

EFTA Advisory Bodies

Parliamentarians, social partners and local/regional representation in the EEA

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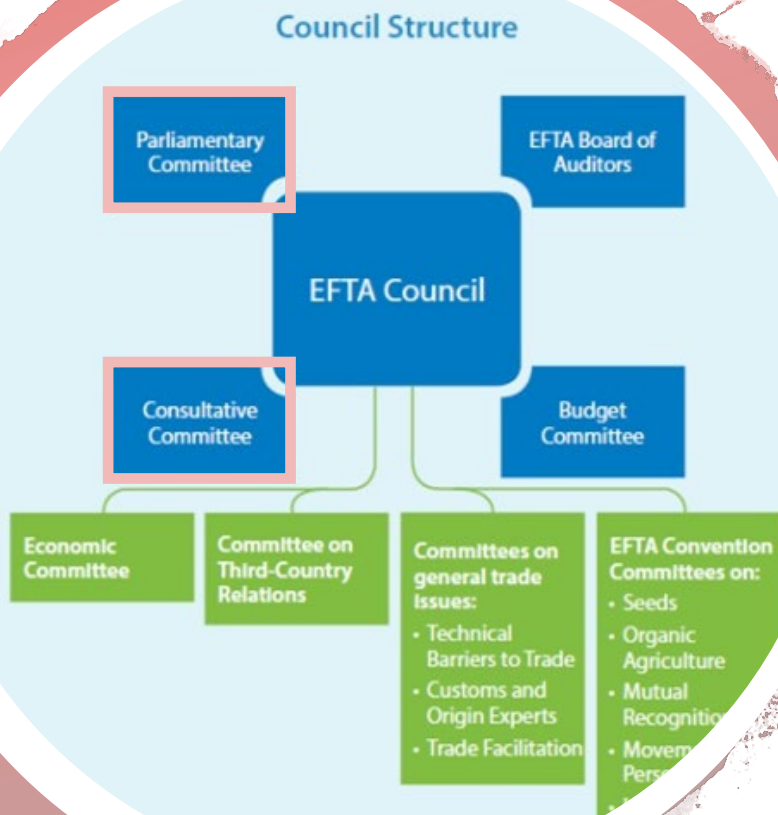


Outline

- > Introduction to EFTA Advisory Bodies
- > EEA parliamentary scrutiny
- > Social partners and the EEA
- > The EEA locally and regionally
- > Questions & Answers



