

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

JOINT COMMITTEE

11 March 2025

3 Annexes

Ref. 25-180

Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee 2024 The Functioning of the EEA Agreement (Article 94(4))

General overview

1. The main part of this report provides an overview of the work of the EEA Joint Committee in 2024. Annex I contains a review of the activities of the EEA Joint Subcommittees under the EEA Joint Committee. Annex II contains an overview of the state of decision making in 2024. Annex III presents a list of EEA Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) adopted in 2024.
2. The EEA Joint Committee met eight times in 2024. In addition to regular meetings, 1 written procedure took place in 2024. In total, the EEA Joint Committee adopted 307 decisions incorporating 557 legal acts in 2024, including:
 - Decision No 71/2024 on a pan-European Personal Pension product (PEPP)
 - Decision No 74/2024 on work-life balance for parents and caregivers
 - Decision No 80/2024 on extending cooperation to include the Act on Supporting Ammunition Production (ASAP)
 - Decision No 81/2024 extending cooperation to include the instrument for the reinforcement of the European defence industry through common procurement (EDIRPA)
 - Decision No 107/2024 as regards strengthening the CO₂ emission performance standards for new passenger cars and new light commercial vehicles in line with the Union's increased climate ambition
 - Decision No 145/2024 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation (STS)

- Decision No 167/2024 on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices
- Decision No 179/2024 on the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound)
- Decision No 180/2024 on the European centre for disease prevention and control
- Decision No 181/2024 on serious cross-border threats to health
- Decision No 221/2024 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union
- Decision No 222/2024 on minimum water requirements for water reuse
- Decision No 234/2024 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2008
- Decision No 246/2024 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid granted to undertakings providing services of general economic interest
- Decision No 291/2024 as regards requirements for credit risk, credit valuation adjustment risk, operational risk, market risk and output floor (CRR III)
- Decision No 300/2024 on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of legislation related to the environment
- Decision No 308/2024 amending Protocol 4, on rules of origin
- Decision No 309/2024 amending Protocol 4, on rules of origin
- Decision No 310/2024 establishing the general requirements for proofs of origin issued electronically under Article 17(4) of Appendix A to Protocol 4 to the Agreement on the European Economic Area

3. The biannual Internal Market Scoreboard, published by the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) in January 2025 and reflecting the state of play on 30 November 2024, shows that the average transposition deficit for directives for the EEA EFTA States increased from 1.1% to 1.3% since the December 2023 Scoreboard. In this period, the deficit of Iceland increased from 1.6% to 2.1%, the deficit of Norway increased from 0.8% to 1.2% and the deficit of Liechtenstein increased from 0.1% to 0.6%.¹

¹ From 2009, ESA used the interim target of 1% set by the European Council in 2007 as a benchmark and is now looking towards a benchmark of 0.5% in line with the European Commission's Single Market Act proposed in April 2011.

Incorporation of acquis into the EEA Agreement

4. In 2024, 557 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement, which was 67 fewer than in 2023, when 624 legal acts were incorporated. In 2024, 781 legal acts were identified by the EFTA side as possibly being EEA relevant, which was 1.0% less than in 2023, when 789 legal acts were identified as possibly being EEA relevant.
5. On 13 November 2024, when the monitoring list was run for the last time in 2024, there were 568 legal acts awaiting incorporation where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared with 542 acts in November 2023. This represents an increase of 4.8%.
6. On 31 December 2024, the number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements in the EEA EFTA States for more than six months had decreased to 18, compared with 32 on 31 December 2023. On 31 December 2024, the number of “linked” JCDs, whose entry into force depended on the entry into force of other JCDs that had already been or would be adopted, stood at 31, compared with 79 on 31 December 2023.

EEA EFTA participation in EU agencies and programmes

7. Based on the EEA Agreement, the EEA EFTA States participated in 15 EU programmes and 18 decentralised agencies. Furthermore, the EEA EFTA States participated in various activities falling under the competencies of six executive agencies (listed in Annex I).

Decision shaping

8. In 2024, the EEA EFTA States submitted three EEA EFTA Comments on the following subjects (in 2023 seven EEA EFTA Comments were submitted):
 - On the proposal for a regulation laying down additional procedural rules relating to the enforcement of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (COM (2023) 348)
 - On the revised Weights and Dimensions Directive
 - 30 Years 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe
9. The Commission provided feedback on the EEA EFTA Comments in the relevant EEA EFTA Working Groups.

