



European Free Trade Association Annual Report 2024

64th Annual Report of the European Free Trade Association
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Kurt Jäger
EFTA Secretary-General

“ Together, we will continue to shape a future where free trade is a force for stability, prosperity and progress.”

Foreword

2024 was an exceptional year for EFTA, with the conclusion of five free trade agreements and the celebration of 30 years of the European Economic Area. In a context marked by geopolitical challenges, EFTA proved that free trade remains a powerful force for stability and growth – expanding its network, deepening cooperation and reinforcing its role as a reliable partner in global trade.

A key highlight was the conclusion of landmark deals with India and Thailand – two of the world’s largest markets – making EFTA the first European bloc to secure comprehensive free trade agreements with both. The agreement with India, signed in March 2024, is a significant step towards realising the economic potential between an Asian powerhouse and highly specialised European markets. The EFTA States also signed a modernised free trade agreement with Chile and concluded negotiations with Ukraine and Kosovo. The modernised agreement with Ukraine reflects EFTA’s commitment to supporting Ukraine’s economic recovery at a critical time.

In 2024, the three EEA EFTA States and the EU celebrated 30 years of economic integration through the European Economic Area. This unique partnership is much more than a trade arrangement; it is the foundation for innovation, growth and shared prosperity across 30 states and 450 million people. This anniversary came at a pivotal moment, as European elections and a new European Commission set the direction for the years ahead. The EEA EFTA States will remain the EU’s closest, most reliable partners, with the EEA Agreement connecting them together in the world’s largest internal market.

Economic integration depends on facts, data and informed policymaking. In 2024, the EFTA Statistical Office strengthened global statistical cooperation, co-hosting nine international events and engaging nearly 500 experts from 75 countries. By supporting evidence-based decision making, EFTA contributes to a global economy built on transparency and trust.

In 2025, EFTA celebrates 65 years of promoting free trade and economic cooperation. As the world changes, we will continue to foster strong partnerships and seek out new economic opportunities. Why? Because international cooperation delivers tangible benefits to businesses and people alike. On behalf of the EFTA Secretariat, I extend my sincere appreciation to our Member States, partners and stakeholders for their trust, collaboration and dedication over the past year. Together, we will continue to shape a future where free trade is a force for stability, prosperity and progress.

Kurt Jäger

About EFTA

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is the intergovernmental organisation of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland, set up for the promotion of free trade and economic cooperation between its members, within Europe and globally.

The Association is responsible for the management of:

- > The EFTA Convention, which regulates economic relations between the four EFTA States;
- > The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), which brings together the Member States of the European Union (EU) and three of the EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – in a single market, also referred to as the Internal Market;
- > EFTA's worldwide network of free trade and partnership agreements.



EFTA's new senior management as of 1 September: Markus Schlagenhof, Kurt Jäger, Knut Hermansen and Thordur Jónsson.



* Population size on 1 January 2024.



Siri Veseth Meling, EFTA Secretary-General; Thórdís Kolbrún Reykþjörd Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland; Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein; Cecilie Terese Myrseth, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway; and Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of Switzerland.

The EFTA Council

The **EFTA Council** is the highest governing body of EFTA. During Council meetings, the delegations consult one another and negotiate and decide on policy issues regarding EFTA. Each Member State is represented, and decisions are taken by consensus. The Member States take turns to chair the Council, rotating yearly.

The Council met seven times at Ambassadorial level in 2024 and once at Ministerial level. During these meetings, the Council discussed substantive matters relating to the development of EFTA relations with third countries, technical cooperation and the management of free trade agreements. Its members also adopted the annual EFTA budget and administrative measures linked to the running of the Association and the EFTA Secretariat. The Council was chaired by Switzerland in the first six months of 2024, and by Norway in the second half of the year. Their respective priorities can be found on the [EFTA website](#).



Guy Parmelin, Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research of Switzerland and Ministerial Chair of the EFTA Council, on new chapters on sustainability and SMEs in recent EFTA agreements.



Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjörd Gylfadóttir, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, on the importance of expanding EFTA's free trade network.



Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein, on new chapters on digital trade and SMEs in recent EFTA Agreements.



Cecilie Myrseth, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway, on the most significant achievements of the modernised FTA with Chile.

EFTA Ministerial Meeting

The annual EFTA Ministerial meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 24 June. The meeting saw the attendance of Mr Alberto van Klaveren, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, to sign a Protocol of Amendment modernising the EFTA–Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The modernisation of this agreement notably included new areas such as trade and sustainable development, digital trade, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and trade and gender.

Ministers celebrated the signing of EFTA's Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with India in March and discussed its implementation. They also reviewed ongoing negotiations with Kosovo, Malaysia, Mercosur, Singapore, Thailand and Ukraine, expressing their commitment to finalising agreements with these countries. FTAs with Kosovo and Thailand were concluded soon after. See page 10 for further details.

Ministers highlighted progress in monitoring the implementation of sustainable development provisions in FTAs, and noted the inclusion of EFTA's new model chapter on SMEs. They discussed potential future activities, including structured dialogues with relevant trading blocs or nations, and closer engagement with new partners.

Finally, they welcomed progress in reducing the number of legal acts awaiting incorporation into the EEA Agreement, stressing the importance of the EEA EFTA States' participation in the Internal Market.



Alberto van Klaveren, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, on the most significant achievements of the modernised EFTA–Chile FTA

In April, representatives of the EFTA States also met for a high-level retreat, where they discussed the future of trade policy and EFTA activities.

Communiqué

Conclusions on EFTA External and Internal Relations

Conclusions on Standing Committee Activities



EFTA Secretary-General Kurt Jäger, Norway's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the WTO and EFTA Petter Ølberg, and Norway's Deputy Permanent Representative to EFTA Gustav Solvang at the EFTA Council meeting in September.

Meeting between EFTA Ministers and EFTA Advisory Bodies

On the occasion of the annual Ministerial meeting, EFTA Ministers met with the EFTA Parliamentary Committee and EFTA Consultative Committee. Parliamentarians from the four EFTA States, together with representatives of trade unions and employers' organisations, discussed EFTA's third-country trade policy, including the state of play in current processes and possible future orientation. They also touched on the nexus between EU/EEA sustainability provisions and the EFTA States' trade policies. See page 37 for further details.

Annual Meeting of EFTA and EU Finance Ministers

The annual meeting of EFTA and EU Ministers of Finance and Economy (EFTA ECOFIN) took place on 5 November in Brussels, chaired by Mr Mihály Varga, Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary, representing the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Annual meeting of EFTA and EU Finance Ministers.

In the discussion on "Improving competitiveness in the long term – taking on the challenges of demographics and productivity", the European Commissioner for Economy, Mr Paolo Gentiloni, presented the Commission's position and summarised the status of the EU economy. He emphasised that the EU and EFTA States shared common ground and had a common interest in the effects of demographic changes and the need to strengthen the competitiveness of their economies.

The 2024 Chair of the EFTA Economic Committee, State Secretary of Finance for Norway Mr Erlend Trygve Grimstad, presented the common EFTA paper and stated that ageing populations, geopolitical risks, cyber security concerns, scarce labour supply and the need for the diversification of supply chains were the key challenges facing the EFTA States in aiming for competitiveness. Interventions then followed from the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of Iceland, Mr Hermann Sæmundsson; Ambassador at the Representation of Liechtenstein in Brussels, Mr Pascal Schafhauser; and State Secretary of Economic Affairs of Switzerland, Ms Helene Budliger Artieda.



