



EFTA Introductory Seminar on the EEA

Tuesday, 14 September 2021
Draft Programme

This EEA Seminar will be conducted in a hybrid format; partly in the EFTA House in Brussels, with some of the presentations via video facilities. The whole Seminar will be accessible via videoconference.

PART I: EEA INCORPORATION

- 09:15 Video links open
- 09:30 **Opening remarks**
Henri Gétaz, EFTA Secretary-General
- 09:40 **Welcome and Introduction to the EEA Agreement**
Hege Marie Hoff, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat
- 10:00 **Functioning of the EEA Agreement and role of the EFTA Secretariat**
Auður Steinarsdóttir, Deputy Director, Internal Market Division, EFTA Secretariat
- 10:20 **How EU law becomes EEA law**
Finnur Þór Birgisson, Head of Legal Coordination, EFTA Secretariat
- 10:50 **Q & A**
- 11:00 **Break**
- 11:15 **EEA EFTA States in the second half of 2021 – Challenges and Priorities**
Rolf Einar Fife, Ambassador of Norway to the EU and Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee in the second half of 2021
- 11:30 **The EEA: The EU perspective**
Angelina Eichhorst, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service
- 11:45 **Q & A**
- 12:00-13:00 **Lunch break**



PART II: EEA IMPLEMENTATION

- 13:00 **Surveillance: How EEA law is enforced**
Melpo-Menie Joséphidès, Director, Legal and Executive Affairs, EFTA Surveillance Authority
- 13:30 **Judicial control: How EEA law is interpreted**
Ólafur Einarsson, Registrar, EFTA Court
- 14:00 **How EEA & Norway Grants reduce disparities in the EEA**
Árni Páll Árnason, Deputy Directory, Financial Mechanism Office (EEA & Norway Grants)
- 14:20 **EFTA Statistical cooperation with Eurostat for 30 years**
Volker Taube, Director of EFTA Statistical Office
- 14:30 **Break**

PART III: SHAPING EU POLICIES

- 14:40 **EU Digital Agenda**
Trond Helge Baardsen, Officer Internal Market Division, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:00 **EEA EFTA States' participation in EU framework programmes**
Thorsteinn Björnsson, Officer Internal Market Division, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:20 **EFTA Advisory bodies: Parliamentarians, social partners and local/regional representation in the EEA**
Pétur Gunnarsson, Officer to the EFTA Consultative Committee, EFTA Secretariat
- 15:30 **Concluding remarks**
Tore Myhre, Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)
- 15:45 **Wrap-up: Questions & Answers**
Thorfinnur Omarsson, Head of Communications, EFTA Secretariat, with inputs from EFTA Secretariat's sector officers in all EEA policy areas