

EEE 1604/11

DRAFT MINUTES

Subject : Draft minutes of the 35th meeting of the EEA Council
Brussels, 23 May 2011

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of the 35th meeting of the

EEA COUNCIL

(Brussels, 23 May 2011)

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The EEA Council held its 35th meeting in Brussels on 23 May 2011.

The meeting was chaired by Mr *János MARTONYI* (Minister of Foreign Affairs of the *Republic of HUNGARY*), who led the EU delegation composed of him, of Mr *Maciej KOŁACZEK* (Deputy Director in the Ministry of Economy of the *Republic of POLAND*), Mr *Miroslav LAJČÁK* (Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia in the *EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE - EEAS*) and Mr *Christos KATHARIOS* (Director for Enlargement, Europe (Non EU) and Foreign Affairs Council Support in the *GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL*).

The EEA - EFTA side was chaired by Ms *Jonas Gahr STØRE* (Minister for Foreign Affairs of the *Kingdom of NORWAY*), accompanied by Mrs *Aurelia FRICK* (Minister for Foreign Affairs of the *Principality of LIECHTENSTEIN*) and by Mr *Thorir IBSEN* (Ambassador, Head of the *MISSION OF ICELAND TO THE EU*). The EEA - EFTA side also included Mr *Kåre BRYN* (Secretary General of the *EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION - EFTA*) and Mr *Per SANDERUD* (President of the *EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY - ESA*).

Opening statement of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION:

Dear Colleagues from Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein, from the EFTA Secretariat, as well as from the EFTA Surveillance Authority,

First of all allow me, as President - in - office of the Council of the European Union, to express to you and your Delegations on behalf of the Council of the European Union our warmest welcome. We are most pleased to meet you here in our EEA Council.

Let me also express my most sincere acknowledgement to you and to the EFTA Secretariat for the excellent co-operation in finalising the arrangements for this meeting.

Thank you.

1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The EEA Council adopted the Agenda, as set out in doc. EEE 1601/1/11 REV 1.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

of the 34th meeting of the EEA Council, which took place in Brussels on 22 November 2010, as set out in doc. EEE 1610/11.

The EEA Council approved the minutes of the 34th meeting, as set out in the above-mentioned document.

3. **PROGRESS REPORT BY THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**

The EEA Council took note of the Progress Report by the EEA Joint Committee, as set out in doc. EEE 1603/11.

4. **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE AND THE EEA CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

The EEA Council took note of the Resolutions of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee adopted at its 35th meeting in Strasbourg on 24-25 November 2010 on the *European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion* and on *Europe 2020: Innovation and the EEA* and the Resolutions adopted at its 36th meeting in Spitsbergen (Norway) on 13 April 2011 on the *High North: Opportunities and Policy Challenges* and on the *Annual report of the EEA JPC on the functioning of the EEA in 2010*, as well as of the Resolutions of the EEA Consultative Committee adopted at its 19th meeting in Tartu (Estonia) on 12-13 May 2011 on the *Single Market Act* and on *Innovation and Energy*.

5. **ASSESSMENT OF THE OVERALL FUNCTIONING OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA (EEA) AGREEMENT**

(including maintaining and enhancing the homogeneity of the EEA; decision making and shaping; Europe 2020; Energy and Climate Change; the Financial Mechanisms; the Financial crisis and implications for the EEA cooperation, including regulation of the financial system)

Intervention of Secretary of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION:

Let us now move on to item 5 on the Agenda, concerning the assessment of the overall functioning of the European Economic Area Agreement.

First of all, I would like to underline, once again, the importance of the meetings of the EEA Council, which give us the opportunity to assess the application of our most important instrument of cooperation - the European Economic Area Agreement - and to hold a useful exchange of views on the various aspects of it.

It is with satisfaction that I take note of further positive developments in our relations since we last met in November 2010.

Thus, I am very pleased to note you that the Protocol on the accession of Liechtenstein to the Schengen aquis was concluded in March of this year. It will take some more months before all proceedings for the full implementation of the Schengen membership of Liechtenstein will be finalised, but preparations are well advanced and all Schengen members are looking forward to welcome Liechtenstein in the Schengen area in the near future.

In addition, I would like to welcome the signature of an Agreement with Norway on further liberalisation of trade in agricultural products according to Article 19 of the EEA Agreement. EU Member States are looking forward to continue the dialogue in order to achieve further progress on the gradual liberalisation of trade in this area.

A subject, which has raised wide interest, concerns reviews of the EEA Agreement by the Parties. On the EU side, the EU Council recommended in December 2010 that the EU undertake a review of the EEA Agreement in parallel to similar exercises launched by Liechtenstein and Norway in 2010.

However, I need to underline that as far as the EU is concerned, work is still at a very preliminary stage, with the European External Action Service holding a dialogue with all actors involved. The EU Council is looking forward to examine this issue in due time on the basis of any proposal which the European Commission and the European External Action Service might submit to the Council. However, as we consider that such a review-exercise needs thorough reflection and preparation, we do not expect concrete results in the near future.

I would like to underline in this context that the EU is generally satisfied with the EEA Agreement and considers that all the Institutions created within its framework are well functioning. We are confident that the Agreement continues to be an excellent tool allowing us to further deepen and strengthen our relations.

As far as the different items under item 5 of the Agenda are concerned, I would now like to pass the floor to the EEAS to report on the day-to-day functioning of our European Economic Area Agreement.

Thank you.

Intervention of Mr LAJČÁK on behalf of the EEAS:

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As far as the overall assessment of the functioning of the EEA Agreement is concerned, I can be brief. It is clear from the EEA Joint Committee's Progress Report presented to us today that the EEA machine keeps running smoothly. Since the last meeting of the EEA Council in November 2010, the Joint Committee has adopted 71 decisions, incorporating 134 new legal acts into the EEA Agreement.

This indicates that we are working with the same degree of efficiency as ever. The EEA Agreement continues to function well and year upon year, we still manage to safeguard the homogeneity of the internal market.