Free Trade Relations

EFTA has an extensive worldwide network of **free trade relations**. Its third-country policy aims to safeguard the economic interests of its Member States, support and reinforce European and interregional integration, and contribute to global efforts to liberalise trade and investment and promote trade and sustainable development.

EFTA's Worldwide Network (Status on 31 December 2024)*

Free Trade Agreements

FTA negotiations

FTA negotiations
suspended or on holdJoint Declarations on
CooperationFTA relations of
individual EFTA States

Interactive Map

More info

More info

More info

More info

More info

EFTA Member States

EU Member States / EEA

* See full table on page 60.

Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes only. Designations used and the presentation of material on this map do not imply any opinion by EFTA or its Member States concerning the legal status of any country or territory, or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries. Nor does it necessarily reflect the actual scope or territorial coverage of an agreement, negotiation, or other instrument referenced.

2024 MEETINGS

356 meetings

- 165 meetings with partners
- 173 internal EFTA meetings
- 18 high-level or heads-of-delegation meetings

14 negotiation rounds with eight different partners

- Chile (1)
- India (1)
- Malaysia (2)
- Singapore (2)
- Thailand (3)
- Ukraine (2)
- Mercosur (1)
- Kosovo (2)

Joint Committee meetings

- Tunisia: One Subcommittee and one Joint Committee meeting

Ongoing Negotiations

Malaysia

The EFTA States and **Malaysia** launched negotiations towards a free trade agreement (FTA) in 2014. After intersessional contacts between experts and heads of delegation throughout 2023, two rounds of negotiations took place in 2024: the 15th in Kuala Lumpur in June and the 16th in Geneva in November. At the end of the year, negotiations were close to completion.

Mercosur

The EFTA States continued contacts with the **Mercosur** countries at all levels to advance on the remaining issues, following the conclusion of free trade negotiations in principle in 2019. The 11th round of negotiations took place from 15 to 19 April 2024 in Buenos Aires. High-level exchanges to advance bilateral issues between Switzerland and the Mercosur States were held in the summer and on the margins of the G20 Trade Minister meeting in Brasília. In December, Mercosur proposed a work plan for 2025 foreseeing technical videoconferences and a physical round of negotiations, in order to facilitate the timely conclusion of negotiations.

Vietnam

EFTA and **Vietnam** held two expert meetings in 2024, as well as a videoconference of heads of delegation in May. Both sides agreed to hold the 17th round of negotiations by mid-2025 to address all pending issues and further advance the process.

FTAs Concluded, Not Yet in Force

India

On 10 March, the EFTA States and **India** signed a comprehensive Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA), concluding 16 years of negotiations including several high-level contacts and intense rounds throughout 2023 and the first months of 2024. Ratification processes are ongoing.



Ministers at the press conference following the EFTA–India TEPA signing.

Kosovo

The EFTA States signed a joint declaration on cooperation (JDC) with **Kosovo** in 2018 and launched free trade negotiations in 2022. Following two rounds of negotiations that year, the pace then slowed after Kosovo's request to include services and EFTA's subsequent internal consultations. In March 2024, EFTA agreed to include services, and negotiations resumed in June. The fourth and final round took place in Pristina, Kosovo, thereby concluding negotiations on 26 September. The FTA covers trade in goods, technical barriers to trade (TBT), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures,



Delegations from the EFTA States and Kosovo after concluding negotiations in Pristina.



Heads of delegation of the EFTA States and Thailand concluding free trade negotiations.



EFTA Secretary-General Siri Veseth Meling, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein Dominique Hasler, Minister of Trade and Industry of Norway Cecilie Terese Myrseth; Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Alberto van Klaveren.

trade in services, intellectual property rights (IPR), trade facilitation, trade remedies, competition, trade and sustainable development (TSD), and legal and horizontal provisions.

Moldova

The EFTA States and **Moldova** signed an FTA in June 2023 on the occasion of the EFTA Ministerial meeting. The agreement reflects the exponential growth of trade between the parties (21.3% annually over the past five years) and advances EFTA's traditional trade interests, while including new areas such as e-commerce and EFTA's newest TSD chapter. The FTA entered into force for Moldova and Iceland on 1 September 2024, and for Moldova and Norway on 1 November 2024. At the end of 2024, internal procedures were nearly finalised for Liechtenstein and Switzerland, with the agreement on course to be fully in force in spring 2025.

Thailand

Following the relaunch of negotiations at the EFTA Ministerial meeting in June 2022, EFTA and **Thailand** held ten rounds of negotiations, before concluding on 29 November 2024 in virtual format. An ambitious and broad-based agreement, the EFTA–Thailand FTA covers trade in goods and services, investment, IPR, competition, government procurement, TSD, and legal and horizontal provisions, as well as containing chapters on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and cooperation and capacity building.

Management and Modernisation of FTAs

Chile

The negotiation process to modernise the FTA with **Chile**, initiated in 2019, was concluded in January 2024 in Santiago during the seventh round of negotiations. The legal review was completed on 24 May, paving the way for the signing of the modernised EFTA–Chile FTA at the EFTA Ministerial meeting in June. Domestic procedures towards ratification are underway within the EFTA States, with a possible window for entry into force in 2026.

Ecuador

EFTA held its first Joint Committee meeting with **Ecuador** in December 2021, allowing EFTA to apply its reinforced monitoring mechanism on trade and sustainable development. The next Joint Committee meeting is envisaged for 2025, which will provide an opportunity for further engagement on TSD and other matters under the FTA.

Gulf Cooperation Council

EFTA remains in close contact with the **Gulf Cooperation Council** (GCC) to address the functioning and proper implementation of the agreement. Work in this respect has notably taken place in the context of the Subcommittee on Customs and Origin Matters and its mandate.

Indonesia

The Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the EFTA States and **Indonesia** entered into force in November 2021. Within the framework of technical cooperation projects under the Subcommittee on Cooperation and Capacity Building, the following events were organised in 2024:

- > Seminar on improving competitiveness for fishery products, applicable framework and market access (Jakarta, June);
- > Preference utilisation workshop (Jakarta, 30 October);
- > Trade promotion seminar (Jakarta and Bandung, 31 October and 1 November).

Meetings between the EFTA Secretary-General and the Indonesian Ambassadors to Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein and Switzerland took place on 27 September in Geneva.

Palestine

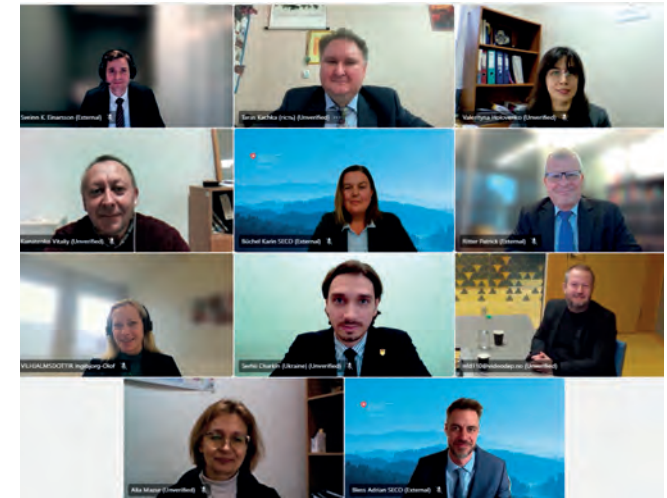
EFTA and **Palestine** last discussed agricultural updates to their agreement in spring 2023. Internal work is ongoing in Palestine to clarify customs enforcement and procedures before meeting again with EFTA. The ambition is to finalise the process to ensure parity with the agreement concluded with Israel in 2021.

