

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

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4 June 2014

LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE
SECOND HALF OF 2014

The purpose of this programme is to give a general orientation to work at all levels on the EEA EFTA side, particularly under the EFTA Standing Committee structure and in the Secretariat which services it. This programme will be supplemented by the work programmes for the Subcommittees and for selected EEA EFTA working groups.

Items under “main focus” are issues that the Chair will pay special attention to. The listing of items in sections I and II is intended to highlight key issues under discussion.

The main focus of the Liechtenstein Chair during the second half of 2014 will be to:

- **Outstanding legal acts.** Continue the work aimed at reducing the number of outstanding legal acts in the EEA Agreement. In particular, ensure implementation of the new Standing Committee procedures for the incorporation of legal acts and follow-up on other measures proposed through the EEA Efficiency Project.
- **New European architecture of financial supervision.** Continue to work with urgency towards reaching an agreement on EEA EFTA participation in the three new European Supervisory Authorities and the European Systemic Risk Board. While such a solution is pending, EU acts linked to the ESAs are to be assessed and processed to the extent possible.
- **EEA Financial Mechanism.** Continue negotiations with the European Union regarding a new period, with the aim of reaching a conclusion during the Liechtenstein Chairmanship period.

I. Horizontal issues and EU developments to be followed closely

- **New European Parliament and European Commission**

Follow closely relevant developments related to the new European Parliament and the establishment of a new European Commission for the 2014-2019 period, in particular with regard to Internal Market policies.

- **EEA relevance and scope of the EEA Agreement**

Continue the dialogue with the EU side on EEA relevance and the scope of the EEA Agreement.

- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership**

Continue to follow the development of EU-US negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) Agreement and assess the implications for the EEA Agreement and EEA EFTA States.

- **Information and knowledge of the EEA Agreement**

Strengthening the knowledge of the EEA Agreement in the EU institutions and Member States as well as in the EEA EFTA countries. Encourage and support the organisation of specific seminars and other events, in particular to foster inter-institutional cooperation in the EEA.

- **EEA EFTA Comments**

Encourage the submission of EEA EFTA comments and ensure appropriate follow-up.

II. Legal acts and policies (not exhaustive)

Particular emphasis will be placed on the following areas at all levels:

- **Medicinal products**

Prepare for the incorporation of the Paediatrics Regulation.

- **Postal services**

Work towards the incorporation of the Third Postal Directive.

- **Telecom Package**

Work towards agreement on the incorporation of the Telecom Package. Follow up on the proposal for a Single Market for electronic communication with the relevant EU institutions, including efforts to amend the BEREC Regulation to include EEA EFTA participation.

- **Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

Continue to work towards a solution on the incorporation of the Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directives.

- **Energy, climate change and environment**

Seek to finalise negotiations with the EU side regarding the incorporation of the 3rd Package for the Internal Energy Market. Follow closely the process on establishing a “2030 Framework for Climate and Energy” and the completion of the internal energy market in 2014. Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on carbon dioxide emissions from new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles and the Industrial Emissions Directive. Work towards the incorporation of the Fuel Quality Directive, and finalise preparations for the incorporation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law.

- **Internal Market Information System**

Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on the Internal Market Information System linking national, regional and local authorities across borders.

- **Data protection**

Continue to follow closely the negotiations on the regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Work towards future EEA EFTA State participation in the proposed committee and in the European Data Protection Board.

- **Labour law**

Seek to incorporate the directive concerning the enforcement of the provisions applicable to the posting of workers and the proposal for a directive to include seafarers within the scope of five labour law directives.

- **Employment**

Work towards the incorporation of the legislation on the Heads of Public Employment Services (HoPES) network and on the reform of the legal base of EURES.

- **Transport**

Continue to follow closely the negotiations on the Fourth Railway package.

- **State aid**

Work towards the incorporation of updated and revised state aid rules in relation to the State Aid Modernisation Initiative.

- **Public procurement**

Work towards the incorporation of the revised European Public Procurement Directives and the new Directive on Concession Contracts.

- **Chemicals**

Ensure the swift incorporation of the acts implementing the Regulation on Plant Protection Products. Ensure the participation of the EEA EFTA States in the activities of the European Chemicals Agency concerning biocides.

- **Food and Veterinary Matters**

Ensure the incorporation of the Regulation on Novel Food and the Regulation on food information for consumers. Work towards the incorporation of the legislation on organic production and prepare for the incorporation of the Regulation on Genetically Modified Food and Feed. Continue to follow the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food and the proposals on the cloning of animals for food production purposes. Follow the development of the “package” of legislation for the food chain regarding animal health, plant health, reproductive material, and the revision of the Regulation on Official Controls along the Food Chain.

- **Public health**

Continue to follow closely the issues related to serious cross-border threats to health and the revision of the Tobacco Products Directive.