PROTOCOL 31

ON COOPERATION IN SPECIFIC FIELDS OUTSIDE THE FOUR FREEDOMS

Article 1({})

Research and technological development

1.({}) The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the implementation of the framework programmes of Community activities in the field of research and technological development referred to in paragraph 5 and from 1 January 2005 and 1 January 2006 in the activities referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10 respectively, through participation in their specific programmes.

2.({}) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in paragraphs 5, 9 and 10 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall participate fully in all the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 5.

4.({}) Given the particular nature of the cooperation foreseen in the fields of research, innovation and technological development, representatives of the EFTA States shall in addition be associated with the work of the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) and other Union committees which the European Commission consults in these fields, to the extent necessary for the good functioning of that cooperation.

5. The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving there from, are the object of this Article:

- **390 D 0221**: Council Decision 90/221/EEC/Euratom of 23 April 1990 concerning the framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1990 to 1994) (OJ No L 117, 8.5.1990, p. 28),


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({}) Text replaced by Decision No 29/2020 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), c.i.f. 8.2.2020.

({}) Indent and words "as amended by:" above, added by Decision No 54/98 (OJ L 30, 4.2.1999, p. 57 and EEA Supplement No 6, 4.2.1999, p. 279), c.i.f. 4.6.1998.

({}) Indent added by Decision No 54/98 (OJ L 30, 4.2.1999, p. 57 and EEA Supplement No 6, 4.2.1999, p. 279), c.i.f. 4.6.1998.


Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 228/2021 of 28 July 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

Iceland and Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 263/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.


-10- Indent added by Decision No 63/2007 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2007, p. 43 and EEA Supplement No 56, p. 1), e.i.f. 16.6.2007, it shall apply from 1.1.2007.


-12- Indent and adaptation text added by Decision No 228/2021 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 29.7.2021, it shall apply from 1.1.2021.

-13- Indent and adaptation text added by Decision No 263/2021 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 25.9.2021, it shall apply from 1.1.2021.
Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

6.\(^{(14)}\) Evaluation and major direction of activities in the framework programmes of Union activities in the field of research and technological development referred to in paragraphs 5, 8a, 8c, 9 and 10 shall be governed by the procedure referred to in Article 79(3) of the Agreement.

7. The Agreement shall be without prejudice, on the one hand, to the bilateral cooperation taking place under the framework programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1987 to 1991)\(^{(1)}\) and, on the other hand, in so far as they concern cooperation which is not covered by the Agreement, to the bilateral framework agreements for scientific and technical cooperation between the Community and the EFTA States.


8.\(^{(16)}\) (a) The EFTA States shall fully participate in the European GNSS Agency, hereinafter referred to as the “Agency”, as set up by the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

(c) The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Administrative Board of the Agency and in the Security Accreditation Board of the Agency.

(d) The Agency shall have legal personality. It shall enjoy in all the States of the Contracting Parties the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their law.

(e) The EFTA States shall apply to the Agency the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

(f) By way of derogation from Article 12(2)(a) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities, nationals of the EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Executive Director of the Agency.

(g) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement, Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement, with the exception of Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 3, shall apply to this paragraph.

(h) Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents shall, for the application of this Regulation, apply to any documents of the Agency regarding the EFTA States as well.


\(^{(16)}\) Indent and words “, as amended by:” added by Decision No 32/2015 (OJ L 93, 7.4.2016, p. 49 and EEA Supplement No 21, 7.4.2016, p. 43), e.i.f. 26.2.2015.
With regard to Iceland, this paragraph shall be suspended until otherwise decided by the EEA Joint Committee.

This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

8a.(i) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2009, participate in the activities which may result from the following Community act:


The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

In addition, and based on Article 82(1)(c) of the Agreement, Norway shall contribute the amount of EUR 20’114’000 for the year 2008, of which half shall be due for payment by 31 August 2012 and the other half by 31 August 2013, to be included in the call for funds foreseen in Article 2(2), first subparagraph of Protocol 32.

The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in all the Community committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to under (a).

Without prejudice to this, the participation of EFTA States in the Community committees which assist the European Commission specifically in security aspects of the activities referred to under (a) may be subject to separate arrangements to be agreed upon between the EFTA States and the European Commission. Such arrangements should contribute to a coherent protection in the European Community and the EFTA States of data, information and technologies of European GNSS programmes and to compliance with the international commitments of the Contracting Parties in this sector.

Procedures for the association of the EFTA States in accordance with Article 101 of the Agreement:

Each EFTA State may, in accordance with Article 4 of Commission Decision 2009/334/EC, appoint a person to participate as a full member in the meetings of the expert group on the security of the European GNSS systems (The Security Board for the European GNSS Systems).


The European Commission shall, in due time, inform the participants of the dates of the meetings of the group and transmit to them the relevant documentation.

This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

With regard to Iceland, this paragraph shall be suspended until otherwise decided by the EEA Joint Committee.

8aa.(a) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2014, participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

(c) The cost of the extension of the geographical coverage of the EGNOS system to the territories of the participating EFTA States shall be borne by the EFTA States as part of the financial contribution to the activities referred to under (a). Such coverage extension shall be subject to technical feasibility and shall not delay the extension of the geographical coverage of the EGNOS system throughout the EU Member States' territories geographically located in Europe.

(d) At the project level, the institutions, undertakings, organizations and nationals of EFTA States shall have the rights referred to in Article 81(d) of the Agreement.

(c) The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2014, may be considered eligible as from the beginning of the action under the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 247/2014 of 13 November 2014 enters into force before the end of the action.

(f) The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in all the Union committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to under (a).

The participation of the EFTA States in the Union committees and groups of experts which assist the European Commission specifically in security aspects of the activities referred to under (a) shall be addressed in the rules of procedure of these committees and groups.

(g) This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

(h) With regard to Iceland, this paragraph shall be suspended until otherwise decided by the EEA Joint Committee.

8ab.\{22\}
(a) The EFTA States shall participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States may become PRS participants subject to the conclusion of the agreements referred to in Article 3(5)(a) and (b) of Decision No 1104/2011/EU.

(c) The participation of EFTA States in the various committees and groups of experts related to the PRS shall be addressed in their corresponding rules of procedure.

(d) Article 10 of Decision No 1104/2011/EU shall not apply to the EFTA States.

(e) This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

(f) With regard to Iceland, this paragraph shall be suspended until otherwise decided by the EEA Joint Committee.

8b.\{23\} The Contracting Parties shall encourage appropriate cooperation between the competent organisations, institutions and other bodies in their respective territories so as to encourage participation of stakeholders from the EFTA States on equal terms as those from the EU Member States in the SESAR project, including activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking in accordance with its basic Regulation(1).

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\{22\} Paragraph inserted by Decision No 248/2014 (OJ L 263, 8.10.2015, p. 38 and EEA Supplement No 61, 8.10.2015, p. 6), e.i.f. 14.11.2014.

The EFTA States participate fully, except for the right to vote, in the Single European Sky committee which assists the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking.

(1) 32007 R 0219: Council Regulation (EC) No 219/2007 of 27 February 2007 on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system (SESAR) (OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 1), as amended by:


8c. [26]

(a) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2012, participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

(c) The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in all the Union committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to under (a), namely the GMES Committee, the Security Board and the User Forum.

(d) This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

(e) [26] [ ]

8d. [27]

(a) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2014, participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of, and Protocol 32 to, the Agreement.

(c) The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2014, may be considered eligible as from the beginning of the action under the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 249/2014 of 13 November 2014 enters into force before the end of the action.

(d) The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in all the Union committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to under (a).

(e) This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

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(a) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2021, participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act and in the European Union Agency for the Space Programme, hereafter referred to as the ‘Agency’, with the exception of the Governmental Satellite Communication (GOVSATCOM) and space situational awareness (SSA) space surveillance and tracking (SST) activities, as set up by the following Union act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

(c) The financial contribution referred to under (b) shall also cover the cost of the inclusion of the EFTA States in the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) mission and the extension of the EGNOS services coverage to the territories of the participating EFTA States. Such coverage extension shall be subject to technical feasibility and shall not delay the extension of the geographical coverage of the EGNOS system throughout the EU Member States’ territories geographically located in Europe.

(d) The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 319/2021 of 29 October 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

(e) The eligible EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Administrative Board of the Agency.

(f) The eligible EFTA States shall participate, without the right to vote, in the Security Accreditation Board of the Agency, for relevant parts of the programme, and their participation shall be restricted in compliance with the need-to-know policy established by the programme.

(g) The Agency shall have legal personality. It shall enjoy in all the States of the Contracting Parties the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws.

(h) The EFTA States shall grant privileges and immunities to the Agency and its staff equivalent to those contained in the Protocol on Privileges and Immunities of the European Union.

(i) By way of derogation from Articles 12(2)(a) and 82(3)(a) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, nationals of the EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Executive Director of the Agency.

(j) By way of derogation from Articles 12(2)(e), 82(3)(e) and 85(3) of the Conditions of Employment of Other Servants of the European Union, the languages referred to in Article 129(1) of the Agreement shall be considered by the Agency, in respect of its staff, as languages of the Union referred to in Article 55(1) of the Treaty on European Union.

(k) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement, Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement, with the exception of Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 3, shall apply to this paragraph.


(m) The eligible EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Union committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the Galileo, EGNOS and Copernicus components and SSA space weather events (SWE) and SSA near-Earth objects (NEO) sub-components of the activities referred to under (a).

The participation in the security configuration of those committees shall be restricted in compliance with the need-to-know policy established by the programme.