With this as a fundamental point of departure, I would like to mention some important internal market legislation, which has yet to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Let me begin on a positive note with a couple of files where progress has been made.

On the EEA EFTA side, I am pleased that the Norwegian Parliament after a long debate has been able to approve the incorporation of the Data Retention Directive. We expect that this will pave the way for the EEA EFTA States to rapidly present us with a draft Joint Committee Decision to that effect.

Furthermore, I understand that there is a positive dialogue on finding an agreement on the application of the directive on the Bank Deposit Guarantees, although it has yet to be examined how exactly to achieve this goal. Our objective is as always to maintain the level playing field in the internal market. Any solution has to respect three elements:

- 1) financial stability must be ensured,
- 2) the protection of consumers must be guaranteed, and
- 3) no distortion of competition must occur.

We also welcome the continued dialogue on the modalities for the EEA EFTA States' participation in the European Financial Supervision bodies through the EEA Agreement.

The progress made in the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms 2009-2014 is also appreciated. As stated in the conclusions from this meeting, we look forward to a rapid conclusion of the negotiations on the country specific Memoranda of Understanding in order to facilitate the further programme implementation.

This is all good news, but I have to briefly highlight some of the most important examples of legislation that still has to be incorporated into the Agreement:

The regulation on common rules concerning aviation safety and establishing the European Aviation Safety Agency. This must be resolved urgently, and it would be a pity to compromise an important matter like aviation safety and the participation of the EEA EFTA States in this agency for reasons of principle, namely certain rights to impose fines.

Also the audio-visual media services directive has been outstanding far too long. The negotiation process within the EU was long before an agreement was reached on the text of the directive, including the issue of scrambling alcohol advertisements. Once more, we must put the level playing field in the internal market first, and we remain confident that the concerns put forward can be satisfied through the implementation of the directive. This position will soon be reiterated in writing by the Commission.

As a final example I would like to mention the directive on renewable energy. We share the EEA EFTA States' wish to come to an agreement on the incorporation modalities as soon as possible. For this to happen the 2020 renewable energy targets for the EEA EFTA States have to be established in a manner compliant with the EU's ambitions and consistent with the EU target setting methodology. Despite its already high share of renewable energy, the EEA EFTA side should still be ambitious and agree to targets commensurate with the ambitions of the Directive.

Like the President, I would like to express our satisfaction with the finalisation of the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in agricultural products between the European Commission and Norway based on Article 19 of the EEA Agreement. We hope for an expedient implementation of the outcome and look forward to the foreseen review of the conditions of trade in agricultural products in two years time, when we will have the ambition of achieving further liberalisation. Moreover, as we have done many times before, I would like to encourage the initiation in 2011 of negotiations regarding EEA Protocol 3 products with the aim of agreeing to new mutual trade concessions in processed agricultural products.

This concludes my comments on the general functioning of the EEA Agreement. I would like to add that on the EU side, we appreciate the close contacts that we have on the majority of our priority policy areas such as energy and climate change and Europe 2020. Much of the legislation necessary for achieving the objectives in all these areas will be EEA relevant, so we welcome the timely EEA EFTA comments and your participation in much of the preparatory work on such matters.

As mentioned by the President, the Council adopted the conclusions on the EU's relations with the EFTA States in December last year. Reference was made to an EU EEA review that should be undertaken.

I would like use this occasion to explain how the European External Action Service intends to approach this EEA review.

Our point of departure is that our co-operation in the European Economic Area has been a success story over the past 17 years. It seems to us that now would be a good time to try and ask ourselves a series of questions in an open dialogue with all stakeholders and interested parties.

The ambition would be first of all to ensure that the EEA Agreement can continue to function as successfully in the face of future challenges as it has done in the past. Secondly, we would also be interested in exploring whether the EEA success story could be an inspiration for the EU's relations with other close neighbours.

Let me share with you some of the thoughts that lead us to believe that this is the right time to engage in such reflections and consultations.

The EEA Agreement was negotiated some 20 years ago under circumstances very different from those that exist today.

To date, the EEA Agreement has been sufficiently flexible to adapt to all the various change of circumstance, but one question that we should be asking our-selves would be: "How far does this flexibility stretch?" and "Should we prepare for a situation, when the limits of the scope of the EEA Agreement simply cannot accommodate the continuing development of the Internal Market on the EU side?" These questions are linked to the fact that in the EU, the grey-zones between what is internal market legislation *stricto sensu* and what would fall under other categories are increasing.

Furthermore, the EU, more and more frequently, adopts complex packages of legislation with many dimensions, rather than individual acts that fit neatly into the 1994 internal market structure. Another factor is that the EU increasingly develops its relations with other close neighbours on a “sector EEA-type” basis, namely access to the EU internal market in exchange for application of EU internal market *acquis*. Here again we share an interest in ensuring that the overall homogeneity of the internal market be guaranteed.

Let me end my intervention with two further issues. On the bureaucratic/procedural front, an up-date introducing new IT instruments, digitalization, simplification, could help demonstrate the vibrancy of the EEA Agreement. And the possibility of “legalizing” dispute-settlements is yet another question that could warrant a more in-depth analysis and debate.

The EEA review by the EU will be an incremental process, nurtured by what has already been done by Liechtenstein and what will be the outcome of the Norwegian EEA review process. We expect to complete the EU review in 2012.

Thank you for your attention.

Intervention of Minister STØRE, on behalf of the EEA – EFTA States:

Mr Chairman, dear colleagues,

We are pleased that the EU Council Conclusions from December last year clearly underline the good relations between the EU and the EEA/EFTA States as well as the good functioning of the EEA Agreement. We fully endorse this assessment. Our already good and close relations have been further intensified in the course of the last year.

The EEAS has been operational for some months now. The EEA EFTA States would like to emphasise the importance of swift transmission of relevant powers from the European Commission to the European External Action Service and the need for sufficient resources in order to maintain the good functioning of the EEA Agreement.

We would like to highlight five issues of particular interest:

Firstly, the Europe 2020 Strategy is set to play an important role in reviving the European economy in the coming years. We share the main objectives of the strategy. It is vital that Europe recovers from the economic difficulties. We have given our support through various channels and will continue our efforts to facilitate sustainable European growth and competitiveness.