Singapore

Negotiations on a digital economy agreement (DEA) with **Singapore** commenced in February 2023. The aim is to provide a clear framework for digital trade and strengthen an already robust partnership underpinned by the EFTA–Singapore FTA in force since 2003. By the end of 2024, eight negotiation rounds had been held, with steady progress made. Both sides are striving for the rapid conclusion of the DEA, the first focused agreement of its kind for EFTA going beyond the standard e-commerce chapters.

Tunisia

In October 2024, EFTA and **Tunisia** convened in Geneva for their second Joint Committee and Subcommittee meetings, marking the 20th anniversary of the signing of the EFTA–Tunisia FTA. The Joint Committee reviewed the implementation and functioning of the FTA, focusing on trade in goods, rules of origin and preference utilisation. It also adopted a decision to amend Protocol B to the FTA to incorporate a dynamic link to the revised pan-Euro Mediterranean (PEM) Convention. This update to the EFTA–Tunisia FTA, along with the corresponding amendments to the bilateral agricultural agreements between the EFTA States and Tunisia, was formalised during a signing ceremony.



Heads of delegation of the EFTA States and Ukraine conclude negotiations on a modernised FTA.

Türkiye

The first Subcommittee and Joint Committee meeting under the modernised and expanded FTA with **Türkiye** was held online in August 2023. EFTA and Türkiye acknowledged that the agreement was functioning well. Follow-ups from the meeting developed in autumn 2024.

Ukraine

During the EFTA Ministerial meeting in June 2023, Ministers from the EFTA States and **Ukraine** announced the start of negotiations towards the modernisation of their 2012 FTA. Two negotiation rounds were held in 2024 and negotiations were concluded on 2 December in virtual format. At the end of the year, the legal review was underway, with the aim of signing the modernised FTA in the first half of 2025.

Other contacts

ASEAN

Discussions on a joint declaration on economic cooperation with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations*** were launched in 2021. A meeting between EFTA and ASEAN took place in Jakarta on the fringes of the first Subcommittee and Joint Committee meetings with Indonesia in December 2022, followed by written exchanges throughout 2023 and agreement on a final text in August 2024. On 19 September 2024, the ASEAN–EFTA Joint Declaration on Economic Cooperation was adopted at the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

United States

EFTA and the United States continued discussions in 2024 on deepening engagement in priority areas under their Trade Policy Dialogue, of which nine editions have been held to date. In April, high-level representatives from both sides met in Switzerland, affirming the dialogue's value as a forum for information exchange, which had broadened in scope. They expressed openness to exploring further opportunities for cooperation in the context of the dialogue, and in this context, several expert meetings on selected topics took place at the end of 2024.



The EFTA States and ASEAN adopted a Joint Declaration on Economic Cooperation in Vientiane, Lao PDR, in September.

Horizontal Work

Sustainable development

An improved mechanism to systematically monitor commitments on **sustainable development** has been put into effect in Joint Committee meetings with several partners, namely Ecuador in 2021, Georgia and Indonesia in 2022, the Philippines in 2023 and Türkiye in 2023. A Joint Committee meeting is planned with Ecuador in 2025, which will mark the first time that EFTA has conducted a second monitoring exercise with a free trade partner. In 2024, EFTA concluded a **sustainability impact assessment** in the framework of its negotiations with Thailand, which was published on EFTA's website on 26 September and presented to EFTA's advisory bodies in November.

Preference utilisation monitoring and EFTA FTA Monitor

The EFTA Working Group on Preference Utilisation continued to monitor and analyse the effective use of EFTA's FTAs in 2024. In June, a new edition of the EFTA **FTA Monitor** was published. Since 2023, the Working Group has also monitored the preference utilisation of intra-EFTA trade under the EFTA Convention and the EEA Agreement, and in 2024 the EFTA Secretariat introduced individual reports for Norway and Iceland. Switzerland continues to publish its monitor separately.

In view of the annual update of the EFTA FTA Monitor, the Secretariat started its annual data exchange with third-country partners in the last quarter of 2024. In addition to those that had already exchanged data for previous editions, the Working Group continued its efforts to extend coverage on the export side.

* ASEAN: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

The Working Group worked on expanding the FTA Monitor to cover trade with EU countries and the UK, and redesigning the report to make it more readable. In February, the Working Group organised a workshop on preference utilisation in Brussels, which benefited from the participation of different partners and allowed fruitful exchanges on practices to monitor the effective use of FTAs.

Regarding trade with third-country partners in 2023, EFTA's exports achieved tariff savings valued at USD 487.9 million, and an additional USD 142.4 million of tariff savings could potentially be achieved. Regarding intra-EFTA trade, preference utilisation was very high: unachieved tariff savings in 2023 were valued at less than USD 0.6 million, while achieved savings already amounted to USD 46.9 million.

Small and medium-sized enterprises

In November 2024, the Working Group on Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises finalised EFTA's dedicated SME model chapter. The chapter features commitments on the online provision of business-relevant information as well as on cooperation, to the benefit of SMEs. Throughout 2024, the EFTA States relied on the model in their FTA negotiations, and successfully concluded SME chapters with Chile, Thailand and Ukraine. In addition, an **SME Information Hub** was published on the EFTA website in December, providing key information for SMEs interested in the EFTA markets.



EFTA's new SME Information Hub.

Pan-Euro-Mediterranean Convention

The revised **PEM Convention** was adopted by the PEM Joint Committee on 7 December 2023, with entry into force scheduled for 1 January 2025. However, delays in implementation by some contracting parties mean that the revised rules will not be applied simultaneously across the PEM zone. Full implementation is foreseen for 1 January 2026, with 2025 being a transitional period where both the "old" and revised rules will exist in parallel.

On 12 December 2024, the PEM Joint Committee adopted a decision introducing transitional provisions, applicable as of 1 January 2025. These provisions ensure the principle of permeability between the two sets of rules above. On the same date, the PEM Joint Committee adopted a decision concerning the use of electronically issued movement certificates EUR.1, also applicable as of 1 January 2025.

Dynamic links to the PEM Convention are in force with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye. The rules entered into force on 1 September 2024 for Iceland and Moldova, and 1 November 2024 for Norway and Moldova. They are pending ratification in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. With Kosovo, the rules will enter into force at the same time as the FTA. For Palestine and Tunisia, the links have been adopted and are awaiting ratification.

Steps are being taken to establish dynamic links with EFTA's remaining PEM FTA partners.



The EEA Agreement

The **Agreement on the European Economic Area** brings together the EU Member States and the three EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway – into one Internal Market. It guarantees equal rights and obligations within the Internal Market for citizens and economic operators in the 30 EEA States.

The EEA Council

The **EEA Council** met twice at Ministerial level in 2024, providing political impetus for the development of the EEA Agreement. The **meeting on 28 May** was chaired by the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and co-chaired by Iceland as EFTA Standing Committee Chair, while the **25 November meeting in EFTA House** was chaired by Norway and co-chaired by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU. Both sides underlined their continued close cooperation under the EEA Agreement and adopted **Council Conclusions** following the meeting on 25 November.