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(29) Paragraph inserted by Decision No 319/2021 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 30.10.2021, it shall apply from 1.1.2021.
(n) Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

(o) Iceland shall participate in, and financially contribute to, the following activities of the programme: EGNOS, Copernicus, and the SSA SWE and NEO sub-components.

9.\(^{[9]}\) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2005, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2005:

- **Budget line 08.14.01**: “Preparatory action for the enhancement of European security research (2005)”.

10.\(^{[10]}\) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2006, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2006:

- **Budget line 02.04.02**: “Preparatory action for the enhancement of European security research”.


11. (a) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, hereinafter referred to as the “Institute”, as set up by the following Community acts:


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 263/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

(b) [ ]

(c) The EFTA States shall apply to the Institute and to its staff the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

(d) By way of derogation from Article 12(2)(a) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities, nationals of the EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Director of the Institute.

(e) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement shall apply to this paragraph.


12. (a) The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of activities which may result from the following Community act:


(b) Article 5(1)(d) of Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 refers to Council Directive 2006/112/EC of 28 November 2006 on the common system of value added tax and Council Directive 92/12/EEC of 25 February 1992 on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and on the holding, movement and monitoring of such products, which are not incorporated into the Agreement. These references shall therefore only be relevant in the application of Article 5(1)(d) and be without prejudice to the scope of the Agreement.
The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in all the Community committees which assist the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to under (a).

13. (a) The EFTA States shall, as from 11 April 2017, participate in Union activities related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.:

- **Budget line 02 04 77 03**: “Preparatory action on defence research”.

(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in point (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

(c) The costs incurred by institutions, undertakings, organizations and nationals of the EFTA States for their participation in the activities referred to in point (a), the implementation of which starts after 11 April 2017, shall be considered eligible as from the beginning of the action under the same conditions as those applicable to costs incurred by institutions, undertakings, organizations and nationals of the EU Member States and pursuant to the relevant grant agreement or grant decision provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 208/2017 of 27 October 2017 has entered into force before the end of the preparatory action.

(d) Iceland and Liechtenstein shall not participate in that preparatory action, and shall not financially contribute to the activities referred to in point (a).

14. (a) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2021, participate in Union activities related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021:

- **Budget line PA 13 17 01**: “Preparatory action on defence research”.

(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in point (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

(c) Iceland and Liechtenstein shall not participate in that preparatory action, and shall not financially contribute to the activities referred to in point (a).

**Article 2**

**Information Services and security of information systems**

1. The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6.

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.
3. (***) The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of these programmes and actions.

4. Evaluation and major redirection of activities in the programmes in the field of information services shall be governed by the procedure referred to in Article 79 (3) of the Agreement.

5. The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving therefrom, are the object of this Article:


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(***) Regarding the activities referred to in paragraph 7, the EFTA States shall contribute financially to the budget lines 09 03 04 and 09 01 04 03 (trans-European telecommunications networks), as well as to the subsequent corresponding budget lines, in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.


The EFTA States shall only participate in the telecommunications sector of the Connecting Europe Facility.

Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.


\[^{[11]}\] Indent added by Decision No 157/2014 (OJ L 15, 22.1.2015, p. 85 and EEA Supplement No 5, 22.1.2015, p. 8), e.i.f. 10.7.2014; it shall apply from 1.1.2014.


\[^{[13]}\] Indent added by Decision No 244/2014 (OJ L 230, 3.9.2015, p. 52 and EEA Supplement No 52, 3.9.2015, p. 50), e.i.f. 1.11.2014; it shall apply from 1.1.2014.

The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 264/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

6.[66] The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2000, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2000:

- B5-3 3 4: Promotion of the European digital content on the global networks.

7.[66] The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2006, participate in the activities which may result from the following acts, to the extent they are related to projects of common interest in the field of trans-European telecommunications networks:


Article 3

Environment

1. Cooperation in the field of environment shall be strengthened in the framework of the activities of the Community, in particular in the following areas:

- policy and action programmes on the environment and, in particular, in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:

- 493 Y 0517: Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 1 February 1993 on a Community...


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1) and Protocol 32 of the Agreement.

(c) The EFTA States shall, in consequence of (b), participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Agency Management Board and shall be associated with the work of the scientific committee of the Agency.

(d) The term ‘Member State(s)’ and other terms referring to their public entities contained in Articles 4 and 5 of the Regulation shall be understood to include, in addition to their meaning in the Regulation, the EFTA States and their public entities.

(e) Environmental data supplied to or emanating from the Agency may be published and shall be made accessible to the public, provided that confidential information is afforded the same degree of protection in the EFTA States as it is afforded within the Community.

(f) The Agency shall have legal personality. It shall enjoy in all the states of the Contracting Parties the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws.

(g) EFTA States shall apply to the Agency the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

(h) By way of derogation from Article 12(2)(a) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities, nationals of the EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Executive Director of the Agency.

\textsuperscript{67} Sub-Indent added by Decision No 192/1999 (OJ L 74, 15.3.2001, p. 32 and EEA Supplement No 14, 15.3.2001, p. 133 (Norwegian) and p. 220 (Icelandic)), e.i.f. 18.12.1999.


(i) By virtue of Article 79(3), Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement shall apply to this paragraph.


3. Where it has been decided by the EEA Joint Committee that cooperation shall take the form of parallel legislation of identical or similar content by the Contracting Parties, the procedures referred to in Article 79 (3) of the Agreement shall thereafter apply to the preparation of such legislation in the field in question.

4.(7) The EFTA States shall participate in the Community actions referred to in paragraph 7.

5.(2) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the Community actions(7) referred to in paragraph 7 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

6.(4) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the bodies(7) which assist the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of the Community actions(4) referred to in paragraph 7.

7.(77)(8) The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving therefrom, are the object of this Article:

(a) Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2001:


(b)(8) Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2002:


(c)(2) [ ]

(d)(8) Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2005:

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8.(a) Iceland and Norway will fulfil their respective greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2030 in accordance with the following acts:


The Regulation shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) In Article 6(2), the words “30 years” shall, for Iceland, be read as “50 years”.

(ii) The following shall be added to Article 8(7):

“The EFTA States shall communicate their revised proposed forest reference levels to the EFTA Surveillance Authority no later than nine months after the entry into force of Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 269/2019 of 25 October 2019 for the period from 2021-2025. The EFTA Surveillance Authority shall publish the proposed forest reference levels communicated to it by the EFTA States.”

(iii) Article 13(2)(a) shall, for the EFTA States, read as follows:

“The EFTA State has submitted a strategy as set out below for the land use, land use change and forestry sector with a perspective of at least 30 years, including also ongoing or planned specific measures to ensure the conservation or enhancement, as appropriate, of forest sinks and reservoirs:

1. By 1 January 2020, each EFTA State shall prepare and submit to the EFTA Surveillance Authority its strategy for the land use, land use change and forestry sector with a perspective of at least 30 years. EFTA States should, where necessary, update these strategies by 1 January 2025.

2. The EFTA States' strategies shall contribute to:

(a) fulfilling the EFTA States' commitments under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and enhance removals by sinks and to promote increased carbon sequestration;
(b) fulfilling the objective of the Paris Agreement of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels;

(c) achieving long-term greenhouse gas emission reductions and enhancements of removals by sinks to the extent relevant for the LULUCF sector, in accordance with the objective, in the context of necessary reductions according to the (IPCC) to reduce EFTA states greenhouse gas emissions in a cost-effective manner and enhance removals by sinks in pursuit of the temperature goals in the Paris Agreement so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty.

3. The EFTA States’ strategies shall cover:

(a) emission reductions and enhancements of removals in land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF); taking into account bioenergy and biomaterials from this sector.

(b) To the extent it is relevant to land use, land use change and forestry, links to other national long-term objectives, planning and other policies and measures.

4. The EFTA States shall inform and make available to the public forthwith their respective strategies and any updates thereof.

5. The EFTA Surveillance Authority shall assess whether the EFTA States’ strategies are adequate for documenting fulfilment under this Article.

6. The EFTA States’ strategies for the land use, land use change and forestry sector should contain the elements set out below:

A. OVERVIEW AND PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE STRATEGIES

A.1. Executive summary

A.2. Legal and policy context, including where appropriate, indicative milestones for 2040 and 2050

B. CONTENT

B.1. LAND USE, LAND-USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY (LULUCF)

B.1.1. Projected emission reductions and enhancement of removals by 2050

B.1.2 To the extent feasible, expected emissions by sources and by individual GHGs

B.1.3. Emission reduction options and options for enhancement of sinks envisaged

B.1.4. To the extent it is relevant for the conservation or enhancement, as appropriate, of forest sinks and reservoirs; adaptation policies and measures

B.1.5 Aspects related to market demand for forest biomass and impact on harvest

B.1.6. As necessary, details on modelling (including assumptions) and/or analysis, indicators, etc.”

(iv) The following shall be added to Article 15(2):

“The Central Administrator shall be competent to perform the tasks referred to in this Article when EFTA States are concerned. The EFTA Surveillance Authority shall be informed if the Central Administrator blocks a transaction concerning or conducted by the EFTA States.”

