
Official Norwegian Reports NOU 2012: 2 Chapter1

Outside and Inside

Norway's agreements with the European Union

Report by the EEA Review Committee, appointed on 7 January 2010
Submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 January 2012

NOU

Norges offentlige utredninger 2012: 2

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Trykk: 07 Aurskog 01/2012

NOU 2012: 2

Utenfor og innenfor

Norges avtaler med EU



THE EUROPE REVIEW COMMITTEE

On 7 January 2010, the Norwegian Government appointed a broad-based independent committee to undertake a thorough, research-based review of the EEA Agreement.

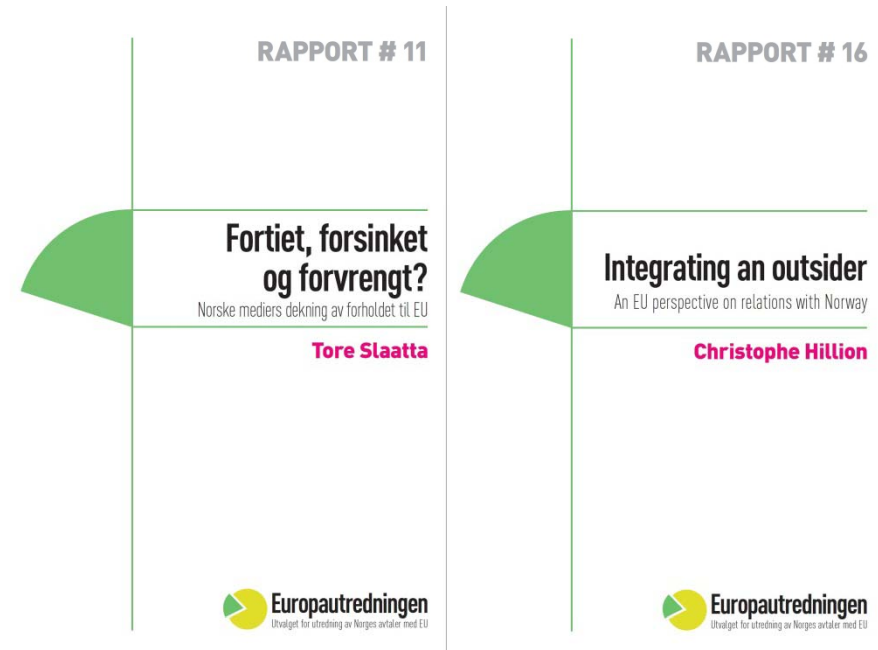
The mandate of the Committee called for a comprehensive and thorough review of the political, legal, administrative, economic and other social consequences of the EEA Agreement.

12 members + Secretariat

THE PROCESS

- 21 external reports
- 10 public meetings
- Reference group
- Inputs

See www.europautredningen.no



THE REPORT

Fat

28 chapters – 900 + pages

Summary – main message (5 pages)

Unanimous (strong majority)



