



## **EFTA Secretariat**

### **EFTA Introductory Seminar on the EEA**

**Tuesday, 9 February 2021**

#### **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 previous seminars, with the possibility of giving comments and asking questions throughout the day.

#### **PART I: EEA INCORPORATION**

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| 09:15       | Video links open  |
| 09:30-09:40 | <b>Welcoming remarks</b><br>Henri Gétaz, EFTA Secretary-General   |
| 09:40-10:00 | <b>Welcome and Introduction to the EEA Agreement</b><br>Hege Marie Hoff, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat   |
| 10:00-10:30 | <b>Functioning of the EEA Agreement and role of the EFTA Secretariat</b><br>Brit Helle, Director of Internal Market Division, EFTA Secretariat  |
| 10:30-10:45 | <b>Break</b>  |
| 10:45-11:00 | <b>EEA EFTA States in the first half of 2021 – Challenges and Priorities</b><br>Kristján Andri Stefánsson, Ambassador of Iceland to the EU and Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee in the first half of 2021 |
| 11:00-11:15 | <b>The EEA: The EU perspective</b><br>Angelina Eichhorst, Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia, European External Action Service   |
| 11:15-11:45 | <b>How EU law becomes EEA law</b><br>Finnur Þór Birgisson, Head of Legal Coordination, EFTA Secretariat   |
| 11:45-12:00 | <b>EEA Publications and Information sources</b><br>Kjell Leifsen, Team Coordinator Translation and Publication, EFTA Secretariat  |
|             | <b>Wrap – Q &amp; A</b>   |
| 12:20-13:00 | <b>Lunch break</b>  |



## **PART II: EEA IMPLEMENTATION**

- 13:00-13:20    **EFTA Advisory bodies: Parliamentarians, social partners and local/regional representation in the EEA**  
Christophe Zufferey, Officer to the EFTA & EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee
- 13:20-13:50    **How EEA & Norway Grants reduce disparities and strengthen cooperation in the EEA**  
Árni Páll Árnason, Deputy Director, Financial Mechanism Office (EEA & Norway Grants)
- 13:50-14:30    **Surveillance: How EEA law is enforced**  
Jarle Hetland, Head of Communications, EFTA Surveillance Authority
- 14:30-15:10    **Judicial control: How EEA law is interpreted**  
Ólafur Einarsson, Registrar, EFTA Court
- 15:10-15:30    **EFTA Statistical cooperation with Eurostat for 30 years**  
Volker Taube, Director of EFTA Statistical Office
- 15:30            **Wrap-up: Questions & Answers**  
Thorfinnur Omarsson, Head of Communications, EFTA Secretariat, with inputs from EFTA Secretariat's sector officers in all EEA policy areas