(v) The following shall be added to the table in Annex II:

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<td>Norway</td>
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<td>10</td>
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(vi) The following shall be added to the table in Annex III:

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<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>1990</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(vii) The following shall be added to point (g) of section A of Annex IV:

“For the EFTA States, the reference level for the period 2021-2025 shall be consistent with projections reported to the European Environment Agency on a voluntary basis in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 525/2013 and, for Iceland, also in accordance with the bilateral Agreement between Iceland and the European Union and its Member States concerning Iceland’s participation in the joint fulfilment of the commitments of the European Union, its Member States and Iceland for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.”
The following shall be added to the table of section C of Annex IV:

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</tr>
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The following shall be added to the table in Annex VII:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>-0.0224</td>
<td>-0.0045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>-29.6</td>
<td>-35.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---


The Regulation shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) The following shall, for the EFTA States, be added to Article 4(3):

“In respect of the EFTA States, for the purpose of setting out the annual emission allocations for the years from 2021 to 2030 in terms of tonnes of CO2 equivalent as specified in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the 2005 base year for the emission allocation 2030 will be based on the difference between total greenhouse gas emissions in 2005 resulting from the comprehensive review, which treat CO2 emissions from aviation as zero, and the stationary EU ETS 2005 emissions in 2013 ETS scope as reported in Part B of the Appendix to the Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 152/2012 of 26 July 2012, adapted with the values for global warming potentials adopted in a delegated act referred to in Article 26(6)(b) of Regulation (EU) No 2018/1999 or those identified by the Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) of the IPCC until the delegated act becomes applicable. The stationary EU ETS 2005 emissions figures as reported in the Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 152/2012 (AR2) and the same figures with updated values for global warming potentials (AR4) to be taken into account for the purpose of setting out the annual emission allocations for the years from 2021 to 2030 pursuant to this Article are set out in the Appendix.”

(ii) The following shall be added after Annex IV:

“Appendix

EFTA States’ stationary EU ETS 2005 emissions figures as reported in the Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 152/2012 (AR2) and the same figures with updated values for global warming potentials (AR4) to be taken into account for the purpose of setting out the annual emission allocations for the years from 2021 to 2030 pursuant to Article 4(3)

Table 1: 2005 ETS emissions for Norway:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greenhouse gas (tons)</th>
<th>CO₂-equ (AR2)</th>
<th>CO₂-equ (AR4)</th>
<th>N₂O/PFC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO₂</td>
<td>23 090 000</td>
<td>23 090 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N₂O</td>
<td>1 955 000</td>
<td>1 880 000</td>
<td>6.308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>829 000</td>
<td>955 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF₄</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>116.698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₂F₆</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>7.616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>25 874 000</td>
<td>25 925 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: 2005 ETS emissions for Iceland:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greenhouse gas (tons)</th>
<th>CO₂-equ (AR2)</th>
<th>CO₂-equ (AR4)</th>
<th>N₂O/PFC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CO₂</td>
<td>909 132</td>
<td>909 132</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFC</td>
<td>26 709</td>
<td>31 105</td>
<td>3.508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF₄</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C₂F₆</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0.424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**(viii)** Adaptation (viii) inserted by Decision No 164/2022/OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published], e.i.f. 30.4.2022.

**(ix)** Adaptation (viii) in the first indent is renumbered as adaptation (ix) by Decision No 164/2022/OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published], e.i.f. 30.4.2022.
(iii) In Article 6(1), the words “100 million EU ETS allowances” shall read “107 million EU ETS allowances”.

(iv) The following shall be added to Article 12(2):
“The Central Administrator shall be competent to perform the tasks referred to in this Article when EFTA States are concerned. The EFTA Surveillance Authority shall be informed if the Central Administrator blocks a transaction concerning or conducted by the EFTA States.”

(v) The following shall be added to the table in Annex I:
- Iceland - 29 %
- Norway - 40 %

(vi) The following shall be added to the table in Annex II:
- Iceland - 4 %
- Norway - 2 %

(vii) The table in Annex III shall be amended as follows:
a. The following shall be added to the table:
- Iceland - 0,2
- Norway - 1,6
b. The number “280” for the maximum total shall read “281,8”


The Decision shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) The following shall be added to the table in Annex I:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>3 109 329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>28 925 334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(ii) The following shall be added to the table in Annex II:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>2 876 150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>25 164 459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(iii) The following shall be added to the table in Annex III:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iceland</td>
<td>1 243 732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>5 785 067</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


(48) Indent and adaptation texts inserted by Decision No 29/2022 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 5.2.2022.
The applicable provisions of this Regulation are listed below and shall, for the purpose of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) Only the following provisions of the Regulation shall apply:
   - Articles 2(1)–2(10), 2(12)–2(13), 2(15)–2(17), 18, 26(2)–(7), 29(5)(b), 37–42, 44(1)(a), (2)–(3) and (6), 57–58, and Annexes V–VII and XII–XIII.

(ii) Article 2(1)–(10) and 2(12)–(13) and 2(15)–(17) shall, for the purposes of this paragraph only apply to the EFTA States to the extent they relate to the implementation of Regulations (EU) 2018/841 and (EU) 2018/842.

(iii) Article 26(4) shall, for the EFTA States, read as follows:
   "Iceland and Norway shall, by 15 April each year, submit to the EFTA Surveillance Authority a copy of the final greenhouse gas inventory data reported to the UNFCCC in accordance with paragraph 3."

(iv) Article 41 shall, for the EFTA States, only apply to the extent the provisions or parts thereof mentioned in the Article are referred to or set out in this paragraph.

(v) The following sentence shall, for the EFTA States, be added after the first sentence of Article 42:
   "The European Environment Agency shall only assist the EFTA Surveillance Authority in its work as regards Articles 18, 26(2)–(7), 29(5) (b), 37–39 and 41."


The Regulation shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptation: The provisions of this Regulation shall only apply to the EFTA States to the extent that they relate to the implementation of this paragraph.


The applicable provisions of this Regulation are listed below and shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) Only the following provisions of the Regulation shall apply:
   - Articles 7, 19(1) and (3).

(ii) Articles 7, 19(1) and (3) shall, for the purposes of this paragraph, only apply to the EFTA States to the extent they relate to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2018/842.


The applicable provisions of this Regulation are listed below and shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptations:

(i) Only the following provisions of the Regulation shall apply: Articles 1–3, 7–10, 12–15, 17–24, 26–40 and Annexes VI–VIII, X–XX, XXII–XXV.

(ii) The provisions listed in (i) shall only apply to the EFTA States to the extent that they relate to the implementation of this paragraph.

(b) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the EEA Agreement, Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement shall apply to this paragraph.

(c) Protocol 1 to the EEA Agreement (Horizontal Adaptations) shall apply mutatis mutandis to this paragraph.

[91] Adaptation text replaced by Decision No 223/2021 ([OJ L [to be published]] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 10.7.2021.

[92] Indent and adaptation text added by Decision No 223/2021 ([OJ L [to be published]] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 10.7.2021.

(d) References to Union legislation, acts, rules, policies and measures in the acts and provisions referred to or contained in this paragraph shall apply to the extent and in the form that the relevant legislation, acts, rules policies and measures are incorporated into this Agreement.

(e) Iceland and Norway shall participate fully in the work of the Climate Change Committee pursuant to the acts and provisions referred to or contained in this paragraph but shall not have the right to vote.

(f) When the Commission consults experts designated by the Member States pursuant to the acts and provisions referred to or contained in this paragraph, it shall consult experts designated by the EFTA States on the same basis.

(g) The European Environment Agency shall assist the EFTA Surveillance Authority in its work pursuant to Regulations (EU) 2018/841 and (EU) 2018/842.

(h) This paragraph shall not apply to Liechtenstein.

Article 4

Education, training, youth and sport [**]

1. The EFTA States shall, from the entry into force of the Agreement, participate in the Community programme Youth for Europe in accordance with Part VI.

2. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1995, participate subject to the provisions of Part VI, in all programmes of the Community in the field of education, training and youth then in force or adopted. The planning and development of programmes of the Community in this field shall, as from the entry into force of the Agreement, be subject to the procedures referred to in Part VI, in particular Article 79 (3).

2a. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1997, participate in the Community actions related to the budget line B3-1011 “European Voluntary Service”, entered in the Community budget for the year 1997.

2b. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 August 1998, participate in the following Community programme:


2c. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2000, participate in the following Community programmes:


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2d.\ref{107} The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2000, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2000:

- **B3-1003**: “Preparatory measures for the European Year of Languages 2001”.

2e.\ref{108} The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2001, participate in the following programme:


2f.\ref{109} The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2001, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget lines, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2001, 2002 and 2003:

- **B3-1 0 0 0 A**: “Preparatory actions for cooperation in the fields of education and of youth policy expenditure on administrative management”;

- **B3-1 0 0 0**: “Preparatory actions for cooperation in the fields of education and of youth policy”.

\begin{itemize}
\item \ref{107} Indent and words “as amended by” added by Decision No 96/2003 (OJ L 272, 23.10.2003, p. 34 and EEA Supplement No 54, 23.10.2003, p. 11), c.f.i.f. 12.7.2003.
\item \ref{110} Indent added by Decision No 70/2000 (OJ L 250, 5.10.2000, p. 53 and EEA Supplement No 44, 5.10.2001, p. 6), c.f.i.f. 3.8.2000, it shall apply from 1.1.2000.
\item \ref{112} Indent added by Decision No 107/2005 (OJ L 306, 24.11.2005, p. 45 and EEA Supplement No 60, 24.11.2005, p. 28), c.f.i.f. 9.7.2005
The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2003, participate in the following action:

  
  

The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2004, participate in the following programmes:


The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2004, participate in the following programme:


The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2004, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2004:

- **Budget line 15.07.03**: “Pilot projects for participation of young people”.

