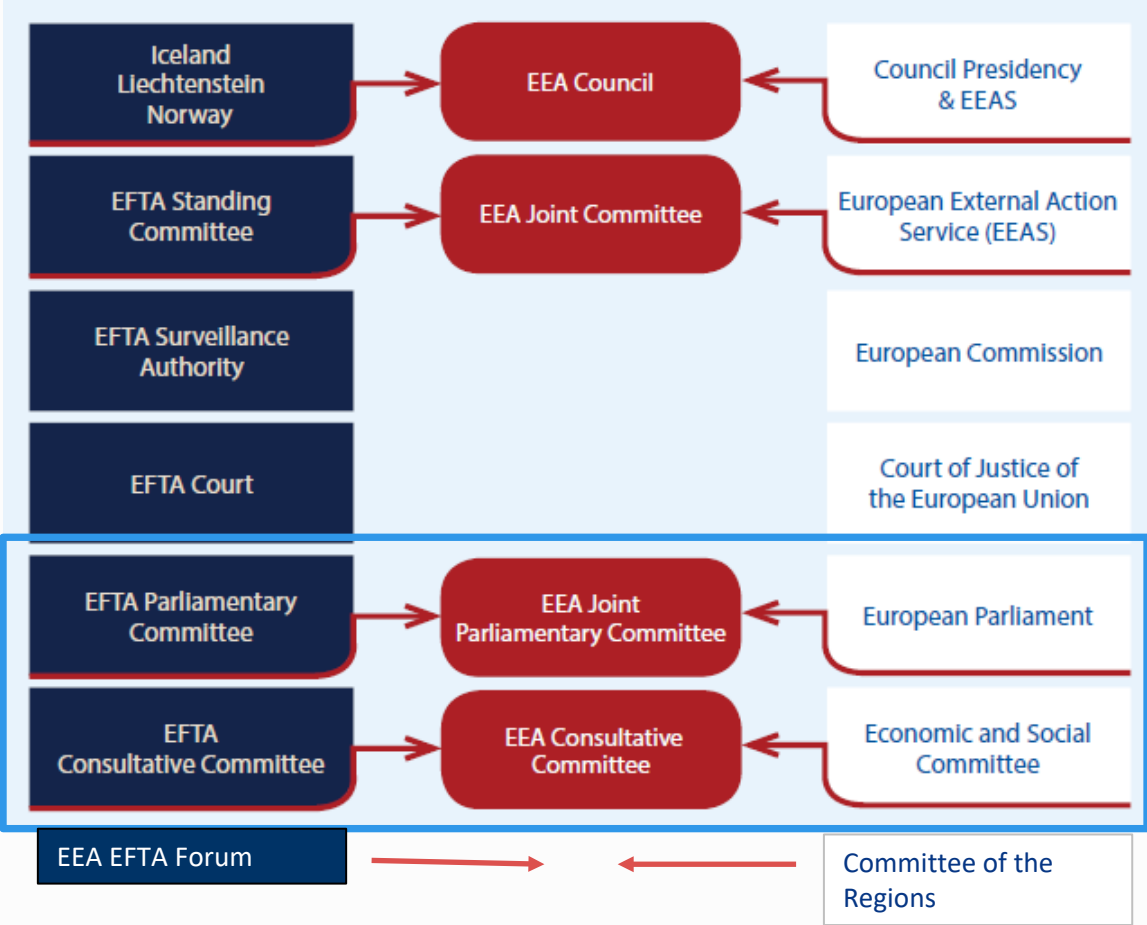


- The **EFTA Parliamentary Committee**: forum for EFTA States' Parliamentarians
- The **EFTA Consultative Committee**: forum for representatives of Trade Unions and Business and Employers Associations in EFTA States

## 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 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.



*EEA JPC Chair and Vice-chair meet at the 53rd EEA JPC meeting in Vaduz on 30 October 2019.*



# Socials partners and the EEA – The EEA Consultative Committee

- > EFTA CC 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 EEA CC celebrated the 25th anniversary of the EEA Agreement on 24 May 2019



# 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 their last online meeting on 28 and 29 January 2021*



# Final remarks

- > EFTA Advisory Bodies: an **essential communication channel** with political, economic, social and civil society circles in EFTA Member States
- > 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](http://www.efta.int/Advisory-Bodies-521)