The main topics covered by the EEA Council in 2024 were:

- > The overall functioning of the EEA Agreement;
- > Competitiveness and resilience of the Internal Market in a changing geopolitical context;
- > The green transition and competitiveness;
- > The incorporation of EU legal acts into the EEA Agreement.

The EEA Council held orientation debates on challenges and opportunities related to the green transition (May) and on Europe's competitiveness and resilience and the role of the EEA cooperation (November). In the informal political dialogues held on the margins of the Council, Ministers discussed responses to Russia's illegal war of aggression on Ukraine, the Arctic, and the situation in the Middle East.



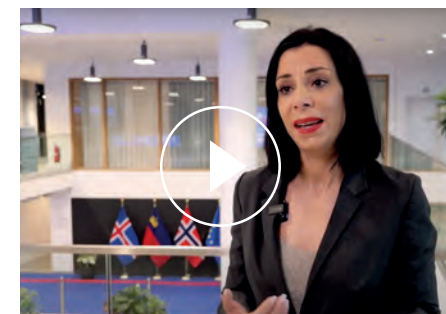
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Liechtenstein Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Espen Barth Eide, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjörd Gylfadóttir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium Hadja Lahbib and Executive Vice-President of the European Commission Maroš Šefčovič.



Espen Barth Eide, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, on how the 30 EEA States can work together to tackle joint challenges.



State Secretary Péter Sztáray, representing the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, on how the close EEA partnership can help drive European competitiveness.



Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sport of Liechtenstein, reflects on the importance of the EEA cooperation as she attends her last EEA Council.



Maroš Šefčovič, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, on how the EEA partnership can contribute to a more secure and resilient Europe.



Ambassador Kristján Andri Stefánsson, Head of Mission of Iceland to the EU, on the importance of celebrating 30 years of the EEA Agreement.

The EEA Joint Committee

The **EEA Joint Committee** is the main decision-making body of the EEA Agreement, and consists of the Ambassadors of the EEA EFTA States to the EU and representatives of the Secretariat-General of the European Commission. The Committee met eight times in 2024, adopting 307 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 557 legal acts into the EEA Agreement.



The EEA EFTA Ambassadors at the EEA Joint Committee meeting at EFTA House.



Left: Nicolas von Lingen, Head of Unit, European Commission Secretariat-General, chairing the EEA Joint Committee on behalf of the EU in December.

Discussions in the EEA Joint Committee focused on progress and efforts towards reducing the number of legal acts awaiting incorporation. The Committee adopted several important JCDs in a wide range of policy areas such as health, financial services, food chain, veterinary issues, transport and environment, and also received briefings on the Commission work programme for 2024, the state of play on EU enlargement and the EFTA Task Force **report on cross-sectoral EU initiatives**.

The Standing Committee of the EFTA States

The **Standing Committee of the EFTA States** serves as a forum in which the EEA EFTA States consult one another and arrive at a common position before meeting with the EU in the Joint Committee. It consists of the Ambassadors to the EU of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Switzerland and the EFTA Surveillance Authority participate as observers.



Chair of the Task Force on Files with Distinctive Horizontal Dimensions Elisabeth Walaas hands Norway's Ambassador and the EFTA Chair Anders H. Eide the report on cross-sectoral EU initiatives during the Standing Committee meeting in July.

Priorities of the Standing Committee in 2024 were:

- > The swift incorporation of EU legal acts into the EEA Agreement and a reduction in the backlog, with a particular focus on older acts;
- > The future of the Internal Market and cross-sectoral EU initiatives, including follow-up to the EFTA Task Force report (see page 21);
- > Decision-shaping efforts, including the submission of EEA EFTA Comments on, inter alia, European competitiveness;
- > Utilisation of the 30-year anniversary of the EEA Agreement to strengthen knowledge of the EEA cooperation and the EEA EFTA States' integral role in the Internal Market;
- > EEA outreach activities, particularly in the context of the new European Commission and Parliament;
- > Enhancing the transparency of EEA processes.

The agendas and conclusions of the **Standing Committee meetings** are available on the EFTA website. The 2024 work programmes of the Icelandic and Norwegian Chairs can be found in the **appendices** to this report.



Ambassador Kristján Andri Stefánsson, representing Iceland; Ambassador Pascal Schafhauser, representing Liechtenstein; Ambassador Anders H. Eide, representing Norway and chairing the EFTA Standing Committee; EFTA Secretary-General Siri Veseth Meling; and EFTA Deputy Secretary-General Andri Lúthersson.

30th Anniversary of the EEA Agreement

In 2024, the EEA EFTA States and the EU celebrated 30 years since the entry into force of the EEA Agreement and 30 years of successful, mutually beneficial cooperation within the EEA. A priority throughout the year was to showcase the EEA EFTA States' contribution to the Internal Market and to highlight the unique partnership between the EEA EFTA States and the EU.

In addition to high-level events and meetings, the EFTA Secretariat launched a digital campaign to showcase how the EEA EFTA States have contributed to the Internal Market's success throughout 30 years of close cooperation with the EU. This cross-platform campaign included a video series with European Commission Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and other important players in business, industry and research; visual assets for social media; an anniversary website and more. The campaign targeted key audiences within the EU institutions, the Brussels policy community and beyond, and achieved 800 000 impressions across the digital platforms and 200 000 video views.

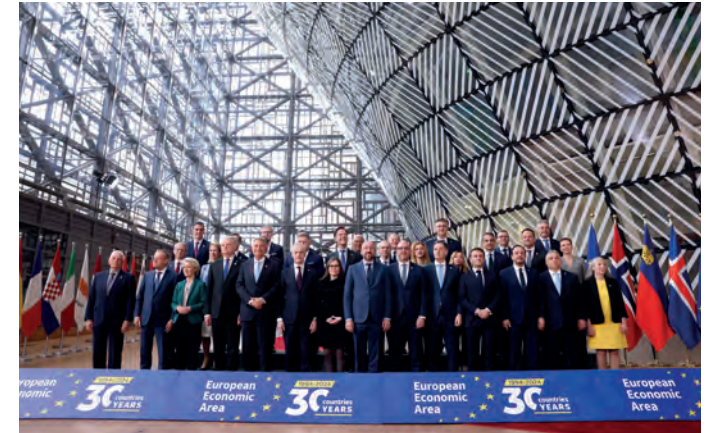
Several activities and events took place throughout the year to mark the anniversary:

- > On 1 January, the Foreign Ministers of the EEA EFTA States issued a **joint statement** highlighting the resilience of the Internal Market and the importance of close EEA cooperation in a rapidly changing global context. In parallel, Commission Executive Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and High Representative Josep Borrell published a **joint statement** emphasising the strong partnership between the EU and the EEA EFTA States and the positive achievements of the cooperation over the past three decades.



To mark the 30-year milestone, a special EEA logo was launched and utilised throughout the anniversary year.

- > On 22 March, the Prime Ministers of the EEA EFTA States met with members of the European Council. Both sides reiterated their continuous support for the EEA and the strong relationship between the EU and the EEA EFTA States.
- > Also on 22 March, the three EEA EFTA Prime Ministers conveyed key messages about the EEA Agreement and the EEA EFTA States' important contribution and commitment to Europe in a joint op-ed published by **Euractiv**.
- > Another highlight of the anniversary year was the **conference** held after the EEA Council on



The EEA EFTA Prime Ministers meeting with other EEA leaders at the European Council Roundtable in March.

