

PROTOCOL 27

ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF STATE AID

In order to ensure a uniform implementation, application and interpretation of the rules on State aid throughout the territory of the Contracting Parties as well as to guarantee their harmonious development, the EC Commission and the EFTA Surveillance Authority shall observe the following rules:

- (a) exchange of information and views on general policy issues such as the implementation, application and interpretation of the rules on State aid set out in the Agreement shall be held periodically or at the request of either surveillance authority;
- (b) the EC Commission and the EFTA Surveillance Authority shall periodically prepare surveys on State aid in their respective States. These surveys shall be made available to the other surveillance authority;
- (c) if the procedure referred to in the first and second subparagraphs of Article 93(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community or the corresponding procedure set out in an agreement between the EFTA States establishing the EFTA Surveillance Authority is opened for State aid programmes and cases, the EC Commission or the EFTA Surveillance Authority shall give notice to the other surveillance authority as well as to the parties concerned to submit their comments;
- (d) the surveillance authorities shall inform each other of all decisions as soon as they are taken;
- (e) the opening of the procedure referred to in paragraph (c) and the decisions referred to in paragraph (d) shall be published by the competent surveillance authorities;
- (f) notwithstanding the provisions of this Protocol, the EC Commission and the EFTA Surveillance Authority shall, at the request of the other surveillance authority, provide on a case-by-case basis information and exchange views on individual State aid programmes and cases;
- (g) information obtained in accordance with paragraph (f) shall be treated as confidential.