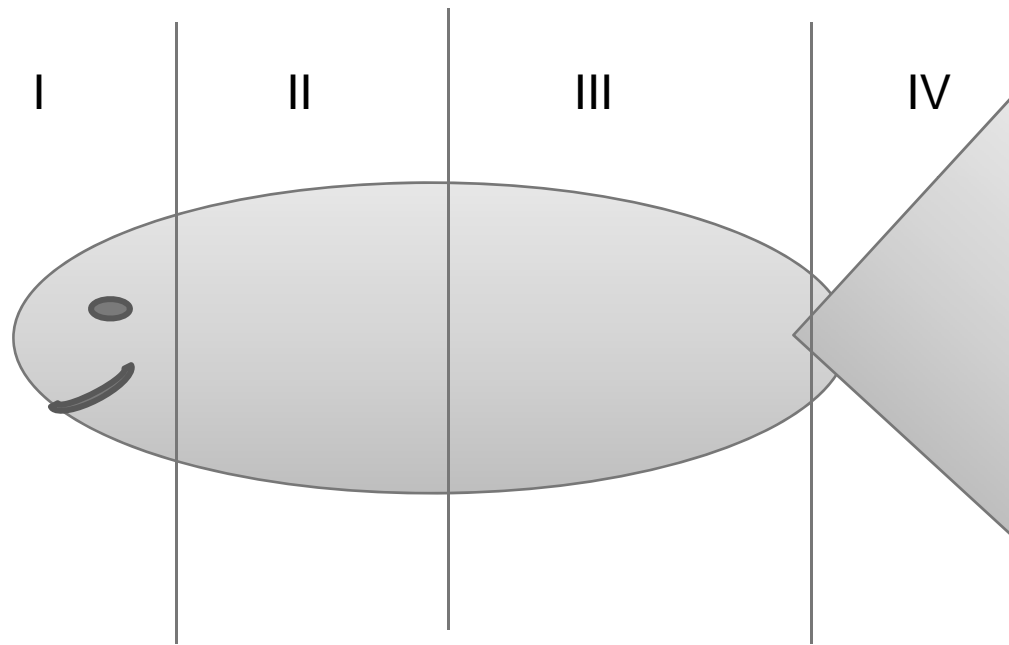
CORE QUESTIONS

Extent and content of Norways agreements with the EU

Development and dynamics

Consequences for Norwegian policies and society

STRUCTURE



Model or patchwork?

- EEA – but numerous other agreements
- Special mode of association

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY

Foreign policy framework

- EU, 27 member states, 2 EFTA countries

Domestic consequences

- Scope: all policy sectors
- Depth: Affecting day-to-day activities
- Extensive Europeanization of Norway – 1992-2011