28 May, hosted jointly by the EEA EFTA States and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU. The conference brought together the EEA EFTA Foreign Ministers, the Belgian Foreign Minister and Commission Executive Vice-President Šefčovič in a panel discussion on the future of EEA cooperation. Former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta and Director of Carnegie Europe Rosa Balfour provided keynote speeches. The conference was attended by around 180 people in person and over 100 online participants.

- > The anniversary also featured at the 57th meeting of the EEA Council on 28 May, where the EU and the EEA EFTA States underlined their commitment to the EEA Agreement in a special **joint statement**.
- > A special **anniversary edition** of EFTA's biannual EEA seminar took place on 12 March. This was a valuable opportunity to share key messages and knowledge about the EEA Agreement to counterparts in Brussels. The seminar included the participation of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU.



The highlight of the anniversary celebrations was a conference on the margins of the EEA Council on 28 May with the EEA EFTA Foreign Ministers, Belgium's Foreign Minister, Commission Vice-President Šefčovič and special guest speakers Enrico Letta and Rosa Balfour.



The anniversary was also celebrated during the 57th meeting of the EEA Council in May.



EFTA's flagship seminar had a celebratory twist to mark the anniversary year of the EEA Agreement.



The video series focused on success stories where the EEA EFTA States had collaborated with the EU to achieve extraordinary results throughout 30 years of close partnership.



Commission Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager talking about the important contribution of the EEA EFTA States to digital safety.



Carbfex CEO Edda Sif Pind Aradóttir on achieving climate goals together.



Nobel Prize winner Edvard Moser on the importance of European research networks for scientific breakthroughs.



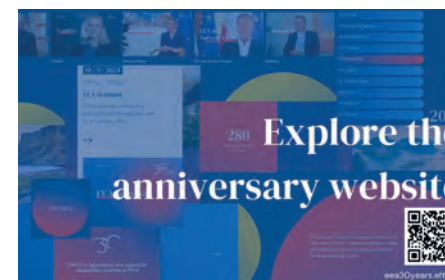
Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk on the EEA and Norway Grants' tangible benefits.



Chair of the Hilti Board Christoph Loos on how the EEA Agreement has led to a more productive, sustainable and safer construction industry.



Senior Expert at the European Commission Pieter De Smet on the EEA EFTA States' critical contribution to collaboration in space.



A dedicated anniversary website served as a central hub for the campaign to showcase the EEA's impact and achievements, including videos, key messages and event information.

The Financial Mechanism

On 12 September, the Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2021–2028 were signed, as well as two additional protocols on market access for fish between the EU and Norway, and between the EU and Iceland. 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. The three priority areas for the new period are:

- > Green transition
- > Democracy, rule of law and human rights
- > Social inclusion and resilience

Legal and Institutional Matters

Subcommittee V on Legal and Institutional Matters held four meetings in 2024 and further informal exchanges, including with experts in the EFTA working groups. The Subcommittee, which assists the EFTA Standing Committee and is composed of legal experts from the EEA EFTA States, monitored two-pillar issues and third-country provisions in the EEA Agreement, deliberated on cases of interest to the EEA EFTA States before the EFTA Court and the Court of Justice of the European Union, and discussed various horizontal legal issues relating to the management of the EEA Agreement.

Relations with the United Kingdom

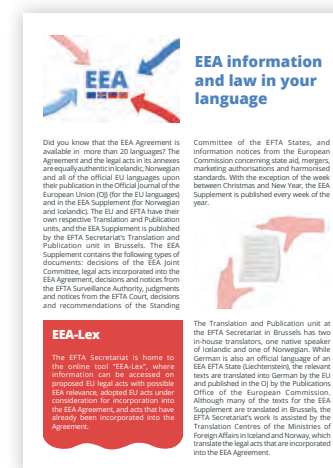
The Subcommittee on Services and Investment under the Joint Committee established by the **Free Trade Agreement** between the EEA EFTA States (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and the **United Kingdom** held its second meeting on 8 May, and the Subcommittee on Trade in Goods on 10 October. At both meetings, the parties reaffirmed that the agreement was functioning well, and discussed issues such as maritime transport, mobility between the EEA EFTA States and the UK, international mobile roaming services, preference utilisation rate data and trade facilitation.

On 19 June, the Joint Committee established by the **EEA EFTA – UK Separation Agreement** held its fifth meeting. Delegations from Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the UK provided updates on their implementation and application of the agreement, with emphasis on provisions relating to citizens' rights. The EFTA Surveillance Authority and the Independent Monitoring Authority also gave presentations on their monitoring of the agreement's implementation and application. Finally, the Joint Committee issued its annual report on the functioning of the Separation Agreement for the year 2023.

The EEA Supplement

The EEA Supplement to the Official Journal of the European Union contains Icelandic and Norwegian translations of EEA-relevant texts from the:

- > EEA Joint Committee
- > EFTA Standing Committee
- > EFTA Surveillance Authority
- > EFTA Court
- > European Commission



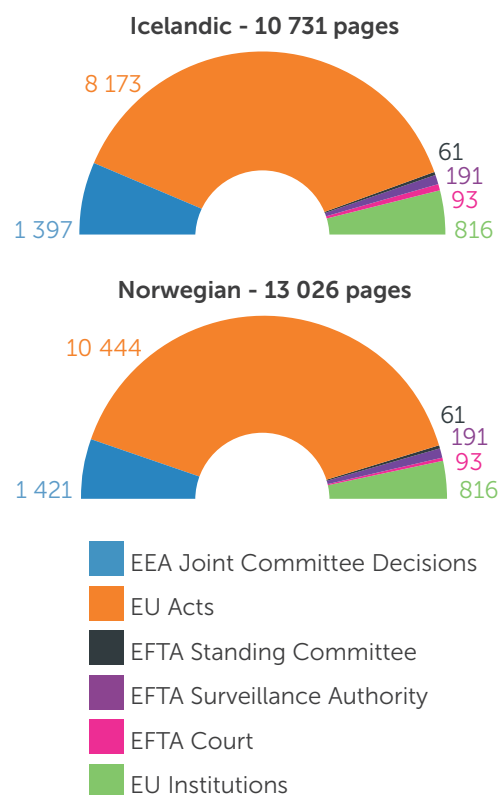
The Supplement is published weekly on the EFTA website and always includes merger notifications from the European Commission. Separate issues contain translations of EEA Joint Committee Decisions and EU legal acts that have been incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

[Find all published issues here](#)

The EFTA Secretariat published a record 23 757 pages and 93 issues of the Supplement in 2024, maintaining an exceptionally high publication rate of translated EU legal acts. Thanks to a joint effort and good cooperation with the Commission Secretariat-General, the backlog of published JCDs was cleared in the spring and a healthy turnaround time for JCDs was maintained throughout the year.

Much of the material from the Supplement is available on EFTA's web-based legal database, [EEA-Lex](#), an important tool for monitoring the incorporation of EU acts into the EEA Agreement.

Fig. 1 – Publication in the EEA Supplement 2024



The Incorporation of EU Acts into the EEA Agreement

Subcommittees I-IV assist the EFTA Standing Committee and the EEA Joint Committee in preparing for the incorporation of **EEA-relevant EU acts** into the EEA Agreement. In practice, they function as one committee when they meet, eight times a year in two configurations:

- > Internal meetings of representatives of the EEA EFTA States' foreign ministries;
- > Joint meetings between the EEA EFTA States and the Secretariat-General of the European Commission.