The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2005, participate in the following programmes:


The provisions of the Decision shall, for the purposes of the present Agreement, be read with the following adaptation:

The EFTA States shall participate in Action 2, 3A, 3B and 3C of the programme.
21 The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2007, participate in the following programmes:


2m The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2009, participate in actions 1 and 3 of the following programme:


2n The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2014, participate in the following programme:


2o The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2019, participate in the following programme:


Liechtenstein and Norway shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

2p The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2019, participate in the following European framework:


\[119\] Paragraph inserted by Decision No 64/2007 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2007, p. 45 and EEA Supplement No 56, p. 2), e.i.f. 16.6.2007, it shall apply from 1.1.2007.


\[121\] Paragraph inserted by Decision No 110/2014 (OJ L 310, 30.10.2014, p. 82 and EEA Supplement No 63, 30.10.2014, p. 70), e.i.f. 17.5.2014, it shall apply from 1.1.2014.

\[122\] Indent and words “, as amended by:” added by Decision No 136/2019 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 9.5.2019, it shall apply from 1.1.2019.

\[123\] Indent added by Decision No 182/2019 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 15.6.2019.

\[124\] Paragraph inserted by Decision No 136/2019 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 9.5.2019, it shall apply from 1.1.2019.

\[125\] Paragraph inserted by Decision No 181/2019 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 15.6.2019, it shall apply from 1.1.2019.
2q. [124] The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2021, participate in the following programme:


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 266/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

2r. [127] The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2021, participate in the following European programme:


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 267/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

Norway shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

3. [128] The EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2j, 2k, 2l, 2m, 2n, 2o, 2p, 2q and 2r.

4. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in programmes to which they contribute financially in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a), participate fully in all the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes.

5. [129] The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the various activities of the Community, including EURYDICE and ARION, involving the exchange of information including, where appropriate, contacts and meetings of experts, seminars and conferences. The Contracting Parties shall, furthermore, through the EEA Joint Committee or otherwise, take any other initiatives which may appear appropriate in this regard.

6. [130] The Contracting Parties shall encourage appropriate cooperation between the competent organizations, institutions and other bodies in their respective territories where this would contribute to the strengthening and broadening of cooperation. This shall apply in particular to matters covered by the activities of the European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP). 110

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7. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:


7- The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:


8. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of the following Community acts:


\(^{(6)}\) Two indents added by Decision No 57/2010 (OJ L 181, 15.7.2010, p. 26 and EEA Supplement No 37, 15.7.2010, p. 35), e.i.f. 15.7.2010.


\(^{(8)}\) Indent added by Decision No 76/2018 (OJ L 26, 30.1.2020, p. 75 and EEA Supplement No 6, 30.1.2020, p. 66), e.i.f. 24.3.2018.

Article 5

Social policy

1. In the field of social policy, the dialogue referred to in Article 79 (1) of the Agreement shall comprise, inter alia, the holding of meetings, including contacts between experts, the examination of questions of mutual interest in specific fields, the exchange of information on activities of the Contracting Parties, stock-taking of the state of cooperation and the carrying out, in common, of activities such as seminars and conferences.

2. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:

- 388 Y 0203: Council Resolution of 21 December 1987 on safety, hygiene and health at work (OJ No C 28, 3.2.1988, p. 3),


The EFTA States shall participate in this Community action programme in accordance with the provisions laid down in Appendix 2 to this Protocol.


3. The EFTA States shall, from the entry into force of the Agreement, participate within the framework of the Community actions for the elderly(1). The EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82 (1) (b) of the Agreement.

The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of the programme except for matters relating to the distribution of EC financial resources between Member States of the Community.

4. The EFTA States shall, during 1995, participate in the Community actions to assist disabled people according to the Work Programme in Appendix 1 to this Protocol. The EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with the "Budgetary Aspects" section of that Work Programme during this period.

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5. The EFTA States shall participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in the first two indents of paragraph 8 as from 1 January 1996, in the programme referred to in the third indent as from 1 January 2000, in the programme referred to in the fourth indent as from 1 January 2001, in the programmes referred to in the fifth and sixth indents as from 1 January 2002, in the programmes referred to in the seventh and eighth indents as from 1 January 2004, in the programmes referred to in the ninth, tenth and eleventh indents as from 1 January 2007, in the programme referred to in the twelfth indent as from 1 January 2009, in the programme referred to in the thirteenth indent as from 1 January 2012, in the programme referred to in the fourteenth indent as from 1 January 2014, in the programme referred to in the fifteenth indent as from 1 January 2018, in the actions funded from the budget lines for the financial years 2012 and 2013 referred to in paragraph 12 as from 1 January 2012, in the actions funded from the budget line for the financial years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 referred to in paragraph 13 as from 1 January 2014 and in the actions funded from the budget line for the financial year 2021 referred to in paragraph 14 as from 1 January 2021.

6. From that date, the EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 8, 12, 13 and 14 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

7. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the cooperation in the programmes and actions referred to in paragraphs 8, 12, 13 and 14, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.

8. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:


9. The EEA Joint Committee shall take the necessary decisions in order to facilitate cooperation between the Contracting Parties in future programmes and activities of the Community in the social field.

10. The Contracting Parties shall encourage appropriate cooperation between the competent organizations, institutions and other bodies in their respective territories where this would contribute to the strengthening and broadening of cooperation. This shall apply in particular to matters covered by the activities of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions. (1)

(1) 375 R 1365: Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 of the Council of 26 May 1975 on the creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (OJ No L 139, 30.5.1975, p. 1), as amended by:
- 185 I: Act concerning the Conditions of Accession and Adjustments to the Treaties - Accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic (OJ No L 302, 15.11.85, p. 157 and 158),

9. The EEA Joint Committee shall take the necessary decisions in order to facilitate cooperation between the Contracting Parties in future programmes and activities of the Community in the social field.

10. The Contracting Parties shall encourage appropriate cooperation between the competent organizations, institutions and other bodies in their respective territories where this would contribute to the strengthening and broadening of cooperation. This shall apply in particular to matters covered by the activities of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions. (1)

11. (a) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, hereinafter referred to as the “Agency”, as set up by the following Community act:


(201) Indent added by Decision No 158/2014 (OJ L 15, 22.1.2015, p. 86 and EEA Supplement No 5, 22.1.2015, p. 9), e.i.f. 10.7.2014; it shall apply from 1.1.2014.
The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) and Protocol 32 of the Agreement.

The EFTA States shall participate fully in the Governing Board and shall within it have the same rights and obligations as EU Member States, except for the right to vote.

The EFTA States shall, within six months from the entry into force of Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 160/2009 of 4 December 2009 inform the Agency of the main component elements of their national health and safety at work information networks provided for in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 2062/94, as subsequently amended.

The EFTA States shall in particular, within the period laid down in (d), designate the institutions for coordinating and/or transmitting the information to be supplied at national level to the Agency.

The EFTA States shall also inform the Agency of the names of institutions established in their national territory which are able to cooperate with it on certain topics of particular interest and thus to act as topic centres of the network.

Within three months of receiving the information referred to in (d), (e) and (f), the Governing Board shall review the main elements of the network to take account of the participation of the EFTA States.

The Agency shall have legal personality. It shall enjoy in all the states of the Contracting Parties the most extensive legal capacity accorded to legal persons under their laws.

The EFTA States shall apply to the Agency and to its staff the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities.

By way of derogation from Article 12(2)(a) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities as established by Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 259/68, nationals of EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Director of the Agency.

By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement, Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement shall apply to this paragraph.


The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2012, participate in the actions funded from the following budget lines, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2012 and 2013:

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168 OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43
- **Budget line 04 01 04 08**: “Free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries – Expenditure on administrative management”;

- **Budget line 04 03 05**: “Free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries”.

13. [170] The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2014, participate in the actions funded from the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:[171]:

- **Budget line 04 03 01 03**: “Free movement of workers, co-ordination of social security schemes and measures for migrants including migrants from third countries”.

14. [172] The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2021, participate in the actions funded from the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2021:

- **Budget line 07 20 03 01**: “Free movement of workers, coordination of social security schemes and measures for migrants including migrants from third countries”.

The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 273/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

### Article 6

**Consumer protection**

1. In the field of consumer protection, the Contracting Parties shall strengthen the dialogue between them by all appropriate means, with a view to identifying areas and activities where closer cooperation could contribute to the attainment of their objectives.

2. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities, which may result from the following Community acts, in particular in ensuring consumer influence and participation:


- [174] 593 DC 0378: Second Commission three-year plan 1993-1995,


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3. The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 2000, participate in the Community activities which may result from the following act as well as from acts deriving therefrom:


{[176]} The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 2004, participate in the Community activities, which may result from the following act as well as from acts deriving therefrom:


3a. The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2007, participate in the following programme:


3b. The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2014, participate in the following programme:


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2014, may be considered eligible as from the beginning of the action under the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 251/2014 of 13 November 2014 enters into force before the end of the action.

Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

4. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in paragraphs 3, 3a and 3b in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

5. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the activities referred to in paragraphs 3, 3a and 3b, participate fully, without the right to vote, in the EC committees and other bodies which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these activities.

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Article 7

Enterprise, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises \(^{(1)}\)

1. The cooperation in the field of small and medium-sized enterprises shall in particular be promoted within the framework of actions of the Community:
   - to remove undue administrative, financial and legal constraints on business;
   - to inform and assist enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, on policies and programmes which might be of relevance to them;
   - to encourage cooperation and partnership between enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, from different regions of the European Economic Area.

2.\(^{(1\text{a})}\) The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 5.

3.\(^{(1\text{b})}\) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in this Article in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.\(^{(1\text{c})}\)

4.\(^{(1\text{c})}\) The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the cooperation in the programmes and actions referred to in this Article, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.\(^{(1\text{d})}\)

5. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:


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\(^{(1\text{c})}\) Words “paragraph 5” in paragraph 3 replaced by “paragraphs 5 and 6” by Decision No 116/2004 (OJ L 64, 10.3.2005, p. 3 and EEA Supplement No 12, 10.3.2005, p. 2), e.i.f. 7.8.2004.


