



How the EEA EFTA States can influence EU lawmaking

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Advice from EFTA Experts

The EEA EFTA States take on board EU legislation through the EEA Agreement, but the Agreement does not grant us voting (decision making) rights on the EU side.

Article 99 (1) EEA Agreement:

«As soon as new legislation is being drawn up by the EC Commission in a field which is governed by this Agreement, the EC Commission shall informally seek advice from experts of the EFTA States in the same way as it seeks advice from experts of the EC Member States for the elaboration of its proposals.»

Openness

Trust

Technology

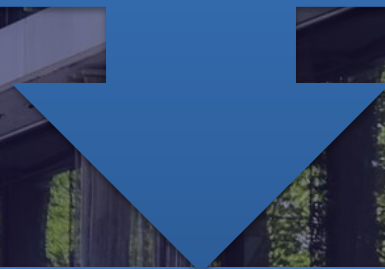
Trade

Transparency



Decision shaping by the EEA EFTA States

EEA EFTA States aim to contribute to the development of EU legislation and policy/strategy up until they are formally adopted



Means available to the EEA EFTA States

Experts' participation in Commission Experts Groups and Committees, but without the right to vote

Seconded National Experts

Contributing to the management of EU programmes

Contributing to the work of EU agencies

EEA EFTA Comments on new policies and Commission proposals for legislation

Meeting with the EU side in EFTA Working Groups/Expert Groups

EEA EFTA Comments

- > Common position papers agreed by the governments of the EEA EFTA States to raise issues of importance to them
- > Issued during consultation phase, after adoption or throughout co-decision procedures
- > Submitted to Commission Secretariat-General, relevant DGs, European Parliament and current/incoming Council Presidencies

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EEA EFTA States call for close cooperation in the area of investment screening



NEWS • 05 February 2025

EEA EFTA States call for systematic impact assessment of revised Measuring Instruments Directive to safeguard competition, security and green transition



Participation in the EU policy debate

- > 30 years of experience from implementing and enforcing single market legislation
- > Comments as a tool for maintaining an active dialogue with the EU side and for further discussions on new initiatives
- > EFTA as an intergovernmental organization concerned with public policy
- > Visibility and awareness of the EEA Agreement



Alignment with EU legislative process to stay relevant

- ✓ Submit the views of the EEA EFTA States as early as possible
- ✓ Accommodate for milestones in the EU legislative process
- ✓ Monitor developments in Council and Parliament throughout the legislative process



Follow up on EEA EFTA Comments

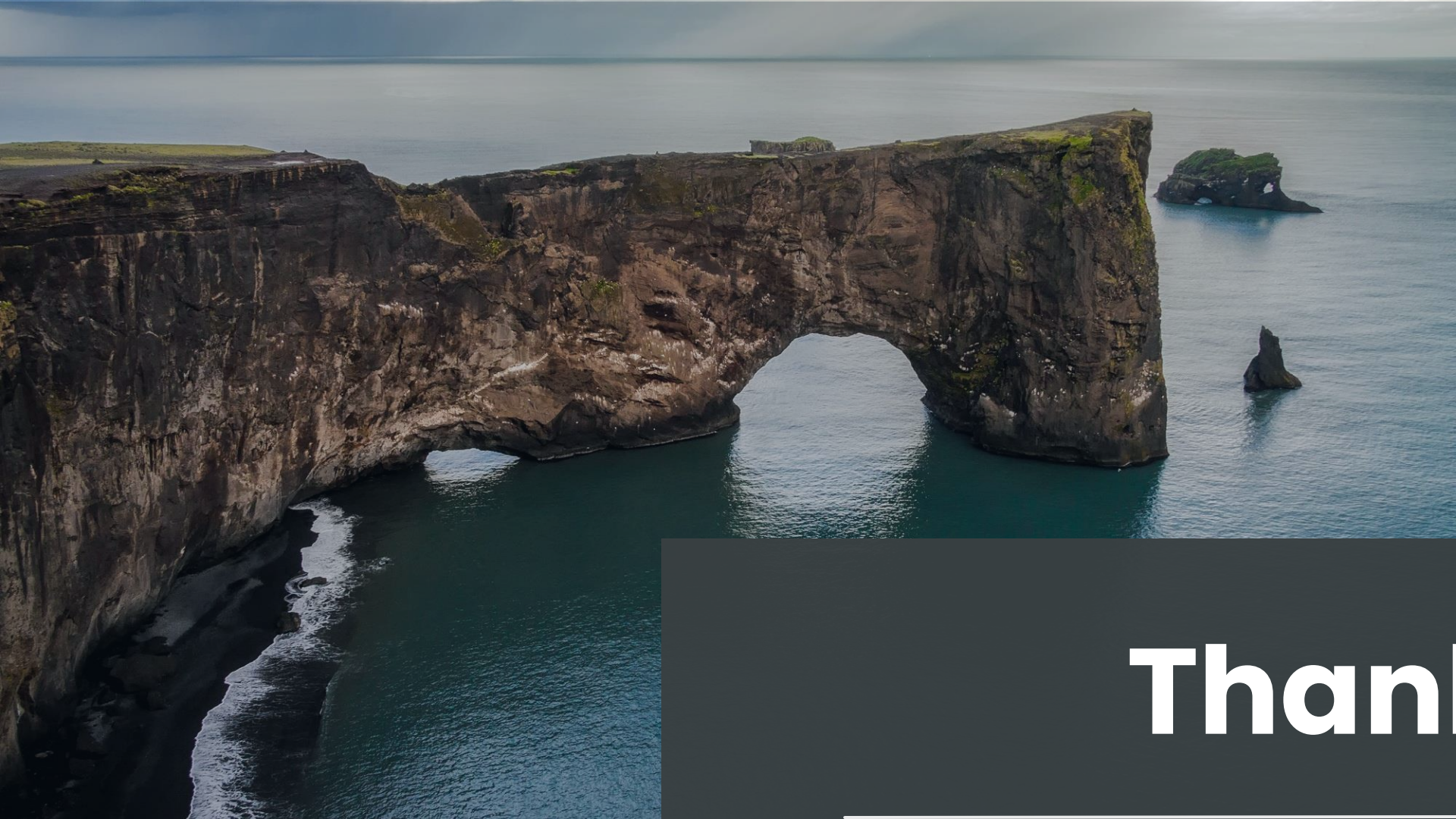
- > Discussions between representative from the EU institutions and EEA EFTA Member States
 - > EFTA Working Groups/Expert Groups
 - > Bilateral meetings
 - > Request for further input from EEA EFTA States
- > Assessing need for follow-up Comments