They are assisted by several working and expert groups, responsible for monitoring developments in the EU within their fields and for evaluating and processing EU legislation to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

Efforts are underway to increase efficiency in the incorporation of EEA-relevant acts, such as by improving the basis for cooperation between the different parties in the process. This is done by sharing details of the incorporation procedures in the EFTA Secretariat, the national administrations and the EU, and how they interact. The planned switch to online forms will also make the incorporation process more efficient.

The Secretariat gathers data on the performance and procedural compliance of both the EEA EFTA States and the EFTA Secretariat. These key performance indicators enable a targeted approach to further improve the efficiency of incorporation.

Cross-sectoral Initiatives

In July 2024, the Task Force on Files with Distinctive Horizontal Dimensions submitted a **report** to the Standing Committee with recommendations on how to approach cross-sectoral EU policy initiatives and assess their practical effects on the Internal Market. Many such initiatives, such as the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA), Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and Chips Act, contain elements that transcend Internal Market policies.

Acting on the recommendations made in the report, the Secretariat has been adjusting procedures and ways of working to identify relevant and challenging issues at an earlier stage and facilitate more strategic discussions.

Free Movement of Goods

Subcommittee I on the **Free Movement of Goods** coordinates matters relating to harmonised technical legislation, the food chain, intellectual property rights, energy, competition, state aid and public procurement.

In addition, three committees deal with issues related to goods under the EFTA Council: the Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade, the Committee of Origin and Customs Experts, and the Committee on Trade Facilitation.

Standardisation

EFTA continued to support **European standardisation** and the public–private partnership between the European Commission and EFTA on the one side and the European Standardisation Organisations (ESOs) and stakeholders on the other.

The EFTA Secretariat participated in the general assemblies of the three ESOs – the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) – and of the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA).

The EFTA States and the Commission provide financial support to the three ESOs. EFTA continued to co-fund the ESOs in 2024, as well as four recognised stakeholder organisations that participate in European standardisation: the European Association for the Coordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation (ANEC), the Environmental Coalition on Standards (ECOS), Small Business Standards (SBS) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

EFTA signed 37 agreements in 2024 relating to standardisation, including amendments to existing agreements. It also continued its financial support to the EA.

Competition – Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations

The Horizontal Block Exemption Regulations (HBERs) (Regulations (EU) 2023/1066 and (EU) 2023/1067) were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in July 2024, providing businesses with clearer and more up-to-date rules and guidance. The new rules will help businesses assess the compatibility of their specialisation and R&D agreements with EU competition rules.

State aid – de minimis Regulation

The de minimis Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/2831) was incorporated into the EEA Agreement in September 2024. The revised rules exempt small amounts of aid (up to EUR 300 000 over three years per company) from state aid control, as they are deemed to have no impact on competition and trade in the Internal Market.

Simplified Procedure

Due to specific needs in the veterinary and food safety fields, certain acts under the Working Group on the Food Chain are subject to a simplified procedure. This is a derogation from the normal incorporation procedure, used when it is necessary to put safeguard and protective measures in place urgently.

The following acts are subject to the simplified procedure:

- > Safeguard and protective measures concerning the EEA territory or imports from third countries of live animals, animal products or food
- > Texts of application and lists of approved food- and feed-producing establishments concerning imports from third countries
- > Safeguard measures and listing of countries and territories concerning the non-commercial movement of pet animals

A total of **94 acts** were implemented using the simplified procedure in 2024.

Free Movement of Capital and Services

Subcommittee II on the Free Movement of **Capital** and **Services** coordinates matters concerning financial services, company law, electronic communications, audiovisual services, information society, data protection, postal services and transport.

Review of legislation establishing the European Financial Supervisory Authorities

In December 2019, the Commission adopted a revision of the regulations establishing the European Financial Supervisory Authorities (ESAs) – the European Banking Authority (EBA), the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). Among other amendments, the ESAs will set EU-wide strategic supervisory priorities for national competent authorities, the governance of the ESAs has been strengthened and elaborated, and the EBA in particular will have an increased coordinating role in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The EFTA Task Force on Financial Services is aiming for these amendments to enter into force in the EEA before the end of 2025.

New legislation on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism

On 31 May 2024, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a package of legislative acts to strengthen EU rules on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). The AML/CFT Regulation will apply from 19 June 2027, two years after its entry into force. EU Member States will have 36 months to comply with the AML Directive (Directive (EU) 2015/849). The package contains a regulation establishing the Authority for Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AMLA) (Regulation (EU)



2024/1620), which will apply from 1 July 2025. AMLA will have extensive supervisory competences, including direct supervision in certain instances. The EFTA Working Group on Financial Services submitted an EEA EFTA Comment in January 2022 addressing the setup of AMLA. The adopted acts did not introduce any substantive changes from the proposal regarding the setup of AMLA.

Digital services

Through its Digital Platform Task Force, the Working Group on Electronic Communication, Audiovisual Services and Information Society (ECASIS) continued preparing for the incorporation of the EU's new legal framework for digital services – the Digital Services Act (DSA) (Regulation (EU) 2022/2065) and the Digital Markets Act (DMA) (Regulation (EU) 2022/1925). The DSA focuses on upgrading liability and safety rules for digital platforms, services and products. The DMA introduces rules for platforms acting as gatekeepers in the digital sector to prevent them from imposing unfair conditions on businesses and consumers. In addition to providing better consumer protection while promoting an open and competitive platform economy, these instruments aim to help smaller companies grow cross border by ensuring a consistent set of rules across the EEA.

Cybersecurity

The Working Group on ECASIS prepared for the incorporation of Directive (EU) 2022/2555 (NIS 1 Directive) and coordinated its work on the implementation of Directive (EU) 2022/2557 (Critical Entities Resilience Directive). Experts also assessed Regulation (EU) 2025/38 (Cyber Solidarity Act) and Regulation (EU) 2025/37 on managed security services.

Eurovignette Directive

The Working Group on Transport is assessing Directive (EU) 2022/362 on the charging of heavy goods vehicles for the use of infrastructure (Eurovignette Directive), which began applying in the EU on 25 March 2024. The directive includes a new scheme to reduce the carbon footprint of the transport sector in line with the European Green Deal and the Paris Agreement. Time-based user charges (vignettes) will be phased out for heavy-duty vehicles on the core TEN-T network within eight years of its entry into force. In addition, a new EU-wide tool will be introduced for varying infrastructure and user charges for heavy-duty vehicles, based on CO₂ emissions.

Maritime Safety Package

The new Maritime Safety Package, which was introduced in June 2023, contains five legislative proposals to modernise EU rules on maritime safety and prevent water pollution from ships. They introduce new tools to support clean and modern shipping, aligning EU rules with international regulations and securing a level playing field for the sector.

The five proposals concern:

- > Clear requirements for flag state inspections;
- > Port state control;
- > The European Maritime Safety Agency;
- > Investigations into accidents in the maritime transport sector;
- > Ship-source pollution.

The EEA EFTA States submitted an EEA EFTA Comment at the proposal stage in November 2023. They are currently assessing the adopted acts on investigations into accidents in the maritime transport sector, ship-source pollution, port state control and flag state requirements.

Road Safety Package

The EU Road Safety Package introduced in March 2023 comprises three legislative proposals aimed at increasing road safety in the EU by extending the scope of road-safety-related traffic offences and strengthening cross-border enforcement.

The Commission is proposing a new directive on driving licences, a directive on the EU-wide effect of certain driving disqualifications, and an amendment to the directive facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-



related traffic offences. In December 2023, the EEA EFTA States submitted an EEA EFTA Comment on the proposed revised Driving Licence Directive. EFTA experts continued to assess the package in 2024.