\(^{(1\text{e})}\) Words “paragraph 5” in paragraph 4 replaced by “paragraphs 5 and 6” by Decision No 116/2004 (OJ L 64, 10.3.2005, p. 3 and EEA Supplement No 12, 10.3.2005, p. 2), e.i.f. 7.8.2004.

\(^{(1\text{f})}\) Words “paragraphs 5 and 6” replaced by Decision No 74/2006 (OJ L 245, 7.9.2006, p. 44 and EEA Supplement No 45, 7.9.2006, p. 38), e.i.f. 3.6.2006, and subsequently replaced by “paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8” by Decision No 94/2008 (OJ L 280, 23.10.2008, p. 36 and EEA Supplement No 64, 23.10.2008, p. 28), e.i.f. 5.7.2008. It shall apply from 1 January 2008. Words “paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8” replaced by words “paragraphs 5 to 9” by Decision No 250/2014 (OJ L 263, 8.10.2015, p. 42 and EEA Supplement No 61, 8.10.2015, p. 10), e.i.f. 14.11.2014, it shall apply from 1.1.2014. Words “paragraphs 5 to 9” subsequently replaced by words “paragraphs 5 to 10” by Decision No 196/2015 (OJ L 8, 12.1.2017, p. 33 and EEA Supplement No 3, 12.1.2017, p. 28), e.i.f. 11.7.2015, it shall apply from 1.1.2015. Words “paragraphs 5 to 10” replaced by words “this Article” by Decision No 133/2016 (OJ L 308, 23.11.2017, p. 40 and EEA Supplement No 76, 23.11.2017, p. 45), e.i.f. 4.6.2016; it shall apply from 1 January 2016.


- 398 D 0347: Council Decision 98/347/EC of 19 May 1998 on measures of financial assistance for innovative and job-creating small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – the growth and employment initiative (OJ L 155, 29.5.1998, p. 43), as far as activities related to budget line B5-511 "Joint European Ventures", entered in the general budget of the European Communities, are concerned.


Liechtenstein and Norway shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.


[133] Indent added by Decision No 40/2006 (OJ L 147, 1.6.2006, p. 63 and EEA Supplement No 28, 1.6.2006, p. 27), e.i.f. 11.3.2006, it shall apply from 1.1.2006.


The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2021, participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


The EFTA States shall participate in the general objectives and in the specific objectives according to Article 3(2)(a), (b), (c)(ii) and (d).

They shall participate in and financially contribute to the statistical actions as defined in Article 3(2)(f) of Regulation (EU) 2021/690 under the conditions foreseen in Protocol 30.

The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 262/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

The EFTA States shall not participate in and shall not financially contribute to activities relating to customs and tax policy development.

Norway shall not participate in and shall not financially contribute to the specific objective according to Article 3(2)(d)(ii).


- **Budget line 12.01.04.01**: “Implementation and development of the internal market – Expenditure on administrative management”,

- **Budget line 12.02.01**: “Implementation and development of the internal market”.


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The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2008, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget lines, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013:

- Budget line 02.01.04.01: “Operation and development of the internal market, particularly in the fields of notification, certification and sectoral approximation”.

The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2014, may be considered eligible as from the beginning of the action under the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 250/2014 of 13 November 2014 enters into force before the end of the action.

The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2015, participate in the Union actions related to the following budget lines, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015:

- Budget line 02.03.01: “Operation and development of the internal market, particularly in the fields of notification, certification and sectoral approximation”.

The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2014, participate in the Union actions related to the following budget lines, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2014:

- Budget line 02.03.01: “Operation and development of the internal market, particularly in the fields of notification, certification and sectoral approximation”.

- Budget line 12.02.01: “Implementation and development of the internal market”.

The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2016, participate in the Union actions related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

- Budget line 12 02 01: “Implementation and development of the single market for financial services”.

- Budget line 02.01.04.01: “Operation and development of the internal market, particularly in the fields of notification, certification and sectoral approximation”.
12.\(^{(29)}\) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2016, participate in the Union actions related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

- **Budget line 02 03 01**: “Operation and development of the internal market of goods and services”.

13.\(^{(29)}\) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2016, participate in the Union actions related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

- **Budget line 33 02 03 01**: “Company law”.

14.\(^{(31)}\) The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2017, participate in Union actions related to the following budget line, entered into the general budget of the European Union for the financial years 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020:

- **Budget line 02 03 04**: “Internal market governance tools”.

### Article 8 \(^{(32)}\)

#### Tourism

1. The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4.

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the cooperation in the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.

4. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community act:


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Article 9 (211)

Audio-visual sector

1. The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4.

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.

4. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts (214):


Article 10

Civil protection

1. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from (489 Y 0223) Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 13 February 1989 on the new developments in Community cooperation on civil protection (OJ No C 44, 23.2.1989, p. 3).

2. The EFTA States shall ensure that the number 112 is introduced within their territories as the single European emergency call number in accordance with the provisions of (391 D 0396) Council Decision of 29 July 1991 on the introduction of a single European emergency call number (OJ No L 217, 6.8.1991, p. 31).
3. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation with a view to improving mutual aid within the European Economic Area in the event of natural or technological disaster in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community act:

- **491 Y 0727(01):** Resolution 91/C 198/01 of the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting with the Council of 8 July 1991, on improving mutual aid between Member States in the event of natural or technological disaster (OJ No C 198, 27.7.1991, p. 1).

4. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community act:

- **494 Y 1110(01):** Resolution 94/C 313/01 of the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting with the Council of 31 October 1994, on strengthening Community cooperation on civil protection (OJ No C 313, 10.11.1994, p. 1).

5. The EFTA States shall participate in the Community action programmes and mechanisms referred to in paragraph 8.

6. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the Community action programmes and mechanisms referred to in paragraph 8 in accordance with Article 2(1)(a) of the Agreement.

7. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assists the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of the Community action programmes and mechanisms referred to in paragraph 8.

8. The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving therefrom, are the object of this Article:

(a) Community acts which shall take effect on or before 1 January 2000:


(b) Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2008:


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Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2007:


Community acts which shall take effect from 1 January 2014:


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 269/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action.

Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

9. **(243)** (a) The Contracting Parties shall cooperate with each other in the fields covered by the following act:


(b) With a view to achieving the aims set out in Directive 2008/114/EC, the Contracting Parties shall make use of the appropriate forms of cooperation mentioned in Article 80 of the Agreement.

(c) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement, with the exception of Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter 3, shall apply to this paragraph.

**Article II** **(244)**

**Trade Facilitation**

1. The EFTA States shall, from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4 in accordance with Article 21 (3) of the Agreement.
2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 4, participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.

4. The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving therefrom, are the object of this Article:


Article 12

Transport and mobility

1. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1994, participate in the Community actions related to the budget line B6-8351 "Transport and mobility", entered in the EC budget for the year 1994.

2. The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2004, participate in the following programme:


3. The EFTA States shall, with effect from 1 January 2007, participate in the following programme:


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\(^{[246]}\) Paragraph added by Decision No 70/2007 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2007, p. 54 and EEA Supplement No 56, 22.11.2007, p. 8), e.i.f. 30.6.2007, it shall apply from 1.1.2007.

\(^{[247]}\) Paragraph added by Decision No 70/2007 (OJ L 304, 22.11.2007, p. 54 and EEA Supplement No 56, 22.11.2007, p. 8), e.i.f. 30.6.2007, it shall apply from 1.1.2007.

\(^{[248]}\) Indent and words, “as amended by” added by Decision No 58/2010 (OJ L 181, 15.7.2010, p. 27 and EEA Supplement No 37, 15.7.2010, p. 36), e.i.f. 1.5.2010. It shall apply from 1 January 2010.
The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the actions and programmes referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement.

The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of the Community programmes referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3.

The EFTA States shall participate in the activities which may result from the following Union act:


The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in the committee established by Article 52 of the Regulation.

**Article 13**

**Culture**

1. Cooperation in the field of culture shall be strengthened in the framework of the activities and programmes of the Community in that area. The EFTA States shall participate in the various activities of the Community in the field of culture involving exchange of information, meetings of experts, seminars, conferences and diverse cultural events.

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees and other bodies which assist the Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to in paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6.

4. The following Community acts, as well as acts derived there from, are the object of this Article:

5. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1999, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 1999:

- B3-2005: “Experimental measures in relation to the cultural framework programme”.

6. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2004, participate in the Community actions related to the following budget line, entered in the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2004:

- Budget line 15.04.02.03: “Preparatory actions for cooperation on cultural matters”.

7. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:

Article 14 (267)

Energy programmes and environment-related energy activities

1. As from 1 January 1996, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5 (a) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2. As from 1 January 1996, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(b) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2a. (268) As from 1 January 1998, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5 (c) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2b. (269) As from 1 January 2000, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(d) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2c. (269) As from 1 January 2000, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(e) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2d. (270) As from 1 January 2000, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(f) and in actions pursuant thereto.

2e. (271) As from 1 January 2003, the EFTA States shall participate in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(g) and in actions pursuant thereto, with the exception of the programme's specific field “COOPENER” and actions pursuant thereto.

2f. (271) As from 1 January 2005, the EFTA States shall participate in the specific field “COOPENER” and actions pursuant thereto in the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(g).

3. (272) The EFTA/EEA States shall contribute financially to the programmes referred to in paragraph 5(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) (273) to actions pursuant thereto, in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

4. (274) As from the start of the cooperation in the programmes referred to in paragraph 5(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) (275) the actions pursuant thereto, the EFTA/EEA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assist the EC Commission in the management of such programmes and actions.