DEVELOPMENT 1992-2011

New agreements with the EU

Geographical enlargement

New legal acts

New interpretations and practices

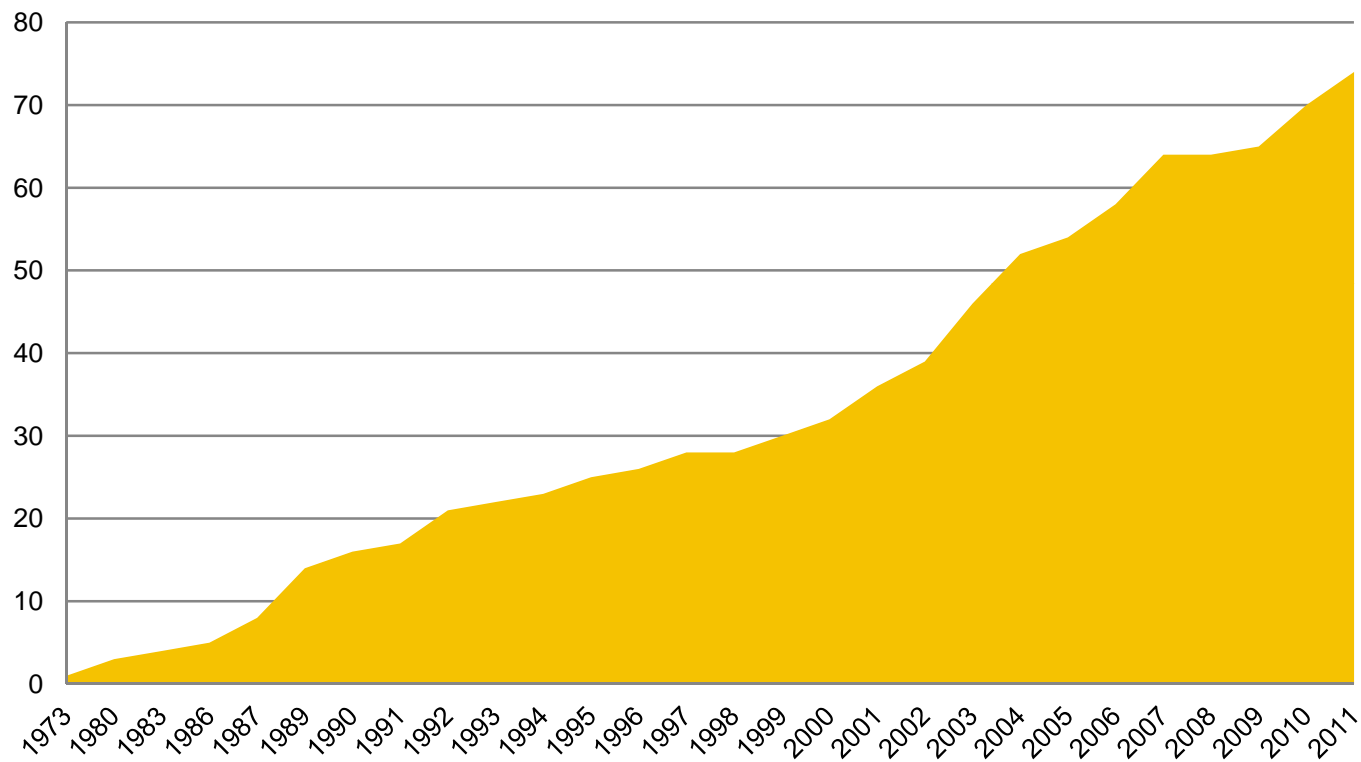
Unilateral adaptation and mimicking

Ever closer cooperation

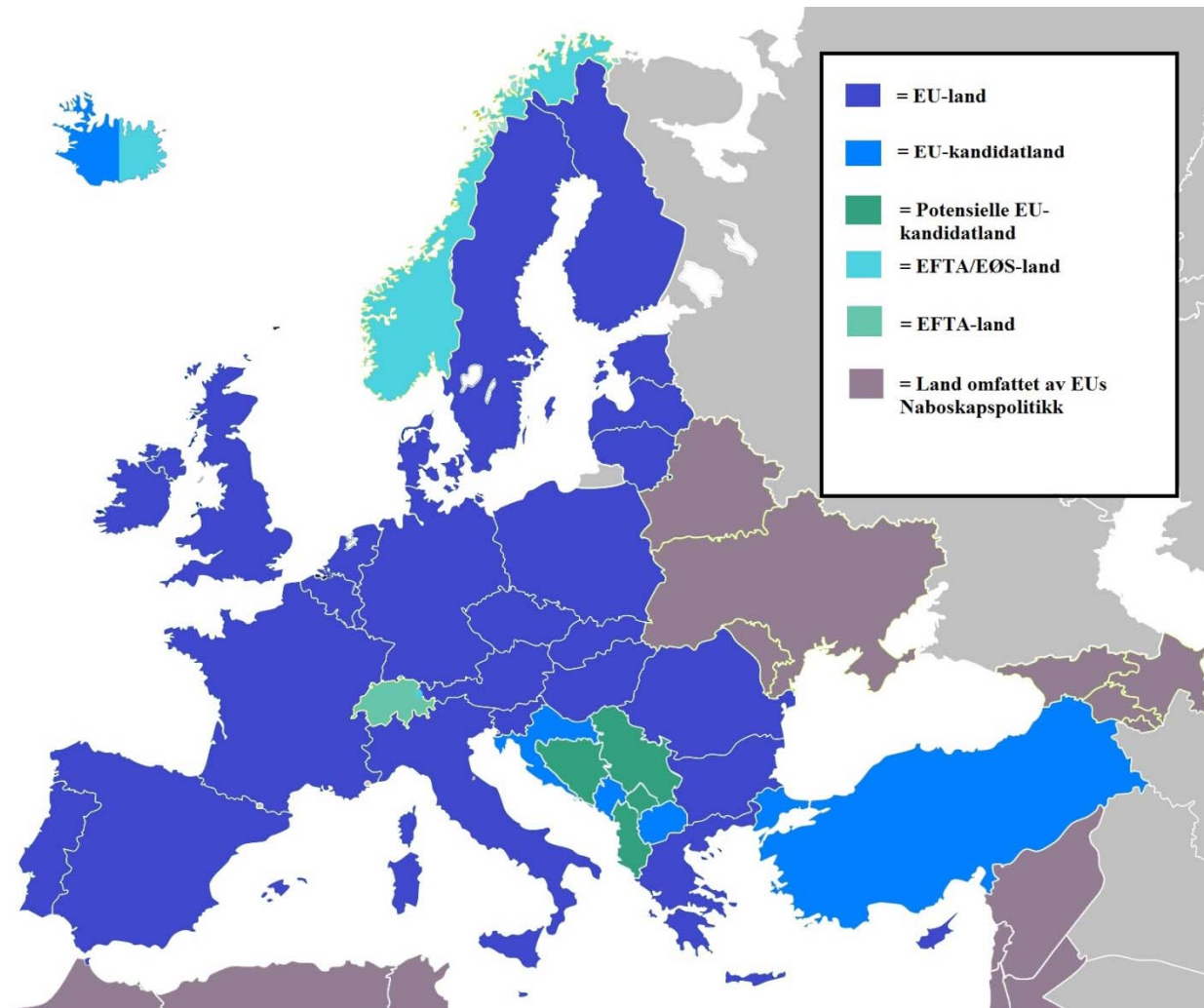
No reversals

INCREASING NUMBER OF AGREEMENT

ANTALL GJELDENDE AVTALER MED EU, ETTER
INNGÅELSESTIDSPUNKT (KUMULATIV OVERSIKT)