The EEA EFTA States are to a large extent included in the concrete follow-up of the Europe 2020 Strategy, as the seven flagship initiatives have several EEA relevant proposals.

Secondly, the Single Market Act has given a renewed and timely focus on completing the Internal Market. The Internal Market is the cornerstone of the EEA Agreement. The Internal Market forms the necessary basis from which European business can build global success. In these difficult times we must remain focused on removing obstacles to trade both in the EEA area and towards third countries. Cohesion and efficient governance of the Internal Market are core elements for gaining broad support to this project.

Thirdly, let me mention the three new European Financial Supervisory Authorities and the European Systemic Risk Board that started operating this year. This is an important step towards more cooperation and supervision within the field of financial services. The regulations establishing these authorities should be incorporated into the EEA Agreement as soon as possible.

Fourth, regarding the field of energy, climate change and sustainable growth: In order to reach ambitious targets in these areas, it is crucial that Europe 2020 is successfully implemented. Strategies to follow up the Flagship Initiative “Resource Efficient Europe” will be of key importance. The backdrop of the dramatic nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan, has given an extra dimension to the political discussion, and popular support to nuclear power is drastically falling in Europe and around the world.

The EEA EFTA States support effective implementation of the internal energy market legislation, which will also contribute significantly to security of supply. We look forward to be actively involved in relevant European cooperation mechanisms as ACER (Agency for Cooperation between European Energy Regulators) and ENTSO (European Network for Transmission System Operators), since the EEA EFTA States will be important players in developing relevant corridors for future energy infrastructure.

We are prepared to support EU ambitions of expanding the role of renewable energy in Europe. The Norwegian-Swedish common certificate market, designed to promote renewable electricity production, will be the first international market of its kind when it becomes operative in January 2012.

The situation in Norway and Iceland is unique in the sense that the share of renewable energy is high (58% and 55% respectively in base year 2005) and well above the EU average of 8.5%.

Before turning to our last point, I would like to mention the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms for 2009-2014. EEA and Norway Grants contribute 357,7 million Euro annually in the field of climate change, civil society, social dialogue, justice and home affairs, research, health and cultural heritage.

Good progress is reached with regard to their implementation. We hope that all MoUs will be completed soon to ensure enough time to implement the programmes. In the previous mechanism, we are pleased to see that most projects were concluded by the deadline of 30 April 2011 and within the one year extension.

Finally, the new system of comitology, the EEA Agreement provides the EEA EFTA States with a right to participate in the new structure. The new system is in an early phase, and it is important to ensure continued EFTA participation in this important system of legislation, to the benefit of all parties.

Dear colleagues, I would like to thank the outgoing Chair, the Hungarian Presidency, for their positive and constructive cooperation during their term at the helm. We appreciate in particular how you have facilitated our participation in informal ministerial meetings and political dialogues, which are important venues for the exchange of views and to foster closer ties with our European colleagues. We look forward to working with Poland during its Presidency in the second half of the year.

Thank you

Intervention of Minister FRICK, on behalf of LIECHTENSTEIN:

Dear Colleagues, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will be brief as most has already been said. Let me, however, add a few words on two issues which have been touched upon by my Colleague from Norway:

First I would like to complement what has been said with regard to the Council Conclusions of December 2010. We too found these to be most positive and satisfactory. They draw a quite extensive picture of our relationship within the EEA and with the EU-Member States. We most welcome the positive assessment of our small State's capacity to fulfil our tasks within the EEA.

Let me now turn to a more serious matter, the inclusion of the EEA EFTA States, into the new financial supervisory framework. Liechtenstein always strongly supported the internal market for financial services and continues to be willing to take over all obligations arising from its participation in the financial services market.

This is also the case with respect to a quick and speedy accession of the respective national authorities of the EEA EFTA States to the new European supervisory authorities for Banks (EBA), Securities (ESMA) and Insurance (EIOPA).

It has, however, shown not to be possible to have all EEA competent authorities participate in the planned Financial Supervisory Authorities from the very beginning. Discussions have been ongoing for more than a year now. Of course there is some challenge due to the scope of the EEA but a failure to ensure an adequate and timely inclusion of the EFTA pillar into this system is very likely to lead to gaps in the micro- or macro-economic supervision in the Internal Market.

I can only repeat what I said in our last meeting: I am sure you will understand that EEA EFTA States expect to be allowed to participate on an equal footing, except for full voting rights, since the three Authorities have been granted far-reaching new competences which require the involvement of the affected States. We are determined to take an active part in the new supervisory system.

Thank you.

Intervention of Ambassador IBSEN, on behalf of ICELAND:

Mr Chairman, dear ladies and gentlemen,

Iceland is in the midst of the EU accession process. Indeed, this process has been considerably facilitated by our membership of the EEA. I would like to underline our continued commitment to the EEA.

Allow me to follow on from Minister Støre by specifically raising the issue of renewable energy.

Clean energy resources and climate change are two of the biggest societal challenges that Europe faces and have been identified as main priorities in the Europe 2020 Strategy. Solutions to these challenges will not be found at individual country or regional level, but through Europe-wide research, development and innovation.

The EU has adopted different policy measures to combat climate change. We participate in many if not all of these measures. The best way to achieve set objectives is to promote research and development of new options and promote renewable energy, including hydropower and geothermal.

We emphasise this very clearly in our priorities in the EEA Financial Mechanism, also mentioned by Minister Støre. In this area we have a lot to contribute in the beneficiary states of the EU. In many of these states there are huge opportunities to harvest on renewable energy.

We think we can all do more to this effect by promoting renewable energy. We have noticed that for example the EU's 7th Framework Programme on Research is rather silent on geothermal energy. We would like to see it reflected in the next Framework Programme. Another policy framework that could be used is the Cohesion and Structural Funds in order to priorities necessary changes in the energy mix. This is becoming even more important now as some may have second thoughts on nuclear energy.

Thank you.

