



THE MODEL: PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

NOU 2012:2 Outside and Inside – Norway's Agreements with the EU
Chapter 13, 27 and 28

THE MODEL?

- 1) Perspectives**
- 2) Features of the model**
- 3) Challenges**

VIEW FROM THE EU

The only problem with Norway is that there is no problem.....

Well functioning agreement

- Concerned with ensuring homogeneity

Welcome further co-operation

- Privileged partnership

2012 - Review of how EU's interest are served

THE EFTA PARTNERS

Strange bed-fellows:

- Few mutual interests
- Few (if any) historical traditions for co-operation

Bound together in the EFTA/EEA agreements

- Shared institutions
- Interdependencies



ICELAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN

Positive experiences of the EEA Agreement

- Protected interests and values

The EEA/EFTA cooperation has functioned well

But not without frictions

- Differences in interests, capacities, and domestic procedures

Norway: Acting as a “great” power



EEA - WHO IS SHE?

MODEL FEATURES I

Extensive

No coherent institutional framework – patchwork

No special material content (EU law)

- Association agreements

MODEL FEATURES II

Dynamic

No time limit - open-ended delegation

Reactive – Asymmetric - No agenda-setting

MODEL FEATURES III

Discrepancy between formal and actual sovereignty

Domestic compromise – second best

Depoliticizing

Mask the true nature of the relation

A PECULIAR MODE OF ASSOCIATION

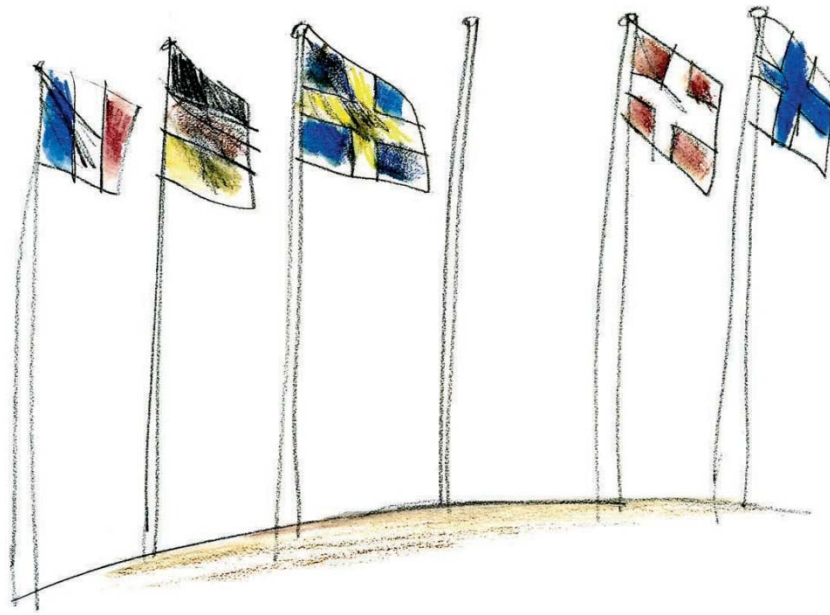
Unique model:

- Rare in international relations (Puerto Rico?)

Others have found it unattractive

No attempt at promoting the model to others

SOME CHALLENGES



THE POLITICO-ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGE

Lack of political involvement and leadership

Few incentives for the administration

Weak co-ordination

Increasingly difficult to ensure participation and influence at early stages

Knowledge and competence



DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EU

Power and attention:

Asymmetry: 27:3 500:5

Crisis

The changing institutional balance in the EU

Abolishment of the pillar structure

- Assessing relevance

Agencies

EEAS

GENERAL CHALLENGES IN EFTA/EEA

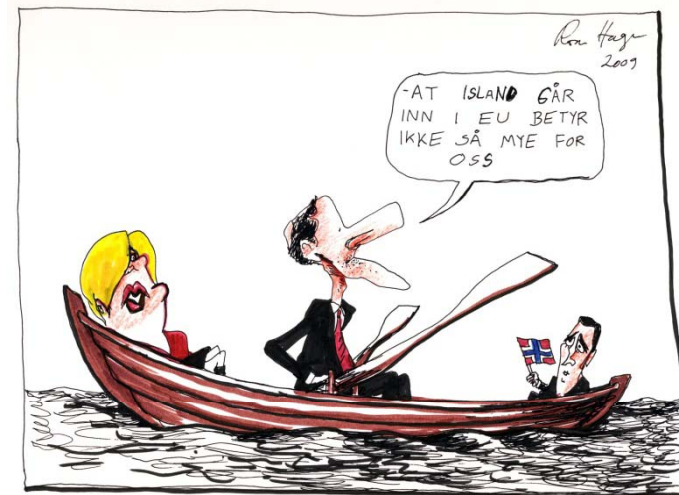
Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway

- Few shared interests
- Limited capacity
- Bilateral or EFTA-track?

Number of member states?

Exit Iceland??

Welcome ?



THE EFTA SECRETARIAT

Important for the daily working of the EEA

- More important for the smaller EFTA-member states
- Limited powers
- High turnover
- Ignored in the public debate



EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

**Critical for the functioning of the
EEA**

Balancing different roles:

- Advising
- Negotiating
- Monitoring



EFTA COURT

Critical for the functioning of the EEA

- Few cases
- Small
- National courts have referred few cases to the EFTA court
- In support of the reform proposals from the EFTA court



FINANCIAL MECHANISM OFFICE

Support for the financial mechanisms

- Phasing-out AND Phasing-in
- Rapid growth – a controlled expansion?
- Autonomy or instrument?



SOME IDEAS FOR REFORM

Comprehensive framework?

- All agreements?
- Justice and Home affairs?
- Foreign and security policy?

Financial mechanism?

Evaluating and reforming the EEA institutions?

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

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Utenfor og innenfor

Norges avtaler med EU