NEWS • 22 May 2024

30 Years 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe





Thank You

Trond Helge Baardsen



Influencing New EU Programmes

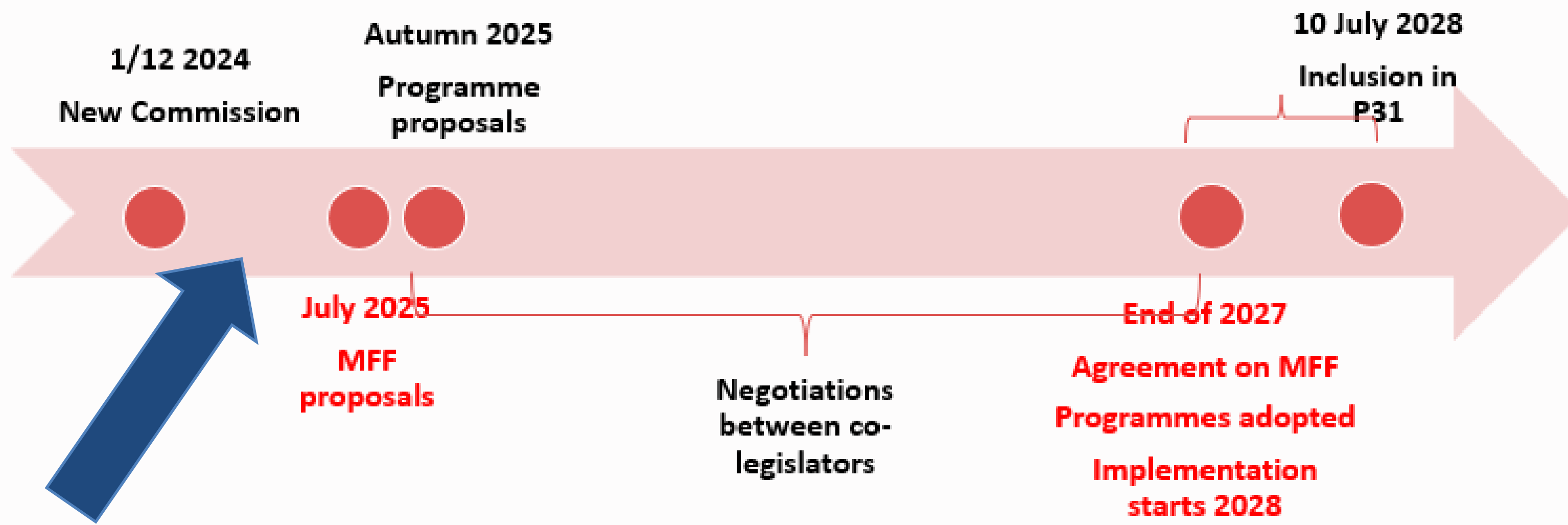
NEWS • 28 January 2025

EEA EFTA States seek to help shape next EU programmes based on equal access

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In a joint EEA EFTA Comment, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway underline the importance of the cooperation between the European Union and the EEA EFTA States in EU programmes. In view of the ongoing preparations for the 2028–2034 programming period, they recall that the EEA Agreement foresees the participation of EEA EFTA stakeholders in EU programmes on an equal footing with EU stakeholders.

Timeline for the preparations of the new EU programmes (2028–2034)



The road to the next multiannual financial framework

Commission Communication from 11 February 2025

*“In light of the policy and budgetary challenges discussed in this Communication, for the EU budget to achieve these objectives,
the status quo is not an option”*



What to expect?

- > Fundamental changes in the MFF and programme structures
- > Fewer and larger programmes
- > More flexible allocation of funds during the 7-year period
- > More policy-based programmes
- > Increased emphasis on competitiveness, defence and security
- > Increasingly complex association arrangements for non-EU countries?

Key messages of the comment

- > EU programmes are **key instruments** for the operational cooperation between the EEA EFTA States and the EU
- > The Agreement states that the EEA EFTA States shall have **access to all parts** of programmes in which they participate and **same rights and obligations as EU stakeholders**
- > **Clearer distinction** to be made between the EEA EFTA States and **countries with other association arrangements**
- > **Sufficient predictability** in making informed decisions about joining a programme
- > **Access to strategic discussions** relevant to the shaping of future EU programmes and relevant governing bodies deciding on funding priorities for the entire 7-year period
- > Joint expert meetings for follow-up