Intervention of Minister STØRE, on behalf of NORWAY:

Dear colleagues,

I would like to underline some issues that are of particular importance to my Government. First, the EEA Agreement has proved to be a success. The Agreement's dynamic nature and the way we apply it has made it a well-functioning tool to expand the Internal Market to the EEA EFTA States.

We enjoy good working relations with the EU, also stated in the Council Conclusions from December last year. We look forward to developing these good relations with the Council as well as the European External Action Services and the Commission.

Second, I would like to turn your attention to three issues of particular importance.

Regarding the deposit guarantee scheme, we support EU efforts to get in place sound financial regulations to prevent future financial crisis. The establishment of new surveillance bodies and a deposit guarantee scheme are important tools.

My county experienced a severe and systemic banking crisis in the period 1988-1993.

Ensuring financial stability and preventing new crises were main objectives when we strengthened Norwegian financial regulations in the aftermath of the crisis.

One should take into account specific national features and differences to ensure a robust system.

To Norway it is therefore essential to be able to maintain our deposit guarantee scheme for bank depositors.

If my country were to apply the harmonised EU deposit guarantee level of 100 000 Euro, the relative coverage would be much lower in Norway than in the EU. Even with our present coverage level of 250 000 Euro, the share of Norwegian deposits that are covered is significantly lower than the corresponding share in the EU.

Regarding the third postal directive, serious concerns have been expressed regarding the possibility of maintaining efficient and high-quality nation-wide postal services in a liberalised market.

Unease and uncertainty have been prevalent, especially in the reactions of our regions and among the postal employees. It is a challenge to ensure sound infrastructure, including for postal services, in a sparsely populated country like Norway. Issues concerning the provision of fundamental public services in the regions are at the heart of Norwegian political debate.

My Government will ensure high quality and affordable universal postal services. Frequent delivery and uniform tariffs are key in this respect.

A state owned company, Posten Norge AS, has been given responsibility for providing postal services in Norway for delivery of postal letters not exceeding 50 grams. The unprofitable obligations carried by Posten Norge is financed partly as an exclusive right and partly by funds from the national budget allocated annually.

Experience from some EU states questions whether the inclusion of the directive into the EEA Agreement could influence salaries and working conditions in the postal sector in a negative way.

On the whole there are strong arguments for not including the directive into the EEA Agreement. We expect the matter to be brought forward, when appropriate, in accordance with the relevant procedures of the EEA Agreement.

Regarding the directive on audiovisual services you are aware of our position. We maintain our view to keep our exemption and to uphold the advertisement ban on alcohol. We are now awaiting your response on our letter to Commissioner Kroes.

Third and final, I will thank the Hungarian presidency-in-office for an excellent cooperation. I am looking forward to continuing this good cooperation with the Polish presidency.

Thank you for your attention.

6. ORIENTATION DEBATE: *RAW MATERIALS*

Intervention of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION:

Let's now turn to the next item of the agenda, our orientation debate on *Raw Materials*.

I think that we are all aware of the fact that this subject covers a wide range of policy areas. Accordingly, I will limit myself to touch upon three issues, which might be more than others of common interest:

1. Cooperation with the EEA Member States and their industries in view of improving the knowledge base needed for an efficient raw materials strategy;
2. The launching of a European Innovation Partnership;
3. The implementation of the EU's Raw Materials Trade Strategy.

1. Cooperation with the EEA Member States and their industries in view of improving the knowledge base needed for an efficient raw materials strategy

In its conclusions of March 2010 on "Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials", the Council encouraged the Commission to act as a facilitator in the exchange of best practices and to continue to offer its support for: „Using and improving, on the basis of proper analysis, the knowledge base which is needed for an efficient raw materials strategy by using appropriate existing instruments, and, in this context, stimulating cooperation with the Member States of and industry in the European Economic Area; the instruments include commercial downstream services and data from the Global Monitoring for Environmental and Security system (GMES)".

The policy of the European Union on this issue, including the cooperation with the Member States of and industry in the European Economic Area, is part of the general European Raw Materials Initiative of the European Union.

This initiative is set out in the Commission's communication of November 2008 entitled "The raw materials initiative - meeting our critical needs for growth and jobs" and in the Commission's communication of February 2011 entitled "Tackling the challenges in commodity markets and on raw materials", to which the Council adopted its conclusions in March of this year.

The EU Raw Materials Initiative is based on a three-pillar approach: a) access to raw materials on world markets under undistorted conditions; b) improving our resource efficiency and capacity for recycling; and c) fostering the sustainable supply of raw materials from European sources.

In the context of the third pillar, Earth Observation capacities by satellites, which are currently being developed as part of the EU's Global Monitoring for the Environment and Security (GMES) programme, can play an important part in the exploration of new raw material deposits and their efficient mining.

This programme is currently in its Initial Operations phase, which spans the period 2011-2013. It should reach its operational capability status during the next period, extending from 2014 to 2020.

The required technological capacities for using Earth Observation satellites in the context of raw materials exploration and mining are currently being developed with the support of the 7th Research Framework Programme of the EU, notably the project EO-Miners (Earth Observation for Monitoring and Observing Environmental and Societal Impacts of Mineral Resources Exploration and Exploitation).

As from the beginning, this project has a global orientation : 9 EU partners from 5 EU states participate in the project, as well as partners from Israel, South Africa and Kyrgyzstan.

2. The launching of a European Innovation Partnership

The Council is still discussing the scope for application of the new Commission concepts concerning the European Innovation Partnership.

As we are talking today, the Commission has received a mandate from the Council for implementing a pilot European Innovation Partnership on "Healthy Ageing". Experiences made in this framework will allow the Council to reach an evidence-based position on the suitability of applying this new form of organisation to the field of raw materials.

3. The implementation of the EU's Raw Materials Trade Strategy

The Raw Materials Trade Strategy is being systematically implemented in all negotiations with third countries.

In its conclusions of March, the Council called on the Commission to insist in ongoing and future trade negotiations on binding disciplines on trade and investment measures related to raw materials, for example regarding export duties and restrictions, dual pricing, as well as investment issue.