The EFTA Advisory Bodies

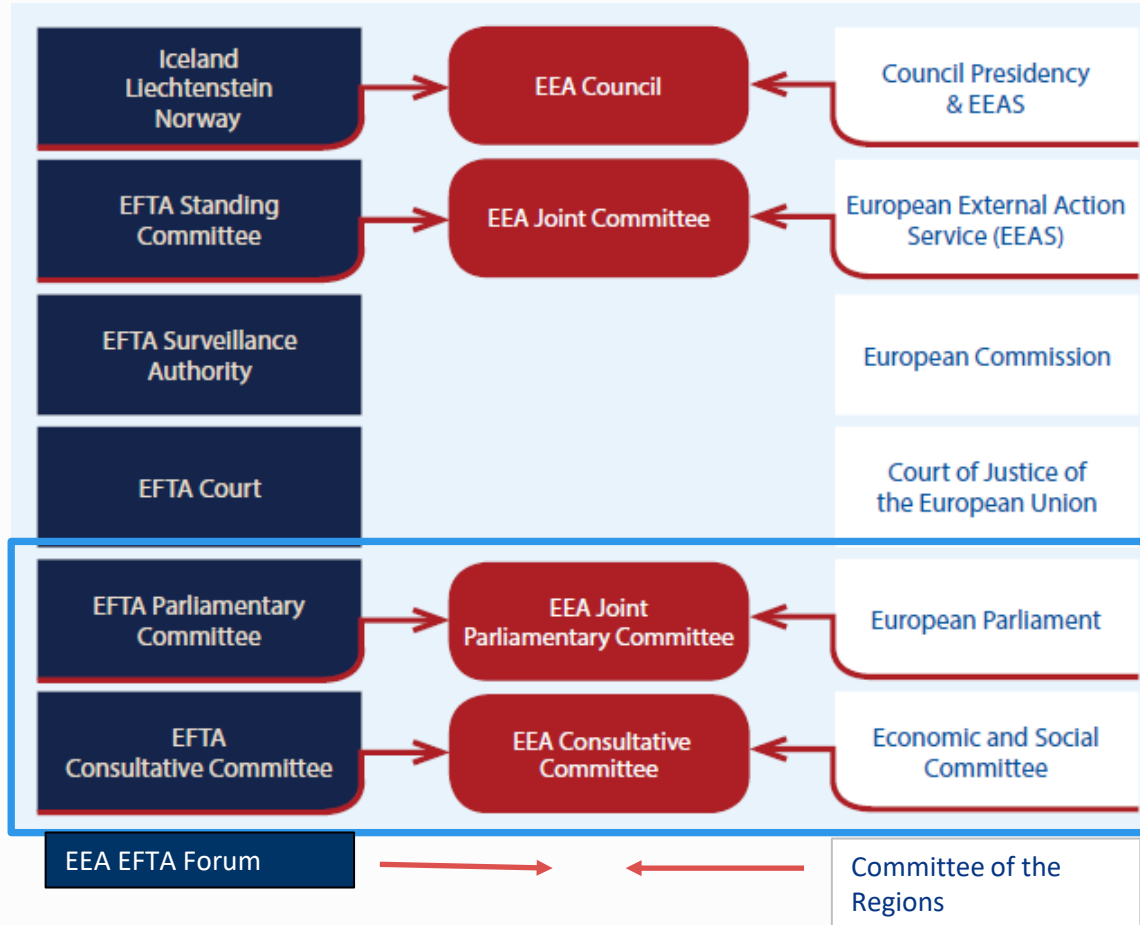


- The **EFTA Parliamentary Committee**: forum for EFTA States' Parliamentarians
- The **EFTA Consultative Committee**: forum for representatives of Trade Unions and Business and Employers Associations in EFTA States

Role and mandate:

- Provide advice to EFTA member states:
 1. Relations with the EU/EEA
 2. Relations with third-countries

EFTA Advisory Bodies and the EEA Agreement



EEA parliamentary scrutiny – The EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee

- > EFTA PC meets *twice a year* with the EP Delegation for the relations with EFTA countries and the EEA.
- > *Scrutinises* the functioning of the EEA Agreement according to *its art. 95*
- > *Monitors EU* legislative developments and their impact on the EEA Agreement
- > *Expresses its views* in the form of resolutions and reports.



58th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee on 19 and 20 October 2022 in Strasbourg under the co-chairmanship of Andreas Schwab (EP) and Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen (EFTA).



Socials partners and the EEA – The EEA Consultative Committee

- > EFTA CC meets *once a year* with representatives of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- > *Scrutinises* the functioning of the EEA Agreement according to its *art. 96*
- > *Monitors* EU legislative developments and their impact on the EEA Agreement
- > *Expresses its views* in the form of reports or resolutions, as appropriate.



The 30th meeting of the EEA CC took place on 11 May 2022 in Bergen



The EEA locally & regionally – The EEA EFTA Forum

- > *Informal body* established in 2009 by the EEA EFTA States
- > Involvement of *elected representatives from local or regional authorities* in EEA matters
- > Meets at least *once a year*
- > Informal links established with the *European Committee of the Regions*
- > Formulates its views in the form of *opinions* addressed to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.



Delegates of the EEA EFTA Forum adopted an Opinion on the Urban Wastewater treatment Directive at their last meeting on 1-2 December 2022



EEA scrutiny within the EFTA pillar

- > EEA cooperation is being *discussed in the EFTA context/pillar*
- > *Meeting with the EEA EFTA Foreign Affairs Ministers on the margins of the biannual meetings of the EEA Council – usually in autumn*
- > *Meeting of the EFTA Consultative Committee with the EEA EFTA Ambassadors in spring*
- > *Meetings of the EFTA PC, of the EFTA CC, or joint meetings of the EFTA advisory bodies on EEA cooperation*

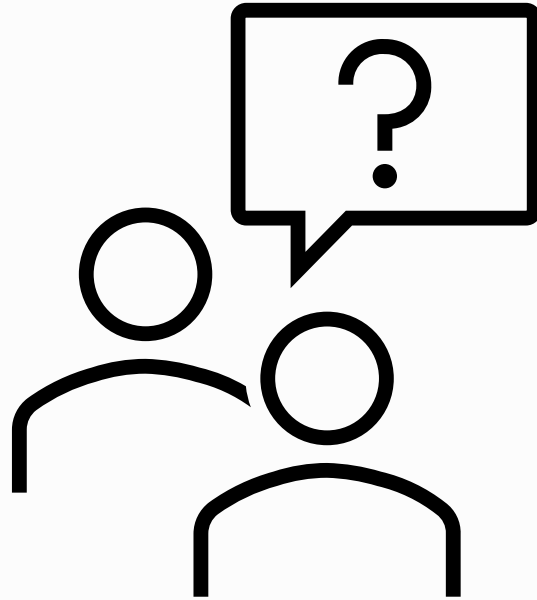


Final remarks

- > EFTA Advisory Bodies: an **essential communication channel** with political, economic, social and civil society circles in EFTA Member States
- > Bring EEA matters **closer to the citizens** of the EFTA States
- > Ensures **democratic accountability and legitimacy** of the EEA Agreement



Questions and Answers



www.efta.int/Advisory-Bodies/