Key outstanding issues

10. Discussions on the following key issues were still ongoing on 31 December 2024 (further information is found in Annex I):

Energy:

- Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency; Regulation (EU) 2017/460 establishing a network code on harmonised transmission tariff structures for gas; Regulation (EU) 2017/459 establishing a network code on capacity allocation mechanisms in gas transmission systems and repealing Regulation (EU) No 984/2013; Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks and Regulation (EU) 2015/703 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules; Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources; Directive (EU) 2018/844 amending the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive; Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators; Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT); Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration; Regulation (EU) 2019/942 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

State Aid:

- Council Regulation (EU) No 734/2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty.

Food Chain:

- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed (GM Food and Feed); Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122 on personal consignments.

Transport:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/1199 on helicopter offshore operations (HOFO); Directive (EU) 2015/413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety related traffic offences (CBE Directive).

Competition Policy:

- Directive (EU) 2019/1 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 to empower the competition authorities of the Member States to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market (ECN+ Directive); Directive 2014/104/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on certain rules governing actions for damages under

national law for infringements of the competition law provisions of the Member States and of the European Union.

Financial Services:

- Directive 2014/49/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on deposit guarantee scheme (recast) – DSG III; Regulation (EU) 2019/2176 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 1092/2010 on European Union macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and establishing a European Systemic Risk Board (ESAs review (ESRB)); Regulation (EU) 2019/2099 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 as regards the procedures and authorities involved for the authorisation of CCPs and requirements for the recognition of third-country CCPs.

Environment:

- Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC.

Statistics:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 October 2016 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC; Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2010 of 9 November 2017 amending Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy statistics, as regards the updates for the annual and monthly energy statistics; Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1799 of 21 November 2018 on the establishment of a temporary direct statistical action for the dissemination of selected topics of the 2021 population and housing census geocoded to a 1 km² grid.

11. The EEA Joint Committee has reiterated its determination to work towards the rapid conclusion of these issues.

Advisory bodies under the EEA

12. The EEA Consultative Committee held its annual meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 23 and 24 May 2024. The Committee adopted a resolution on:

- 30 years of cooperation under the EEA Agreement

13. The EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee held two meetings in 2024, on 28 and 29 February in Strasbourg, France, and on 21 and 22 November in Oslo, Norway. The

Committee adopted a resolution on:

- the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2023

EEA Financial Mechanism

14. On 12 September 2024, the Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2021–2028 were signed. On the same day, the two additional protocols on market access for fish between the EU and Norway, and between the EU and Iceland, were also signed. For the new period of the EEA and Norway Grants, the EEA EFTA States will contribute a total of EUR 3.268 billion to 15 Beneficiary States in the EU.
15. The three priority areas for the period 2021–2028 are:
 - green transition;
 - Democracy, rule of law and human rights;
 - Social inclusion and resilience.
16. For the period 2014–2021, the EEA and Norway Grants allocated a total of EUR 2.8 billion. The period of eligibility in projects under both Mechanisms ended in April 2024. The final date for eligibility for support under the Fund for bilateral relations is 30 April 2025.

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JOINT COMMITTEE

Annex I to ref. 25-180

ACTIVITIES OF EEA JOINT SUBCOMMITTEES IN 2024

FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS

General

1. In 2024, 388 legal acts in the areas covered by Subcommittee I were incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Veterinary issues, feedingstuffs and phytosanitary matters

2. 131 legal acts were incorporated in the veterinary and phytosanitary field.
3. Additionally, 91 legal acts were implemented pursuant to the simplified procedure. Instead of being incorporated into the EEA Agreement by adoption of a Joint Committee Decision (JCD), the simplified procedure requires that the EEA EFTA States take equivalent measures simultaneously with the EU Member States. The EEA EFTA States are therefore invited to implement and apply the measures adopted by the EU in the same manner and within the same deadlines as those applicable to the EU Member States. These legal acts are taken note of by the EEA Joint Committee.

Technical regulations, standards, testing and certification

4. 222 legal acts were incorporated into Annex II to the EEA Agreement, of which most related to foodstuffs, dangerous substances and wine and spirit drinks.
5. 81 acts in the foodstuffs area were incorporated. Additionally, 4 acts were implemented pursuant to the simplified procedure.
6. In the field of motor vehicles, 19 acts were incorporated. 16 acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of medicinal products and medical devices, 50 acts on chemicals, 44 on plant protection products and 20 acts on wine and spirit drinks (of which 15 acts were included in Protocol 47 EEA).