In addition, the Commission was tasked to speed up the establishment of a monitoring mechanism for export restrictions, to increase efforts to tackle existing barriers distorting raw materials markets through all appropriate means, mechanisms and instruments, including the Market Access Strategy and, where justified, through dispute settlement. You will be aware of the ongoing dispute settlement procedure with the People's Republic of China.

The Commission was also mandated to develop and intensify outreach and diplomatic activities, including bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral dialogues on raw materials with all relevant partners and in all relevant international fora.

We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with our EEA partners and invite them to join our efforts, including in these policy areas.

Thank you!

Intervention of Mr LAJČÁK on behalf of the EEAS:

The EU is in the process of reinforcing Raw Materials Initiative from 2008 strategy in response to strategic challenges for the EU in the area of industrial raw materials.

The Commission adopted a communication on such a reinforced strategy on 2 February 2011, and the Council demonstrated its support with its conclusions of 10 March 2011.

For the sake of clarification, let me remind everybody that this initiative is about non-energy, non-agricultural raw materials, so excluding oil and gas. But we are very much aware that Norway, in particular, is a producer of a whole range of relevant minerals and metals, such as aluminium and titanium, to name but two, with the latter accounting for 7% of the world production.

We are confronted with mounting pressures on supply and demand for many of these materials. Demand is driven by the growth of emerging economies and the increasing expansion of new markets linked to new technologies, many of which have « green » applications. On the supply side, we observe numerous restrictions imposed by producer countries, which contribute to increasing supply risks.

The new Communication confirms the approach taken by the Commission in the Raw Materials Initiative, launched in 2008, and calls for a reinforcement of its 3 pillars, as referred to by the President:

1. Supply of raw materials from global markets
2. Sustainable supply from sources in the EU
3. Recycling and resource efficiency

In relation to the first pillar – access to raw materials on global markets – the EU will develop a raw materials diplomacy with the view to ensure access to raw materials through our strategic partnerships and dialogues with third countries.

Our raw materials diplomacy will naturally vary from one partner to another. For example, Northern Russia and in particular the Barents region is an area with a high raw materials potential. In the context of the Council of the Barents Sea States both the EU and Russia have already expressed their interest in co-operation regarding research and innovation on sustainable raw materials management. This is naturally also relevant for our Northern Dimension co-operation.

The Commission also intends to reinforce its trade strategy. It will continue to include priorities, such as the elimination of illegal export restrictions and investment barriers, in its bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

In the context of the EU/Africa Partnership, an intensified co-operation between Africa and the EU has been launched. The goal is to create win-win situations that would help allow resource rich countries to translate their resource wealth into economic development.

The second pillar puts the focus on our mining potential within the EU. There are still many valuable deposits in Europe, but it remains necessary to improve the regulatory framework regarding mining. The Commission is ready to facilitate the exchange of best practices between Member States. An example was already given with the recent publication of guidelines on Natura 2000 and extraction.

We also have huge potential in Europe with our “Urban Mines”. Valuable minerals are hidden in waste and are not being recycled. This is why the Commission – in the 3rd pillar – proposes a series of actions to promote the collection and recycling, for example through a stricter implementation of the regulation regarding end-of-life vehicles and electronic and electrical waste.

Innovation can play a vital cross-cutting role across the whole value chain of raw materials. This is why the Commission has identified “raw materials” as a possible candidate for an Innovation Partnership. A public consultation is ongoing until 27 May.

The EU is not alone in facing the different challenges. Therefore the EU is promoting more co-operation at both bilateral level and within multilateral frameworks. We seek to enhance the development of international initiatives and actions in relevant international fora dealing with raw materials such as the OECD and the G20. Another example is the increased EU support for the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI). Norway is a full member and the Head Quarters of the EITI are located in Oslo.

In order to ensure a successful implementation of this strategy, we will need close and intense co-operation with the Member States, but also with other countries, in particular the EEA EFTA States, with which the EU shares the same concerns and challenges.

Thank you!

Intervention of Minister STØRE, on behalf of NORWAY:

Mr Chairman,

Dear colleagues,

The last decade there has been a sustained demand boom for many commodities, mainly driven by Asia's, and especially China's, rapid industrialization and strong economic growth.

Electronic equipment that most people in Europe use daily, such as mobile phones and computers, are made of more than 60 metals and minerals. Today a typical Norwegian will consume about 12 tons of mineral raw materials a year, and about 1000 tons in the course of a lifetime. Resource efficiency and recycling are therefore critical issues at our time.

The availability of a number of these materials is at risk due to their location and lack of suitable substitutes. For several important metals the world market is totally dependent on production from one or a few countries. Examples are Rare Earth Elements (China has over 95% of world production), niobium (Brazil), platinum metals (Russia and South Africa) and beryllium (US). The demand for Rare Earth Elements is projected to increase by 12 percent per year for the next three years . China's implementation of export restrictions on Rare Earth Elements is a wake-up call to a new reality.

Norway shares the concerns of the EU for well-functioning international commodity markets. Both the EU and Norway need a stable, fair and sustainable supply of raw materials and has a common interest in dealing with these concerns in relevant international fora.

Furthermore, many developing countries have not been able to translate their resource wealth into sustainable growth. The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a promising mechanism for necessary transparency into the payments made in the extractive industries. As the first OECD country, Norway made EITI standards compliant in March this year. In doing so, we like to show all resource rich countries that the ambition is to make these EITI standards a global norm. I would like to use this opportunity to encourage EU member states, as well, to implement the EITI. By doing this we send a signal to steer away from corruption.

A new mineral act came into effect on January 1st 2010, thus making the framework for extraction of metals and minerals more predictable. The Norwegian Government has also recently decided that Norway will issue a national strategy for the Norwegian mining sector in 2012.

My Government puts a special emphasis on the development of the mining industry in the High North and have made it a priority in the Government's High North policy and for cooperation in the Barents region. As a follow-up of this policy we have allocated additional financing for increasing geological knowledge of Norwegian mineral resources in the High North.