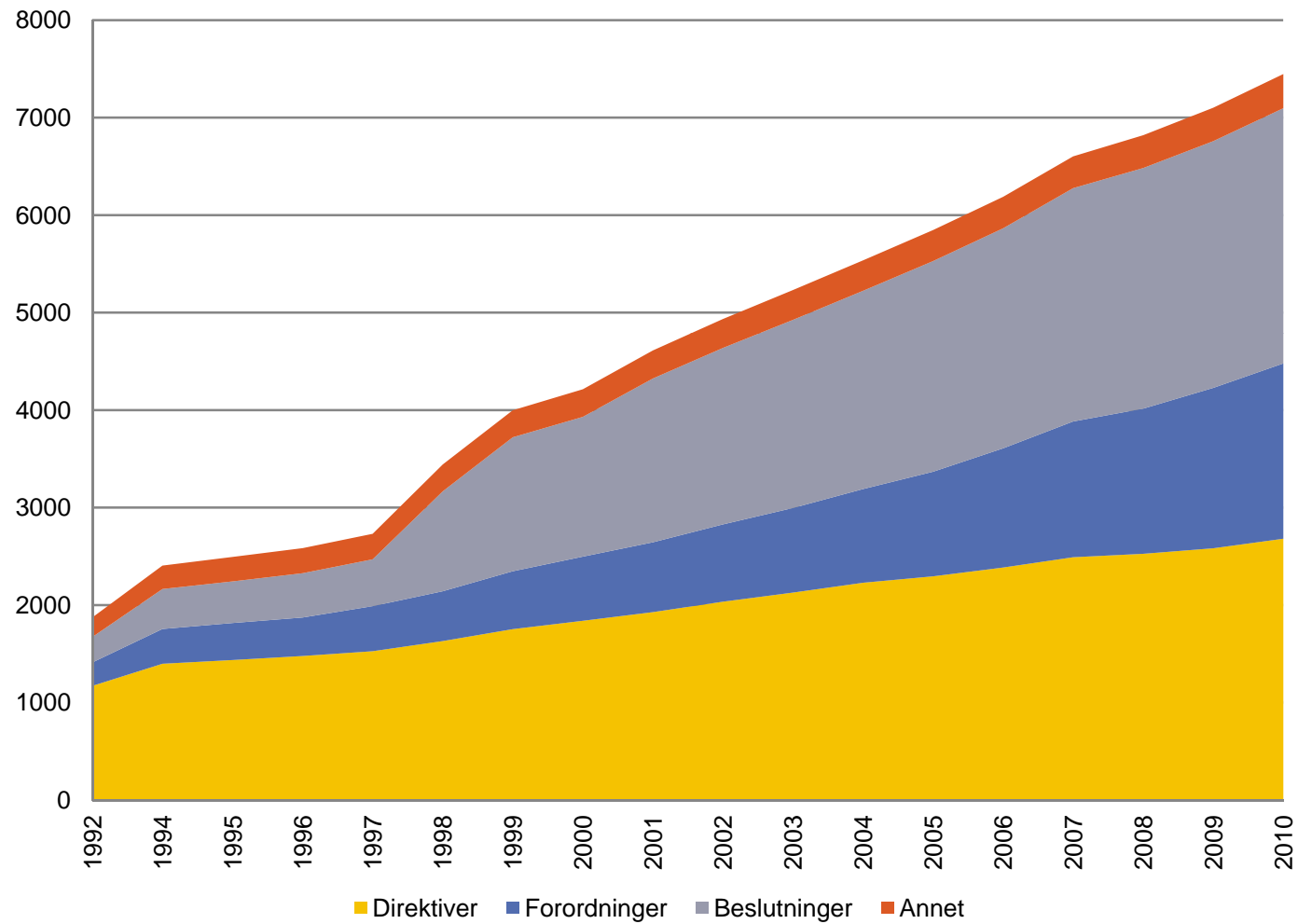


ENLARGEMENTS

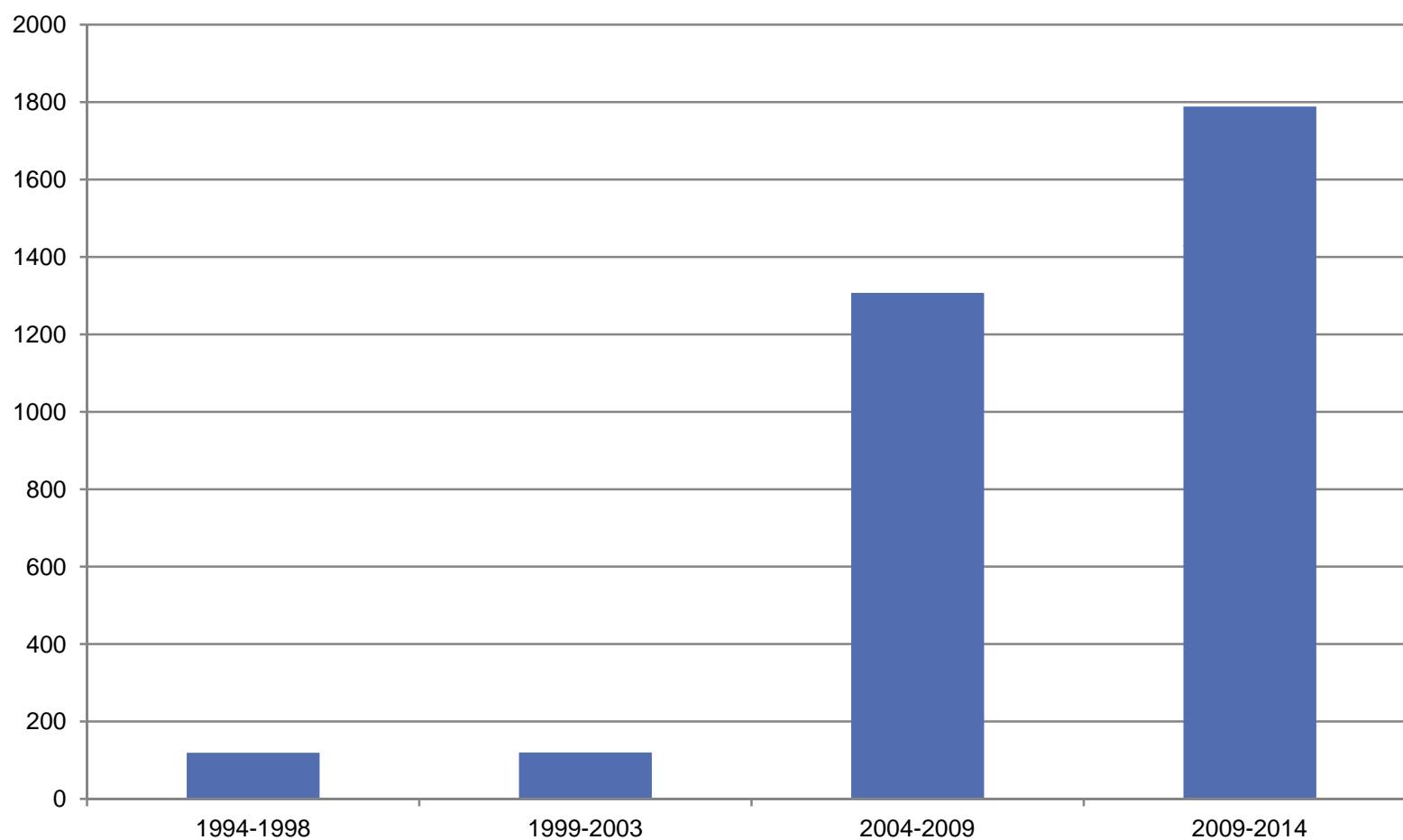


LEGAL ACTS

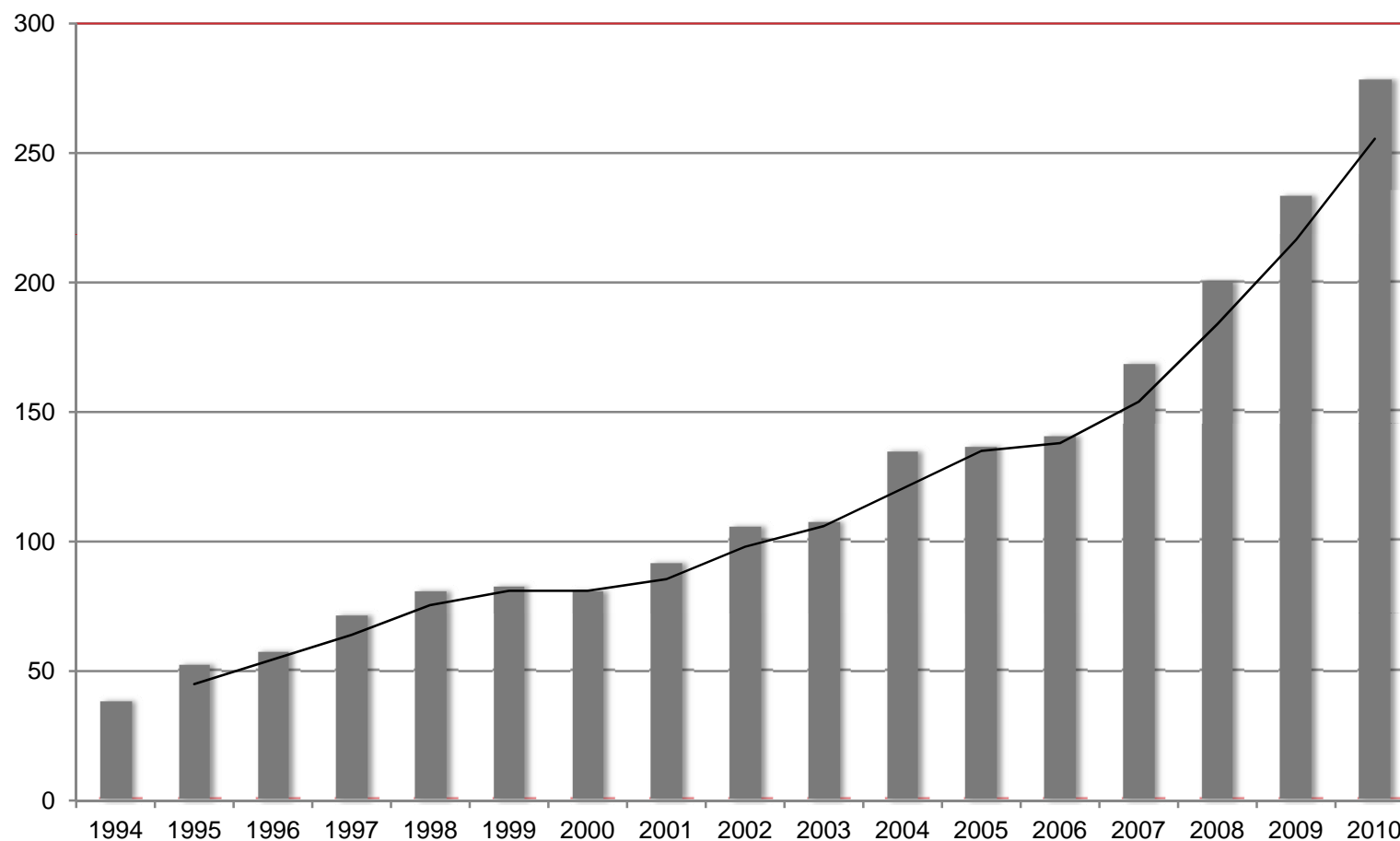
FIGUR 6.3 UTVIKLINGEN AV ANTALL RETTSAKTER I EØS OVER TID



EEA/NORWAY GRANTS



EEA/EFTA PARTICIPATION IN EU PROGRAM AND AGENCIES



1/3 OF NORWEGIAN LEGAL ACTS MODIFIED



TOTAL ADAPATION?

Comprehensive

More extensive than people are aware of

Estimate: $\frac{3}{4}$ of the total EU cooperation (compared with member states that are most integrated)

Efficient implementation and compliance

RESPEKT FOR FOLKEAVSTEMNING:



INGEN KNEKK
I KVERNE!