Energy

7. 1 act was incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of energy. The EFTA Working Group on Energy Matters held 4 informal joint meetings with the Directorate-General for Energy to discuss acts awaiting incorporation.
8. The Working Group continued discussions both internally and with the Directorate-General for Energy on the incorporation of important files under the Clean Energy Package, including the Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/27/EU and the amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, the Governance Regulation (EU) 2018/1999, the Electricity Regulation (EU) 2019/943, Directive (EU) 2018/844 on the energy performance of buildings, Directive (EU) 2018/2001 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, and the Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944, as well as Gas and Electricity Network Codes Regulations, Regulation (EU) 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT), Regulation (EU) 2019/941 on risk-preparedness in the electricity sector, and Regulation (EU) 2019/942 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators.

Competition

9. 3 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of competition policy, including Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1066 of 1 June 2023 on the application of Article 101(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to certain categories of research and development agreements, and Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/1067 of 1 June 2023 on the application of Article 101(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to certain categories of specialisation agreements.

State aid

10. 3 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of state aid, including Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid, which was adopted on 23 September 2024.
11. Council Regulation (EU) No 734/2013 of 22 July 2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty has not yet been incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Public procurement

12. 5 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of public procurement.

FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL AND SERVICES

13. 123 legal acts in the areas covered by Subcommittee II were incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Financial services

14. 92 acts in the field of financial services were incorporated into the EEA Agreement. The EFTA Task Force on Financial Services held 11 internal meetings and met six times with representatives from DG FISMA and the Secretariat-General of the European Commission, in order to progress at expert level on a number of important draft JCDs. Despite the substantial progress on the incorporation of files in the field of financial services, the backlog in this area remains the highest compared with the other sectors.

15. Among important JCDs in the field of financial services adopted in 2024 are Decision No 145/2024 on Securitisation (STS), Decision No 30/2024 on European crowdfunding service providers for business, and Decision No 291/2024 amending the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR III).

Electronic communication, audio-visual services, information society and data protection

16. 6 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in this field, including common rules on mobile communications on aircrafts, reserved and blocked EU top-level domain names, and additional harmonisation of emergency numbers in the EEA.

17. EEA EFTA experts continued to work towards stable draft JCDs on the Digital Services Act and the Digital Markets Act, as well as the Regulation on Artificial Intelligence and the Terrorist Content Online Regulation.

Transport

18. In the field of transport, 19 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement, including on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road, and improved stability requirements and alignment with stability requirements defined by the International Maritime Organization.

19. Discussions continued between the EEA EFTA States and the EU on Regulation (EU) 2016/1199 on helicopter offshore operations (HOFO).

FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS

20. 3 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the areas covered by Subcommittee III.

HORIZONTAL AND FLANKING POLICIES

21. 43 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the areas covered by Subcommittee IV.

Budgetary matters – programmes and agencies

22. The proportionality factor was 3.58% in 2024, compared with 2.93% in 2023. Through the budgetary procedure, it was agreed that 19 EEA EFTA in-kind national experts would be seconded to the various Directorates-General within the European Commission that manage EU programmes and related activities.

23. The EEA EFTA States participated in and contributed to the following 15 programmes:

- Horizon Europe
- European Defence Fund
- Digital Europe
- Life
- Erasmus+
- European Solidarity Corps
- ESF+/EaSI
- Single Market Programme
- Union Civil Protection Mechanism/RescEU
- European Space Programme
- Creative Europe
- EU4Health
- InvestEU
- ASAP
- EDIRPA

24. The EEA EFTA States participated in 18 regulatory agencies:

- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND)
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
- European Railway Agency (ERA)
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- European Banking Authority (EBA)
- European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA)
- European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA)
- European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
- European Union Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA)
- European Labour Authority (ELA)

25. The EEA EFTA States participated in various programmes falling under the competencies of the following six executive agencies:

- European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA)
- European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
- European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)
- European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)
- European Research Executive Agency (REA)
- European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

Environment

26. In the field of the environment, 19 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

27. EEA EFTA experts continued following closely issues relating to the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 Package, and discussed these with their counterparts in DG Environment and DG Climate Action.

Public health

28. 3 acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in the field of public health, including regulations on serious cross-border threats to health, on establishing a European centre for disease prevention and control and on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency.

Health and safety at work and labour law

29. In the field of health and safety at work and labour law, 3 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement, including the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) and the Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions.
30. Experts continued examining several legislative files. These included Directive (EU) 2019/1937 on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law. EEA EFTA experts assessed the proposal on improving working conditions in platform work and the proposal for a directive on traineeships.