The successful development of mineral resources in the Barents Region depends on efficient logistics systems. We expect an increase in maritime transportation through Norwegian harbours such as the harbour of Narvik. In 2010, 14 million tonnes of iron ore produced by LKAB in Kiruna was sent by train to Narvik and shipped to markets in Europe. We believe that, with the melting of the Arctic sea ice, there will also be increased shipping of mineral resources from the Barents region through the North East Passage to Asia as we discussed over lunch. The bulk carrier M/V Nordic Barents made the journey from Kirkenes in the north of Norway carrying 41 000 tons of iron ore concentrate to in China in September last year. The ship made the journey in 17 and a half day less time than had it gone through the Suez Canal.

Norway has rich mineral deposits and a long mining history, especially for iron ore, copper and silver and is one of the world's largest producers of titanium and industrial mineral olivine. Norway also has potential for extraction of a number of other metals for several kinds of Rare Earth Elements. Norway can offer good opportunities for controlled and sustainable extraction of mineral resources. This makes Norway a natural partner for EU companies seeking safe supplies of commodities and raw materials.

Substitutes to minerals are often developed by innovation and research in new materials. This is a priority area for Norwegian research. We aim to stimulate international research collaboration between Norwegian and foreign R&D institutions and companies. As an example the Norwegian Research Council and the French Ministry of Research and Higher Education are jointly organizing a French-Norwegian seminar on nanotechnology and materials in June 2011.

We agree that increased recycling is a critical part of solving the raw materials challenges of tomorrow. As an example, Norway has today a recollection level of around 80 per cent of electronic waste. In relation to the ongoing revision of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive, an EU increase in recollection to a level of 60 per cent over 5-6 years has been foreseen. We would welcome such an increased level.

Norwegian expertise is actively engaged with EU counterparts, i.e. within the framework of the preparatory process for the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. We will continue to encourage this cooperation.

Thank you for your attention.

Intervention of Ambassador IBSEN, on behalf of ICELAND:

Mr Chairman, dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Iceland is not a producer of raw materials in the sense being discussed here. Our main production of raw materials are in fisheries and energy. Both areas are important for innovation and resource efficiency. On the other hand Icelandic industry is heavily reliant on security of supply. Therefore we support the EU's approach to secure sustainable access to raw materials and EU's emphasis on ensuring fair and long-term access to raw materials in source countries.

Thank you!

Intervention of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION:

I think with that we have come to the end of our orientation debate.

7. ADOPTION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE 31st EEA COUNCIL:

The EEA Council adopted its Conclusions, as set out in doc. EEE 1602/1/11 REV 1.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The EEA Council noted that a debate on *North Africa*, the *Middle East* and *Piracy off the coast of Somalia* had been held the same day within the framework of the Political Dialogue.

Closing remarks of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION:

We have then concluded the examination of the items on our Agenda.

Allow me to express my satisfaction at the closure of this 35th EEA Council meeting and to thank all of you from the EEA - EFTA States, the EFTA Secretariat, the EFTA Surveillance Authority and the EU Member States for your participation in this meeting.

Intervention of Minister STØRE, on behalf of the EEA – EFTA States

We would like to thank you for another fruitful EEA Council meeting!

Intervention of Minister MARTONYI, on behalf of the EUROPEAN UNION

Hence, I declare the meeting closed.

**35th meeting of the
EEA COUNCIL
(Brussels, 23 May 2011)**

LIST OF DELEGATIONS

I. The Governments of the EEA – EFTA States were represented as follows:

THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY

Jonas Gahr STØRE	Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms Oda Helen SLETNES	Ambassador, Mission of Norway to the EU
Ms Laila STENSENG	Minister Counsellor, Mission of Norway to the EU
Mr Christian SYSE	Director General, MFA, Department for Trade and Europe
Mr Tarjei SKIRBEKK	Political advisor to Foreign Minister Støre
Mr Jørn GLOSLIE	Senior Adviser, Foreign Minister's Secretariat
Ms Tone WROLDSEN	Higher Executive Officer, MFA, Department for Trade and Europe, EEA/EFTA Section
Mr Niels ENGELSCHJØN	Minister, Mission of Norway to the EU
Ms Laila STENSENG	Minister Counsellor, Mission of Norway to the EU
Mr Lars-Erik HAUGE	Information Counsellor, Mission of Norway to the EU
Mr Per MANNES	Counsellor, Mission of Norway to the EU
Ms Ingeborg DJUPVIK	Legal Counsellor, Mission of Norway to the EU

THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN

Ms Aurelia FRICK	Minister of Foreign Affairs, Head of Delegation
Mr Kurt JAEGER	Ambassador, Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU
Mr Georges BAUR	Minister, Mission of Liechtenstein
Mr Pascal SCHAFHAUSER	Minister, Mission of Liechtenstein
Ms Sandra RUPPEN	Senior Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms Emilia BREUSS	Attaché, Mission of Liechtenstein

ICELAND

Mr Thorir Ibsen	Ambassador, Head of Mission of Iceland to EU
Mr Nikulás Hannigan	Deputy Head of Mission of Iceland to EU
Ms Erna S. Hallgrímsdóttir	Counsellor

II. The European Union was represented as follows:

REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

(PRESIDENCY-IN-OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)

Mr János MARTONYI	Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ms Eszter TORDA	Chief Advisor
Mr Csaba ZALAI	Antici, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU
Mrs Gabriella PAPP	Second Secretary, Chair of the EFTA Working Party at the Council of the EU
Mr Zoltán LÉDIG	Attaché, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU

REPUBLIC OF POLAND

(INCOMING PRESIDENCY-IN-OFFICE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION)

Mr Maciej KOŁACZEK

Deputy Director, Ministry of Economy, European Affairs Department

Ms Katarzyna HARAZIM

Leading expert, Ministry of Economy, European Affairs Department, Incoming Chair of the EFTA Working Party at the Council of the EU

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Mr Philippe CUISSON

Deputy Head of Unit DG Trade - Unit Europe (non EU)