5. The Contracting Parties shall seek to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities resulting from the following Community acts:

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Article 15 (284)

Employment

1. Cooperation in the field of employment shall be strengthened by participation of the EFTA States in the European Employment Services network (Eures). The EFTA States shall participate as from 1 January 1996 in all the various activities of the Community under Eures including exchange of information, meetings of experts, seminars, conferences and other related events.

2. (285) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in paragraph 1 and which are carried out before 1 January 2014 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the working party and other bodies which assist the Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities related to the EURES network.

4. (286) Paragraphs 1 to 3 shall apply to Liechtenstein as from 1 January 2007.

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5. [\textsuperscript{297}] The EFTA States shall participate in the Community activities referred to in the first indent of paragraph 8 as from 1 January 1999, in the activities referred to in the second indent as from 1 January 2003, in the activities referred to in the third indent as from 1 January 2014 and in the activities referred to in the fourth indent as from 1 January 2021.

6. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to in paragraph 8 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

7. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committee which assists the EC Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 8.

8. The Contracting Parties shall seek in particular to strengthen cooperation in the framework of Community activities which may result from the following acts:

- \textsuperscript{398 D 0171}: Decision 98/171/EC of 23 February 1998 on Community activities concerning analysis, research and cooperation in the field of employment and the labour market (OJ L 63, 4.3.1998, p. 26).


Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme. Norway shall participate in, and financially contribute to, only the Progress and EURES axes of the programme.


The costs incurred for activities the implementation of which starts after 1 January 2021 may be considered eligible as from the starting date of the action fixed in the grant agreement or the grant decision concerned, under the conditions set out therein, provided that Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 270/2021 of 24 September 2021 enters into force before the end of the action. The EFTA States shall only participate in the Employment and Social Innovation strand of the programme.


\textsuperscript{298} Indent added by Decision No 18/2003 (OJ L 94, 10.4.2003, p. 78 and EEA Supplement No 19, 10.4.2003, p. 22), e.i.f. 1.2.2003.


\textsuperscript{301} Indent and words “, as amended by:” added by Decision No 302/2019 (OJ L 68, 5.3.2020, p. 46 and EEA Supplement No 14, 5.3.2020, p. 52), e.i.f. 1.3.2021.

\textsuperscript{302} Indent added by Decision No 270/2021 (OJ L [to be published] and EEA Supplement No [to be published]), e.i.f. 25.9.2021. It shall apply from 1.1.2021. Corrigendum to the EU act subsequently taken note of by the EEA Joint Committee on 18.3.2022.
Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

9. The EFTA States shall participate in the cooperation provided in the following EU acts:


The EFTA States shall participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Board of the Network.


**Article 16**

Public Health

1. Cooperation in the field of public health shall be strengthened by participation of the EFTA States in Community activities which may result from the following Community acts:


[In the context of the cooperation provided for under this indent, the EFTA States shall take note of the following act:


[In the context of the cooperation provided for under this indent, the EFTA States shall take note of the following act:

2.\{301\} The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 1 in accordance with Article 82(1) (a) of the Agreement.
3. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assist the Commission in the management, development and implementation of the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 1.

4. (a) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the European Centre for disease prevention and control, hereinafter referred to as the “Centre”, as set up by the following Community act:


(b) The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the activities referred to under (a) in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of and Protocol 32 to the Agreement.

(c) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the Management Board and shall have the same rights and obligations within it as EU Member States, except for the right to vote.

(d) The EFTA States shall participate fully in the Advisory Forum and shall have the same rights and obligations within it as EU Member States.

(e) EFTA States shall apply to the Agency and to its staff the Protocol of Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities and applicable rules adopted pursuant to the Protocol.

(f) By way of derogation from Article 12 (2) (a) of the Conditions of employment of other servants of the European Communities, nationals of the EFTA States enjoying their full rights as citizens may be engaged under contract by the Director of the Agency.

(g) By virtue of Article 79(3) of the Agreement Part VII (Institutional Provisions) of the Agreement shall apply to this paragraph.

(h) Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents shall, for the application of this Regulation, apply to any documents of the Centre regarding the EFTA States as well.

Article 17

Telematic interchange of data

1. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1997 participate in the projects and activities of the Community programmes referred to in paragraph 6(a), in accordance with the Work programme in Appendix 3 to this Protocol, and as from 1 January 2006 shall participate in the projects and activities of the Community programme referred to in paragraph 6(b), to the extent that these projects and activities support other cooperation of the Contracting Parties.
The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2010, participate in the projects and activities of the programme referred to in paragraph 6(c), to the extent that these projects and activities support other cooperation of the Contracting Parties.

The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 2016, participate in the projects and activities of the programme referred to in paragraph 6(d).

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programmes referred to in paragraph 6 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programme referred to in paragraph 6(a), participate fully in the EEA relevant parts of the Telematics in Administration Committee (TAC) which assists the European Commission in the implementation, management and development of that programme, as far as the EEA relevant project parts of the programme are concerned.

4. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programme referred to in paragraph 6(b), participate fully, without the right to vote, in the EEA relevant parts of the Pan-European eGovernment Services Committee (PEGSCO), which assists the European Commission in the implementation, management and development of that programme, as far as the EEA relevant project parts of the programme are concerned.

5. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programme referred to in paragraph 6(c), participate fully, without the right to vote, in the EEA relevant parts of the Committee on interoperability solutions for European public administrations (the ISA Committee), which assists the European Commission in the implementation, management and development of that programme, as far as the EEA relevant project parts of the programme are concerned.

5a. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programme referred to in paragraph 6(d), participate fully, without the right to vote, in the Committee on Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations, Businesses and Citizens (the ISA2 Committee), which assists the European Commission in the implementation, management and development of that programme.

6. The following Community acts are the object of this article:

(a) with a view to participation as from 1 January 1997:


(b) with a view to participation as from 1 January 2006:


(c) with a view to participation as from 1 January 2010:


\[\text{(b) inserted by Decision No 90/2004 (OJ L 144, 30.4.2004, p. 65), as corrected by OJ L 181, 18.5.2004, p. 25.}\]
\[\text{(c) inserted by Decision No 80/2010 (OJ L 244, 16.9.2010, p. 41 and EEA Supplement No 49, 16.9.2010, p. 1), e.i.f. 12.6.2010, it shall apply from 1 January 2010.}\]
(d) with a view to participation as from 1 January 2016:


Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme.

**Article 18**

**Exchange between administrations of national officials**

1. The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1999, participate in the EEA relevant parts of the Community action plan and programme referred to in paragraph 4.

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the action plan and programme referred to in paragraph 4 in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the action plan and programme referred to in paragraph 4, participate fully in the EC committee which assists the EC Commission in the management or development of the action plan and programme, to the extent that the Committee is called upon to consider matters falling within the scope of the Agreement.

4. The following Community acts, as well as acts deriving therefrom, are the object of this Article:

   - 392 D 0481: Council Decision 92/481/EEC of 22 September 1992 on the adoption of an action plan for the exchange between Member State administrations of national officials who are engaged in the implementation of Community legislation required to achieve the internal market (OJ L 286, 1.10.1992, p. 65), as amended by:


**Article 19**

**Reduction of economic and social disparities**

1. The Contracting Parties shall strengthen their cooperation in reducing the economic and social disparities in the EEA through a financial contribution by the EEA EFTA States. For that purpose, a Financial Instrument shall be established for the period 1999-2003.

2. By virtue of Article 82(1)(c) of the Agreement, and subject to the modalities set out in Appendix 4 to this Protocol, the EEA EFTA States shall contribute the amount of EUR 119.6 million to the cooperation set out in paragraph 1 above. This contribution shall be made available for commitment in five equal annual tranches.

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APPENDIX 1 TO PROTOCOL 31(337)  

HELIOS  

II - WORK PROGRAMME 1995

1. CONSULTATIVE BODIES (1)


Full participation on the same conditions as EC Member States, except in respect of voting procedures (if any) and those matters dealt with in the “Budgetary Aspects” section of this Work Programme.

1.1. ADVISORY COMMITTEE - three meetings

- two government representatives from each EFTA State.

1.2. EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM - three meetings.

- twelve existing European NGOs to represent the interests of disabled people and disability organizations in EFTA States
- two existing representatives of social partners to represent the interests of social partners in EFTA States
- one representative of national NGO or National Council of Disabled People nominated by each EFTA State.

1.3. LIAISON GROUP - three meetings

- one government representative from each EFTA State
- one person to represent EFTA National NGOs and National Councils of Disabled People who are members of the Forum.

2. WORKING GROUPS (2)


Full participation on the same conditions as EC Member States, except in respect of voting procedures (if any) and those matters dealt with in the “Budgetary Aspects” section of this Work Programme.

2.1. HANDYNET TECHNICAL COORDINATION GROUP - three meetings

- one representative from each National Coordination Centre (NCC)

2.2. HANDYNET STUDY GROUP ON THESAURUS - three meetings

- one representative from each EFTA State.

2.3. HELIOS WORKING GROUP ON INTEGRATED EDUCATION - three meetings

- two government representatives from each EFTA State.

2.4. HELIOS WORKING GROUP ON EMPLOYMENT - three meetings

- one government representative from each EFTA State.

2.5. HELIOS WORKING GROUPS ON AN INDEPENDENT WAY OF LIFE

- Sport - two meetings
  two representatives of the National Committee for Sport for Disabled People in each EFTA State

- Mobility and Transport - two meetings
  two government representatives from each EFTA State

- Tourism - two meetings
  three representatives from NGOs/Tourism organizations in each EFTA State.

3. EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES (3)


3.1. Commission to provide each EFTA State with information about priority themes, work relating to them and results.

3.2. EFTA States to be invited to nominate participants in the seminars/conferences which will be held for representatives of the "Activities" to draw conclusions from their work during the year.

3.3. Planning and preparation for involvement of "Activities" in EFTA States in programme from 1 January 1996, including:
   a. Nomination of "Activities" by EFTA States' Governments by 30 September 1995 - four sectors: Functional Rehabilitation, Educational Integration, Economic Integration, Social Integration/Independent Way of Life (Number of "Activities" to be agreed).
   b. Initial meeting (symposium) for "Activities" in each sector and decisions on involvement in particular themes.

4. HANDYNET

Full participation on the same conditions as EC Member States with the objective of the data base containing full information relevant to all EFTA States by 1 January 1996:

- NCCs to collect data and transfer it to HELIOS Team of Experts.
- HELIOS Team of Experts to incorporate data in CD-ROM; and supply updated CD-ROMs (three times during the year) - free of charge to NCCs and Data Collection Centres (DCCs).
- Information and Advisory Centres (IACs) to provide access to information on CD-ROM to disabled people, through networks, etc.

5. COOPERATION WITH NGOs (4)


5.1. Commission to provide each EFTA State with information about the subjects and timing of events which are organized by NGOs and which receive a subsidy (up to 50%, and subject to a ceiling) from the HELIOS II Programme (EUROPROGRAMMES proposed by each of the twelve European NGOs on the Forum).

5.2. Representatives from EFTA States, NGOs, etc, to be invited to attend events which are not restricted to a particular organization or organizations.
5.3. European NGOs to consider requests for events to be organized and held in EFTA States to be included in EUROPROGRAMMES for 1996 and to present an opinion to the Commission for final decision. (EUROPROGRAMME events receive subsidies of up to 50% of total cost subject to a ceiling).

6. PUBLIC AWARENESS

6.1. Commission to distribute HELIOSCOPE (HELIOS Review), HELIOS Flash and other documentation to organizations and individuals within EFTA States on demand.

6.2. Annual day for disabled people (3 December) - organizations and individuals in EFTA States to be invited to participate in European level events.

6.3. HELIOS Competition and Prizes - participation in the annual conference.

6.4. Information stands (conferences, fairs, etc.)
Venues in EFTA States to be considered for inclusion in annual programme.

6.5. HELIOS National Information Day

1996

1 & 2 CONSULTATIVE BODIES and WORKING GROUPS
Participation as for 1995, but Commission to pay expenses for participants on following basis:
Government Representatives - travel costs
Others - travel costs, subsistence allowance, and allowance for incidental expenses.
Where a participant is accompanied by another person because of his or her disability that person's costs will be met on the same basis as those of the participant.

3. EXCHANGE ACTIVITIES
Full participation on the same conditions as EC Member States, including participation by representatives of nominated "Activities" in:
- study visits, training sessions etc organized to pursue specific themes - all costs to be met by Commission subject to a maximum amount for each "Activity"; and
- seminars/conferences held at end of year. All costs to be met by the Commission.

4. HANDYNET - As for 1995.

5. COOPERATION WITH NGOs
Full participation on the same conditions as EC Member States, including:

5.1. National NGSs and National Councils of Disabled People who are members of the Forum:
- to organize a national conference with a European dimension on a HELIOS II Priority Theme - Commission to pay 50% of costs subject to a ceiling;
- to participate in National Information Day - Commission to pay 100% of costs subject to a ceiling.

5.2. European NGOs - EUROPROGRAMMES to include events organized and held in EFTA States.

6. PUBLIC AWARENESS

6.2. HELIOS Competition and Prizes:
- one member of jury to be appointed by each EFTA State;
- projects by organizations in EFTA States to be eligible for prizes;
- full participation in annual conference with costs to be met on same basis as for EC Member States.

HELIOS II - WORK PROGRAMME
BUDGETARY ASPECTS

1995

No direct contribution to the budget of the EC.

EFTA States pay:
- all their own costs relating to their participation
- all costs that relate to necessary services provided by the HELIOS Team of Experts such as salaries, travel and equipment costs incurred by the experts in consequence of the extension of the programme to the EFTA States;
- all costs related to additional staff appointed specifically to assist with the participation of the EFTA States.

Proposals for additional staff:
two experts to be appointed to the HELIOS Team of Experts in Brussels to assist with activities relating to Handynet;
one secretary to be appointed to support them.

Note:
Preparations by budget experts of the EC and the EFTA States for the 1996 financial year will take place in the first half of 1995 following the procedure in Protocol 32 of the Agreement. These discussions will lead to final decisions on the financial contribution of the EFTA States to the general budget of the EC, and will also cover the question of additional staff.

1996

Full contribution to the budget of the EC (in accordance with Article 82 (1) (a) of the Agreement).

APPENDIX 2 TO PROTOCOL 31 (**)

1. The EFTA States shall participate in the medium-term Community Action Programme on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women (1 January 1996 to 31 December 2000).

2. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the programme in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement.

3. The EFTA States shall participate fully in the EC committees which assist the Commission in the management, development and implementation of the action programme referred to in paragraph 1.

APPENDIX 3 TO PROTOCOL 31 (\textsuperscript{189})

*Telematic interchange of data between administrations (IDA)*

*Work programme*

The EFTA States shall participate only in the following Projects and Activities resulting from Article 2 of Council Decision 95/468/EC of 6 November 1995 on a Community contribution for telematic interchange of data between administrations in the Community (IDA):

- Practical Introduction of Electronic Mail on the Basis of X.400
- Horizontal Activities - (Architecture, Generic services, TESTA)
- Horizontal Action - Interoperability between national telematic systems
- Horizontal Actions - Generic Services - Monitoring of Market Offers
- Horizontal Activities - Information Content Interoperability
- Horizontal Activities - Legal and Security Aspects
- IDA Awareness and Promotion Activities
- Horizontal Activities - Quality Control and Project Support
- TESS (Telematics for Social Security) = SOSENEN (Social Security Network)
- EURES (EURopean Employment Services):
  
The possible participation by Liechtenstein shall be examined at the end of 1997, subject to the result of the joint review to which reference is made in Article 9 of Protocol 15 of the Agreement.
- EUPHIN - European Union Public Health Information Network
- ANIMO (Animal Movement):
  
  Norway and Iceland shall participate from the date of entry into force of the EEA Joint Committee Decision incorporating the relevant Community acts into the EEA Agreement. The possible participation by Liechtenstein shall be examined at the end of 1998.
- PHYSAN - Common catalogues of varieties
- PHYSAN - Europhyt:

  The EFTA States shall participate from the date of entry into force of the EEA Joint Committee Decision incorporating the relevant Community acts into the EEA Agreement.

- SHIFT (System to assist the Health Controls of Imports of items at Frontier Inspection posts from Third countries):

Norway and Iceland shall participate from the date of entry into force of the EEA Joint Committee Decision incorporating the relevant Community acts into the EEA Agreement.

The possible participation for Liechtenstein shall be examined at the end of 1998.

- ITCG (Illegal Traffic of Cultural Goods)
- SIMAP (Information System for Public Procurement)
- TARIC (Integrated Tariff of the Community)
- EBTI (European Binding Tariff Info)
- TRANSIT (Community/Common)
- CCN/CSI (Common Communications Network)
- EIONET (European Environment Agency Network)
- EMEA (European Medicine Evaluation Agency Network):

The EFTA States shall participate from the date of entry into force of the EEA Joint Committee Decision incorporating the relevant Community acts into the EEA Agreement.

- DSIS (Distributed Statistical Information Services)
- EXTRACOM
- SERT (Statistiques d'Entreprises et Réseaux Télématiques)
- STATEL - Generic Services (horizontal activities).

I.\textsuperscript{[340]} PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST

\textsuperscript{[340]} The EFTA States shall participate in the following projects of common interest in the sphere of trans-European networks for the interchange of data between administrations, resulting from Article 3(1) of Decision No 1719/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, as amended.

A. IN GENERAL

– Implementation of those networks required for the functioning of the European Agencies and bodies and in support of the legal framework arising from the creation of the European Agencies.

– Implementation of networks in the fields of policies related to the free movement of persons, in so far as they are required to support the action of the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement under that Agreement.

– Implementation of those networks which, within the framework of the present Agreement and in unforeseen circumstances, are urgently required to support the action of the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement, inter alia, in protecting the life and health of humans, animals and plants, the rights of European consumers, the living conditions of persons in the European Economic Area, or the fundamental interest of the Contracting Parties.


Implementation of networks which facilitate the cooperation between judicial authorities (This applies only for Iceland and Norway).

B. SPECIFIC NETWORKS SUPPORTING EMU AND COMMUNITY POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES

- Telematic networks concerning Community funding, notably to create an interface to existing Commission databases in order to facilitate the access of European organisations, and particularly SMEs, to Community sources of funding.
- Telematic networks in the area of statistics, notably regarding the collection and dissemination of statistical information.
- Telematic networks in the area of publication of official documents.
- Telematic networks in the industry sector, notably concerning the exchange of information between administrations in charge of industrial affairs, and between such administrations and industry federations, for the exchange of data regarding automobile type-approved data interchange between administrations, as well as services to simplify and improve the process of administrative form filling.
- Telematic networks concerning competition policy, notably through the implementation of improved electronic data exchange with the national administrations in order to facilitate information and consultation procedures.

Telematic networks in the areas of education and culture, information, communication, and audio-visual sector, notably for the exchange of information concerning content issues on open networks and to promote the development and free circulation of new audio-visual and information services.

Telematic networks in the transport sector, notably for the support of the exchange of data concerning drivers, vehicles and transport operators.