Greening of Transport Package

The Greening of Transport Package was introduced in July 2023 and contains three legislative proposals aimed at making freight transport more efficient and sustainable. This will be achieved by improving rail infrastructure management and offering stronger incentives for low-emission lorries, as well as improved information on freight transport greenhouse gas emissions.

The aim of the package is to increase efficiency within the transport sector and contribute to the European Green Deal's target of cutting transport emissions by 90% by 2050, while allowing the sector to continue to grow.

The EEA EFTA States submitted an EEA EFTA Comment on one of the proposals – the proposal for a revised Weights and Dimensions Directive – in March 2024.



Free Movement of Persons

Subcommittee III on the **Free Movement of Persons** coordinates matters such as social security and recognition of professional qualifications.

Free movement of persons, employment and social policy

In 2024, experts in the Working Group on Free Movement of Persons, Employment and Social Policy followed the work of the EU's Employment Committee (EMCO) and the development of key actions set out in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. In addition, a joint seminar on issues related to EU social policy was held in April with the Working Group on Health and Safety at Work and Labour Law and the EFTA Consultative Committee.

Flanking and Horizontal Policies

Subcommittee IV on **Flanking and Horizontal Policies** coordinates matters related to all aspects of the horizontal provisions of the EEA Agreement, as well as cooperation outside the four freedoms.

Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism

In May 2023, the EU adopted a regulation establishing a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) (Regulation (EU) 2023/956) – a new tool to put a fair price on the carbon emitted during the production of carbon-intensive goods entering the EU, and to encourage cleaner industrial production in non-EU countries. CBAM will apply in its definitive regime from 2026, while the current transitional phase covers 2023 to 2025. This gradual introduction of CBAM is aligned with the phasing out of the allocation of free allowances under the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to support the decarbonisation of EU industry. In 2024, the Working Group on Environment assessed the possibility of incorporating the CBAM Regulation into the EEA Agreement.

Research and development, education, training and youth – participation in EU programmes

In 2024, the Working Group on Education, Training and Youth followed up on initiatives such as European University alliances, which are supported by Erasmus+, and Commission proposals for transnational European Degree programmes.

The Working Group on Research and Innovation continued to monitor participation by the EEA EFTA States in Horizon Europe – the largest EU programme in which Iceland and Norway participate – with a particular focus on stakeholders' rights and obligations. According to the EEA Agreement, these shall be the same for participants from the EEA EFTA States as those from the EU when collaborating in EU programmes.



European Health Union

The Working Group on Public Health completed the incorporation of the regulations establishing a European Centre for Disease Prevention (Regulation (EU) 2022/2370) and Control (ECDC) and on serious cross-border threats to health (Regulation (EU) 2022/2371) into the EEA Agreement. Experts also assessed the regulation on the European Health Data Space – a key pillar of the European Health Union aiming to improve individuals' access to, and control over, their personal electronic health data.

Platform work and Traineeships Directive

The Working Group on Health and Safety at Work and Labour Law discussed the directive on improving working conditions in platform work (Directive (EU) 2024/2831), adopted on 23 October 2024. The directive aims to better protect workers on digital labour platforms, and introduces the first EU rules on algorithmic management in the workplace and new standards for gig economy workers on employment status.

Experts also assessed the proposal for a Traineeships Directive, aimed at improving and enforcing working conditions for trainees and combating regular employment disguised as traineeships. The proposal also addresses issues of quality and inclusiveness, such as fair pay and access to social protection.

Chips Act

In September 2023, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a regulation establishing a framework of measures to strengthen Europe's semiconductor ecosystem (Regulation (EU) 2023/1781), which came about as a result of a shortage of chips/semiconductors experienced by European undertakings. The regulation, which is being assessed by the Working Group on Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs, aims to reach the

strategic objective of increasing the resilience of Europe's semiconductor ecosystem and its global market share. It also aims to facilitate the early adoption of new chips by European industry and increase Europe's competitiveness in this field.

Critical Raw Materials Act

In March 2023, the Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation establishing a framework for ensuring a secure, diversified and sustainable supply of critical raw materials. The proposed regulation aims to simplify the permitting procedures for critical raw materials processes, monitor the supply of critical raw materials, and promote skills relevant to the industry. The Working Group on Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs submitted an EEA EFTA Comment in September 2023 welcoming the act, and continued to assess the proposal in 2024.



Net Zero Industry Act

In March 2023, the Commission presented a proposal for a regulation establishing a framework of measures to strengthen Europe's net-zero technology products manufacturing ecosystem. The proposed Net Zero Industry Act (NZIA) includes a set of actions and targets to ensure the resilience



of net-zero technologies manufacturing in the EU. It aims to accelerate permitting procedures, reduce the administrative burden, enhance skills, support investments and foster innovation in net-zero technologies. The EEA EFTA States submitted an EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal in December 2023, and the Working Group on Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs continued to assess the NZIA in 2024.

Single Market Emergency Instrument

In September 2022, the Commission adopted a proposal for a Single Market Emergency Instrument. Based on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the aim was to create an instrument that would focus on crisis preparedness and the management of new crises. The proposal sets out a new mechanism to monitor the Single Market, identify different risk levels and coordinate an appropriate response comprising several stages: contingency, vigilance and emergency. The EEA EFTA States submitted an EEA EFTA Comment on the proposal in April 2023, and the Working Group on Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs continued to assess the adopted regulation (Regulation (EU) 2024/2747), renamed the Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act (IMERA), in 2024.

Shaping EU policy

One of the ways in which the EEA EFTA States participate in **shaping EU policies, programmes and legislation** is by submitting common position papers, known as EEA EFTA Comments. In 2024, three EEA EFTA Comments were sent to the Commission, the Parliament and the Council:

- > **General Data Protection Enforcement Regulation**
- > **Weights and Dimensions Directive as included in the Road Safety Package**
- > **30 Years 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe**

The Commission was then invited to attend the relevant EFTA working group meetings to give feedback on the comments received.



The full list of EEA EFTA Comments can be found here.

Directive on the resilience of critical entities

In December 2022, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive strengthening the resilience of critical entities (Directive (EU) 2022/2557). In 2024, the Working Group on Civil Protection continued to assess the directive, which focuses on physical security and the protection of critical processes such as the supply of drinking water and energy.

Budgetary matters

The Working Group on Budgetary Matters is responsible for the timely and correct application of the budgetary provisions set out in Article 82 and Protocol 32 EEA. It also plays a coordinating role in assessing the programme portfolio of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework.

The annual EEA EFTA budget covers the EEA EFTA States' contribution to the EU budget and allows for EEA EFTA participation in EU programmes, actions and agencies. The EEA EFTA States' financial commitments to EU operational costs in 2024 were EUR 870.3 million, up from EUR 739.3 million in 2023. The EEA EFTA net payment in 2024 amounted to EUR 793.5 million, representing an increase from EUR 638.9 million in 2023. This includes contributions to new short-term instruments with Norwegian participation in support of ammunition production (ASAP) and for the production of defence equipment (EDIRPA).

The EEA EFTA States also contribute to the administrative costs of the European Commission in relation to their programme participation, an essential part of which is the contribution in kind of seconded national experts. A total of 19 EEA EFTA national experts were seconded to the various Commission directorates dealing with EEA-relevant programmes and activities in 2024.