RASMUSSEN

13.12.94

NON-CONTROVERSIAL

EU membership issue – controversial

EEA and Norway's agreements with the EU – a convenient compromise

- 287 votes in the Storting – 265 unanimous
- 17 potential cases of «veto» – never used
- All governmental platforms based on the agreements
- Consistent policy

PROTECTING INTERESTS AND VALUES

1992-2011 – a golden era

Difficult to distinguish the EEA effects

A predictable framework

Good fit

DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGES

A solid domestic and parliamentary base

But....

- Limited representation and participation
- Lack of accountability
- Lack of enlightened civic discourse
- Role of judiciary is strengthened – but at the expense of representative institutions

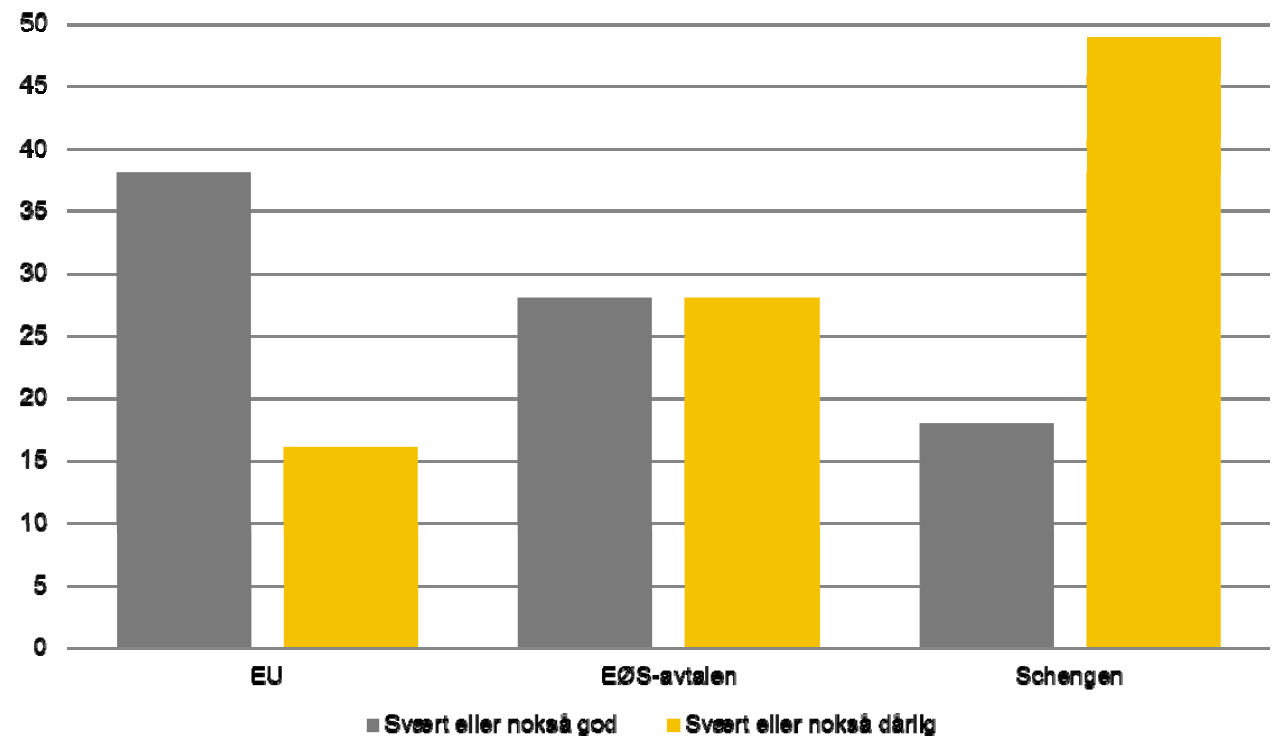
LIMITED KNOWLEDGE AND PUBLIC DEBATE CONCERNING EEA AND OTHER AGREEMENTS

Parties

Media

School

EEA



RESILIENT AND VULNERABLE

Resilience

- 20 years
- Never renegotiated
- Largely unaffected by EU developments (crises)

Vulnerability:

- A convenient domestic compromise
- External constraints
 - EU
 - EFTA
 - Other third countries

SUGGESTIONS FOR REFORM

A comprehensive framework?

Constitutional reform in Norway

Increased accountability

Other recommendations



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