Ms Hiltrud JAESCHKE

DG Trade, Desk officer for EFTA

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE

Mr Miroslav LAJČÁK

Managing Director for Europe and Central Asia

Mr Gianluca GRIPPA

Head of Western Europe Division

Mr Peter MEYER

Deputy Head of Western Europe Division, Desk Officer for the EEA Agreement

Ms Terhi LEHTINEN

Desk officer for Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, Western Europe Division

Ms Rita LEHMANN

EEA Coordination officer, Western Europe Division

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION - GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Mr Christos KATHARIOS	Director for Enlargement, Europe (Non EU) and Foreign Affairs Council Support
Ms Bärbel DÜRHAGER	Desk Officer for non-EU Western Europe

III. The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was represented as follows:

EFTA SECRETARIAT

Mr Kåre BRYN	Secretary General
Ms Bergdis ELLERTSDÓTTIR	Deputy Secretary General, Brussels
Mr Lars Erik NORDGAARD	Director, EEA Co-ordination Division
Mr Gunnar SELVIK	Director, Goods Division
Ms Katrín SVERRISDÓTTIR	Director, Services, Capital, Persons & Programmes Division
Ms Hrund HAFSTEINSDÓTTIR	Senior Officer, EEA Co-ordination Division
Ms Marius VAHL	Senior Officer, EEA-Co-ordination Division

EFTA SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Mr Per SANDERUD	President, EFTA Surveillance Authority
Mr Sverrir Haukur GUNNLAUGSSON	Vice-President
Ms Sabine MONAUNI-TÖMÖRDY	Vice-President

PROGRESS REPORT

Subject: Progress Report by the EEA Joint Committee to the 35th meeting of the EEA Council

Decision-making

1. Since the last EEA Council on 22 November 2010, the EEA Joint Committee adopted 71 Joint Committee Decisions and 134 legal acts.
2. Important decisions taken by the EEA Joint Committee since the last EEA Council on 22 November include the following:
 - Decision 137-9/2010 Common basic standards on aviation security;
 - Decision 06/2011 Aviation activities in the scheme for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading;
 - Decision 07/2011 Inter-transmission system operator compensation.

Decision-shaping

3. EEA EFTA experts continued to contribute to the work of the Commission's Working Groups, Agencies and Committees. Since November 2010, two EEA EFTA Comments were taken note of by the EEA Joint Committee:
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Consultation on the Future European Union Culture Programme
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Single Market Act.

Briefings in the Joint Committee

4. The Commission provided briefings in the Joint Committee on the following topics:
 - The Single Market Act
 - The Resource-efficient Europe flagship initiative
 - The Maritime Transport Strategy.

Status of outstanding issues

5. EEA EFTA States continued their preparations for participation in the three supervisory authorities within the system of European Financial Supervision. The EEA EFTA States also continued to discuss the appropriate form of their participation in the European Systemic Risk Board.
6. Discussions continued between the EEA EFTA States and the EU side on the incorporation of the Renewables Directive into the EEA Agreement.
7. The EEA EFTA States and the EU side discussed the incorporation of the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market and the importance for the EEA EFTA States to participate timely in the new bodies, namely the Agency for the Cooperation of the European Regulators (ACER) and the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO).
8. The EEA EFTA States continued their discussions with the EU side on the Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive and emphasized the importance of finding a mutually satisfactory solution.
9. Since the EEA Council conclusions of November 2010, the Aviation Safety Regulation 216/2008 and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive have not yet been incorporated into the EEA Agreement and the Joint Committee expresses its expectation for an early conclusion of this process.

Europe 2020 and the Single Market Act

10. The EEA EFTA States followed closely the adoption of the seven “Flagship Initiatives” of the Europe 2020 by the Commission and assessed the EEA relevance of the different proposals. The EEA EFTA States also contributed to the development of the Strategy.
11. The EEA EFTA States continued to follow the developments on the Single Market Act and sent a Comment to the draft Act on 10 March.

Participation in programmes

12. The EEA EFTA States participated in and co-financed EEA relevant EU programmes. With programmes playing a key role in making Europe more competitive and innovative, it is important to include the EEA EFTA States in all EEA relevant programmes.

Financial Mechanisms 2004-2009 and 2009-2014

13. Most projects, programmes and funds under the EEA and the Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004-2009 were concluded by the implementation deadline of 30 April 2011.
 14. Progress was made in implementing the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms for the period 2009-2014, including specification of programme areas to be supported. All parties are striving for rapid completion of the negotiations on the country specific Memoranda of Understanding to ensure sufficient time for implementation of programmes.
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CONCLUSIONS

Subject: Conclusions of the 35th meeting of the EEA Council
Brussels, 23 May 2011

1. The thirty-fifth meeting of the EEA Council took place in Brussels on 23 May 2011 under the Presidency of Mr János Martonyi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, representing the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The meeting was attended by Mr Jonas Gahr Støre, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, Ms Aurelia Frick, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein, and Mr Thorir Ibsen, Ambassador, Head of the Mission of Iceland to the EU, as well as by Members of the Council of the European Union and by Representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service.
2. The EEA Council noted that within the framework of the Political Dialogue the Ministers discussed *North Africa, Middle East and Piracy off the coast of Somalia*.
3. The EEA Council noted the Council Conclusions from December 2010, in particular that the EU relations with the EFTA countries, which were already considered to be very good and close in 2008, have further intensified in the past two years. The EEA Council is looking forward to continue the positive relationship.

4. The EEA Council welcomed the adoption of the seven “Flagship Initiatives” of the Europe 2020 by the Commission. With many of the proposals contained in these initiatives being EEA relevant, the EEA Council welcomed the contribution of the EEA EFTA States to the Strategy.
5. The EEA Council welcomed the progress made on the Single Market Act, recalling that the Single Market has a key role to play to deliver growth and employment and promote competitiveness. The EEA Council furthermore welcomed the EEA EFTA Comment to the Act received on 10 March. The EEA EFTA States will follow up to the various proposals resulting from the Act and will continue to contribute to its development.
6. The EEA Council welcomed the launch of the European semester of economic policy coordination in January 2011 and took note of the recently adopted Euro Plus Pact aimed at further strengthening policy coordination to improve competitiveness and achieve a higher degree of convergence.
7. The EEA Council welcomed that the new system of European Financial Supervision, including the three supervisory authorities in the areas of Banking, Insurance, and Securities, had begun operating on 1 January 2011. The EEA Council welcomed that the EEA EFTA States would participate in the authorities and looked forward to conclude a formal agreement on the modalities of their participation. The EEA Council furthermore expressed the hope that an understanding can be reached soon on the appropriate form of participation of the EEA EFTA States' relevant authorities in the European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB).