Telematic networks in the areas of tourism, environment, consumer protection and public health protection for the support of information exchange between the Contracting Parties to the present Agreement.

Telematic networks contributing to the objectives of the e-Europe initiative and related action plan, in particular the chapter on government online, aimed at benefiting citizens and enterprises.

Telematic networks concerning immigration policy, notably through the implementation of improved electronic data exchange with the national administrations in order to facilitate information and consultation procedures (This applies only for Iceland and Norway).

C. INTERINSTITUTIONAL NETWORKS

- Telematic networks in support of the interinstitutional exchange of information, notably:
  - in facilitation of multilingualism in interinstitutional information exchanges, means of translation workflow management and translation support tools, the sharing/exchanging of multilingual resources, and the organisation of common access to terminology databases; and
  - for document sharing between European Agencies and bodies and the European institutions.

D. GLOBALISATION OF IDA NETWORKS

- Extension of IDA networks to the EEA, EFTA, CEECs and other associated countries, as well as to G7 countries and international organisations, in particular regarding the social security, healthcare, pharmaceutical and environmental networks.

II. HORIZONTAL ACTIONS AND MEASURES


The EFTA States shall participate in the following horizontal actions and measures in order to ensure interoperability of and access to trans-European networks for the electronic interchange of data between administrations (IDA) and resulting from Article 3(1) of Decision No 1720/1999/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council:

- Generic services.
- Common tools and techniques.
- Information content interoperability.
- Reference legal and security practices.
- Quality assurance and control.
- Interoperability with national and regional initiatives.
- Spread of best practice.

APPENDIX 4 TO PROTOCOL 31 \(^{(ne)}\)

EEA Financial Instrument
Modalities of implementation

1. Definitions

In what follows:

1. Beneficiary State is a State that receives funding from the EEA EFTA States according to Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 47/2000 of 22 May 2000. The Beneficiary State is represented by an authority to be nominated, charged with the management of the EEA EFTA funding in the country and with entering into contracts on projects with the Committee. The financial responsibility to the EEA EFTA States rests with the Beneficiary State.

2. Project Promoter is the body that sets up the project. The grants are paid to the Project Promoter via the Beneficiary State.

3. The Committee is the body set up by the EEA EFTA States to carry out the functions outlined in point 7.

4. The Monitoring Agent is an independent body that, on the basis of an agreement with the Beneficiary State, monitors the progress of the project and reports to the Beneficiary State and the Committee. The Monitoring Agent is appointed by the Beneficiary State on the basis of a proposal or an assessment and agreement of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and with the consent of the Committee.

2. The Beneficiary States

The Beneficiary States and their shares of the funds shall be as in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1999</th>
<th>2000-2003</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>EUR 10 859 680</td>
<td>EUR 59 321 600</td>
<td>EUR 70 181 280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>EUR 5 023 200</td>
<td>EUR 16 265 600</td>
<td>EUR 21 288 800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>EUR 5 812 560</td>
<td>EUR 16 265 600</td>
<td>EUR 22 078 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>EUR 1 698 320</td>
<td>EUR 3 827 200</td>
<td>EUR 5 525 520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK (Northern Ireland)</td>
<td>EUR 526 240</td>
<td>EUR 0</td>
<td>EUR 526 240</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Form of assistance

The assistance shall be entirely in the form of grants. A Beneficiary State may, however, present proposals to the Committee to use parts of its share for the reduction of the interest costs of projects mainly financed by loans. Any such support will also be given in the form of grants.

The EEA EFTA contribution shall not exceed 50% of the project cost, except in projects otherwise financed by central, regional or local government budget allocations, where the contribution may not exceed 85% of total cost. Community ceilings for co-financing shall not be exceeded in any case.

The responsibility of the EEA EFTA States for the projects is limited to providing funds according to the agreed plan, provided that the monitoring reports confirm project implementation in accordance with the project proposal.

4. Eligible activities

Funding shall be available for projects in the areas of environment, including urban renewal, reduction of urban pollution and securing the European cultural heritage, transport, including infrastructure, and education and training, including academic research. The Contracting Parties agree to aim at allocating at least 2/3 of the overall amount to projects in the area of environment, as defined above.

5. Projects

The total amount of EUR 119,6 million shall be made available for commitment at the rhythm of 20% per year commenced cumulatively as of 1999. Different parts of large projects can be separately presented for financing and the Committee will consider each project proposal on its own merits.

6. Monitoring requirements

A monitoring plan is established for each project together with the project plan and schedule, the budget and the payment schedule. It shall identify the crucial points in the project. The Monitoring Agent reports at important stages of the project, in accordance with the established plan, normally at least once a year, to the Beneficiary State and the Committee, giving, inter alia, the following information:

- Fulfilment of formal requirements relating to tendering and procurement of permits and certifications.
- Project progress compared with the original plan.
- Deviations, if any, in relation to, inter alia, budgets, disbursement schedules, contracts, physical implementation, completion date. Repercussions for the project's scope, expected benefits and time of completion. Measures taken to mitigate the consequences of deviations, when appropriate.
- Accounts of the project.
- Whether the advancement of the project meets the requirements for the payment of the next instalment.

If the report does not correspond to the agreed plan, the Committee may ask the Beneficiary State for complementary information. Questions limited to clarification and requests for information that is missing in the report may be addressed to the Monitoring Agent, with the Beneficiary State being kept duly informed. The Committee may decide not to authorise further payments until the report corresponds to the agreement. The EEA EFTA States may audit projects as specified in point 10(13).

7. Organisational set-up

The EFTA States shall establish a Committee that shall:

- Approve the projects for funding.
- Approve the monitoring and payment plan for every project.
- Supervise the overall functioning of the assistance, notably on the basis of the monitoring reports.
- Authorise payments to the beneficiaries according to the payment plan, on the basis of the monitoring
The EIB shall:

- Appraise the proposed projects and report to the Beneficiary State.
- Propose, or assess and agree to, Monitoring Agents in the Beneficiary States, to be approved by the Committee and the Beneficiary State.

The Beneficiary States shall:

- Receive and endorse the projects to be financed.
- Present the projects to the EIB for appraisal and, subsequently, to the Commission and to the Committee, with the appraisal of the EIB.

The Commission shall:

Screen the proposed projects for their compatibility with Community objectives and, notably, rules for co-financing. In the latter scrutiny the EEA EFTA contributions shall be assimilated to Community financing.

The Monitoring Agents shall:

- Monitor the projects according to a reporting plan annexed to the approved project plan.
- Report to the Beneficiary State and to the Committee.

8. Language regime

The official languages of the EEA Agreement can be used. All documents submitted to the Committee must be provided by the Beneficiary State/Project Promoter in English translation.

9. Financial arrangements

The EEA EFTA States shall add a provision for appraisal and monitoring of 0.5% to each payment to the Beneficiary States, over and above the amount to be drawn on the agreed fund of EUR 119.6 million. All parties shall pay their own administrative costs.

The EIB, acting as a consultant to the Project Promoters/Beneficiary States, shall charge a fee to its principals for its services.

The EEA EFTA States shall implement an appropriate financial management. Payments to the Beneficiary States shall be made on the basis of orders of the Committee, which shall ensure timely execution. The accrued interest on the funds before the payment to beneficiaries belongs to the fund providers.

10. Short process description

1. Project Promoter proposes a project outline to the Beneficiary State.

2. Beneficiary State proposes the project outline to the Commission and the Committee in pre-consultation to validate the idea. The Committee may waive the requirement of pre-consultation, following a reasoned request from the Beneficiary State and based on objective criteria.

3. In case of a positive outcome of the pre-consultation or in case such pre-consultation has been waived, Project Promoter asks the EIB to appraise the project. The appraisal shall cover technical, economic, financial, and managerial aspects of the proposal.

4. Project Promoter submits the project plan, including budget, schedule, payment plan, monitoring plan and the EIB appraisal report, to the Beneficiary State.

5. Beneficiary State submits the project with the documents mentioned in (4) to the Commission for clearance on eligibility.
6. Beneficiary State submits the project with the documents mentioned in (4) simultaneously to the Committee for approval.

7. The Committee may ask for supplementary information or propose a revision to the project plan, notably to its monitoring/payment plan. The Committee approves the (revised) project or gives a reasoned refusal. If approved, a commitment letter specifying relevant conditions is sent to the Beneficiary State.

8. A contract is signed between the Monitoring Agent and the Beneficiary State, based on the monitoring plan.

9. A contract is signed between Project Promoter and Beneficiary State, and a grant agreement is signed between the Beneficiary State and the Committee.

10. The first instalment of 10% is paid to the Beneficiary State upon the Project Promoter signature of the contract with the contractor. Later instalments will take place according to the payment plan on a pro rata basis reflecting actual project implementation subsequent to a satisfactory monitoring report and approval by the Committee.

11. The Project Promoter carries out the project and the Monitoring Agent reports to the Beneficiary State and the Committee.

12. If payments cannot be executed according to the plan, consultations may take place between the Beneficiary State and the Committee.

13. If the Committee or the EFTA Board of Auditors wish to obtain information beyond that provided for in the monitoring plan, they may conduct their own audit or hire at their own cost an external auditor to audit the project. The Beneficiary State may accompany the auditor. The Project Promoter and any other entity managing the project on his behalf should grant the auditor the same access to information as they would grant to their national authorities or their own auditors, as appropriate.

14. When the monitoring plan so requires, the Monitoring Agent shall produce a project completion report or an evaluation report.

11. Concluding remarks

Except when called for by changed circumstances, the operation of the new Financial Instrument will be conducted along the same lines as those followed in the administration of the outgoing Financial Mechanism. Supplementary documents may be established as appropriate.