8. The EEA Council welcomed the entry into force on 3 March 2011 of the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market aimed at creating an interconnected and competitive European energy market. With the EEA EFTA States being fully integrated in the internal energy market, the EEA Council underlined the importance of a timely participation of the EEA EFTA States in the new bodies, Agency for the Cooperation of European Regulators (ACER) and the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO) which will play an important role for the cooperation between European energy regulators and transmission system operators.
9. The EEA Council welcomed the progress made in incorporating the Renewables Directive into the EEA Agreement. In this context, the EEA Council took note of the EEA EFTA States' large shares of renewable energy sources. Furthermore, the EEA Council acknowledged the EEA EFTA States' commitment to ambitious targets for their share of renewable energy by 2020.
10. The EEA Council took note of the Energy Efficiency Plan 2011, published on 8 March 2011, along with a Roadmap for moving to a competitive low carbon economy in 2050. The Plan constitutes an important contribution to reaching the EUs 20% energy saving target as well as helping to realise the EU's longterm energy and climate goals.
11. The EEA Council reiterated the importance of maintaining close cooperation between the EU and the EEA EFTA States in energy and climate change policies, in particular in the areas of emission trading, the promotion of competitive low carbon economy, energy efficiency and renewable energy resources, as well as on carbon capture and storage (CCS). The EEA Council also welcomed the incorporation of the aviation emissions scheme into the EEA Agreement.
12. The EEA Council welcomed the conclusion of most projects, programmes and funds under the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004-09 by the implementation deadline 30 April 2011. The EEA Council emphasised the importance of ensuring that projects with one-year extensions will be completed within this final deadline.

13. The EEA Council welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014, including specification of programme areas to be supported. The EEA Council urged all parties to strive for rapid completion of the negotiations on the country specific Memoranda of Understanding to ensure sufficient time for implementation of programmes.
14. The EEA Council welcomed the implementation of the Additional Protocols resulting from bilateral negotiations between the European Commission and Iceland and Norway concerning the review of the quota levels for certain fish and fishery products.
15. Ministers noted the progress made in the negotiations between the EU and Iceland on Iceland's accession to the European Union.
16. The EEA Council noted the Progress Report of the EEA Joint Committee and, in particular:
 - welcomed that in March 2011, the European Parliament had a debate on a Commission proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on consumer rights , and that it continues its constructive work towards the adoption of that directive, and noted in this context that the EEA EFTA Comment had been taken into consideration;
 - noted the result of the negotiations on liberalisation of trade in agricultural products between the European Commission and Norway based on Article 19 of the EEA Agreement, hoped for an expedient implementation of the outcome and looked forward to the foreseen review of the conditions of trade in agricultural products in two years time, with a view to exploring possible concessions;
 - agreed to continue the dialogue on the trade regime for processed agricultural products within the framework of Article 2(2) of Protocol 3 of the EEA Agreement;

- welcomed the participation of the EEA EFTA States in EEA relevant EU Programmes, noting that these are co-financed by the EEA EFTA States. It emphasised the importance of including the EEA EFTA States in appropriate programmes thus contributing to building a more competitive, innovative and social Europe;
 - took note of further progress made in the development of an Integrated Maritime Policy and welcomed the active involvement of the EEA EFTA States. It noted that the EEA EFTA States are currently looking into the possible participation in the new programme for the further development of the Integrated Maritime Policy;
 - noted that since the last meeting of the EEA Council, the Aviation Safety Regulation 216/2008 and the Audiovisual Media Services Directive have not yet been incorporated into the EEA Agreement and expressed its expectation for an early conclusion of this process;
 - recalled the adoption in 2007 of the Horizontal Food Law Package, and looked forward to its full implementation by all contracting parties by 1 November 2011.
17. The EEA Council recalled its commitment to the EU's social agenda reinforced in the Europe 2020 Strategy and welcomed the new inclusive growth initiatives, in particular the EU Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion and the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs and reiterated the importance of how these issues will be followed up. The EEA Council underlined and encouraged efforts to meet social needs through innovation.
18. The EEA Council welcomed the EEA EFTA contributions to the decision-shaping process of EEA relevant EU legislation and programmes through their participation in relevant committees, expert groups and agencies and by submitting EEA EFTA Comments.
19. The EEA Council held an orientation debate on *Raw Materials*.

20. The Ministers reiterated that it was the common interest of all Contracting Parties to ensure appropriate information on the EEA Agreement within the European Economic Area.
 21. The EEA Council underlined the importance of inviting EEA EFTA Ministers to relevant informal EU Ministerial Meetings and Ministerial Conferences on the basis of EEA EFTA participation in the Internal Market, and expressed its appreciation to the incoming Polish Presidency for the continuation of this practice. The EEA Council also recalled the practice of inviting the EEA EFTA States - at the level of officials - to political dialogue meetings at the level of relevant Council Working Parties.
 22. The EEA Council noted the Resolutions of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee adopted at its 35th meeting in Strasbourg on 24-25 November 2010 on *the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion* and on *Europe 2020: Innovation and the EEA* and at its 36th meeting in Spitsbergen on 13 April 2011 on *the High North: Opportunities and Policy Challenges* and on *the Annual report of the EEA JPC on the functioning of the EEA in 2010*, and the Resolutions of the EEA Consultative Committee adopted at its 19th meeting in Tartu, Estonia, on 12-13 May 2011 on *the Single Market Act* and on *Innovation and Energy*.
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