Fig. 2 – EEA EFTA financial contributions to EU programmes, agencies and other activities (payments in thousand EUR)

Sector of activity	2023	2024
Research and innovation	365 197	424 646
Education, training and youth	94 415	137 844
Transport and space	81 444	79 542
Culture and audiovisual sector	7 167	11 255
Public health	19 483	23 627
Information services	36 309	39 933
Social policy and employment	2 595	3 301
Product requirements (chemicals, food, medicines)	6 700	8 772
Statistics	2 035	2 140
Civil protection	13 582	18 739
Environment	2 021	2 920
Enterprise, innovation, SMEs, consumer protection	7 507	9 723
Energy	432	680
Support to defence industry and procurement		30 353
Total EEA EFTA contribution	638 889	793 476

Cooperation in Statistics

The **EFTA Statistical Office** (ESO) is the liaison office between the EFTA national statistical institutes and Eurostat – the statistical office of the European Union. Its main priorities in 2024 were to:

- > Facilitate the participation of experts from the EFTA States in **European Statistical System** (ESS) meetings in the decision-shaping phase, where statistical concepts, standards, methods and programmes were discussed;
- > Monitor the adoption of new EU legal acts in the field of statistics and support their incorporation into the **EEA Agreement** with the necessary adaptations and derogations;
- > Monitor the inclusion of data from the EFTA States in ESS dissemination channels to enable comparison with data from the EU Member States and increase the EFTA States' international visibility.



Legal and institutional developments

As regards legislation, 12 new acts in the field of statistics were incorporated into Annex XXI EEA in 2024. With 19 acts identified for incorporation, the backlog of acts pending with EFTA at the end of the year increased in comparison to 2023.

Most of the acts incorporated in 2024 were implementing and delegated acts concerning statistics on persons and households. The remaining two concerned statistics on pesticides and gross national income. ESO supported the EEA EFTA States in their assessment of acts pending incorporation, as well as in the drafting of adaptations and derogations.

The 2024 EEA Annual Statistical Programme was developed in consultation with the EEA EFTA States and Eurostat, and was finalised on 21 June.

Production and dissemination of EFTA statistics

Protocol 30 EEA and the [Switzerland–EU bilateral agreement on statistics](#) provide that statistics from all of the EFTA States shall be transmitted to Eurostat for storage, processing and dissemination. In 2024, ESO finalised its annual inclusion monitoring report for 2023 and drafted a mid-term report, both of which confirmed a high level of inclusion of data on the EFTA States in Eurostat's dissemination channels. Several changes have been made in recent years to the methodology and scope of inclusion monitoring to keep pace with Eurostat's evolving dissemination policy, and ESO is continuing with this development work.

EFTA participation in Eurostat working groups and committees

Every year as part of the cooperation in the ESS, Eurostat organises around 250 meetings to prepare and implement new legislation, develop methodologies and follow up on data collection and dissemination. Experts from the EFTA States participate actively in the relevant meetings on an equal footing with their counterparts from the EU Member States. In 2024, Eurostat organised 154 meetings relevant to the EFTA States, 98% of which were attended by at least one EFTA expert; the highest participation rate observed in a given year so far.

Other priority areas

In addition to its core activities, ESO contributed to EFTA's presence and visibility in the ESS by:

- > Building and strengthening the capacity of EFTA's partner countries to develop, produce and disseminate official statistics that comply with international concepts, standards, methods and programmes, especially those of the ESS;
- > Providing training courses as part of the European Statistical Training Programme (ESTP);
- > Facilitating and supporting the secondment of experts from the EFTA States to Eurostat.

Statistical assistance and cooperation with third countries

EFTA works closely with Eurostat and other international partners on [statistical assistance projects](#) in partner countries outside the ESS. In 2024, this cooperation was based on an administrative arrangement between the EFTA Secretariat and Eurostat for the years 2023–2025.



Participants in the joint EFTA–UNECE workshop on modernising statistical legislation, Tirana, 29–30 May.

Statistical assistance and cooperation are focused mainly on the bordering regions of the EU and EEA. These include EFTA's free trade partners as well as countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), EU candidate and potential candidate countries and – to some extent – Central Asia countries. The overarching objective is to further the development, production and dissemination of high-quality, diversified, coherent and comparable official statistics in these partner countries.

EFTA implemented nine statistical assistance and cooperation activities in 2024, with 484 participants (online or in person) from 75 countries, including:

- > A global assessment of Uzbekistan's national statistical system (Tashkent, 10–14 June) with experts from Norway and Switzerland;



Participants in the joint EFTA–UNECE workshop on the utilisation and integration of new CPI data sources, EFTA House, Brussels, 29–31 October.

- > A training course in the use of the software “R” in statistical production (online, 2–6 December) for ENP East and Central Asia countries, with Statistics Iceland;
- > An introductory training course to the production of statistics using geographical information systems (GIS) with a focus on automation (online, 16–18 April) with Statistics Norway;
- > Joint EFTA–UNECE capacity development activities and events:
 - Workshop on modernising statistical legislation (Tirana, 28–30 May) with an expert from Norway;
 - Workshop on financial accounts (Brussels, 1–4 October) with an expert from Iceland and in cooperation with Eurostat, European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund and Statistics Netherlands;
 - Workshop on the utilisation and integration of new data sources for the consumer price index (Brussels, 29–31 October) with experts from Norway and Switzerland;
 - Seminar on large cases units (online, 13–14 November) in cooperation with Eurostat;
 - Workshop on moving to a process-based statistical organisation (Chisinau, 19–21 November) with an expert from Iceland;
- > A high-level seminar for ENP East and Central Asia countries, co-organised by EFTA, Eurostat and UNECE (Belgrade, 11–13 September) with experts from Estonia and Lithuania.

European Statistical Training Programme

EFTA financed and co-organised four **ESTP** courses in 2024:

- > A course by Statistics Iceland on tidying up official statistics using the software “R” and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model (online, 15–19 April);
- > An introductory course by Statistics Norway on statistical production using GIS with a focus on automation (Oslo, 4–7 June);
- > A course by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) on the development and use of indicator systems for evidence-based decision making in the context of SDG monitoring and other areas (Neuchâtel, 2–4 October);
- > A course by Statistics Norway on developing mixed mode questionnaires for household surveys (Oslo, 21–23 October).

EFTA national experts seconded to Eurostat

The secondment of national experts to Eurostat ensures the continued visibility of the EFTA States in the general statistical cooperation between EFTA and the EU. Two experts were seconded to Eurostat from Statistics Norway for most of 2024 in the framework of the EEA Agreement, and two from the Swiss FSO under the Switzerland–EU bilateral agreement on statistics. In addition, one Icelandic and one Norwegian expert were seconded to Eurostat as a specific contribution in kind to EFTA–EU statistical cooperation with partner countries, financed by EFTA through the Administrative Arrangement for 2023–2025.



EEA and Norway Grants

Reducing Disparities and Strengthening Bilateral Relations

The **EEA and Norway Grants**, funded by Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, are integral to reducing economic and social disparities within the European Union and fostering closer bilateral relations between the donor states and 15 beneficiary states in Central and Southern Europe and the Baltics. The Grants are directly linked to the EEA Agreement.

Working Together for a Green, Democratic and Resilient Europe

The 2021–2028 funding period marks a new chapter for the EEA and Norway Grants. It introduces new priorities, programmes and funds agreed on between the donor states and the beneficiary states to address emerging challenges, while building on lessons learned from previous funding periods.

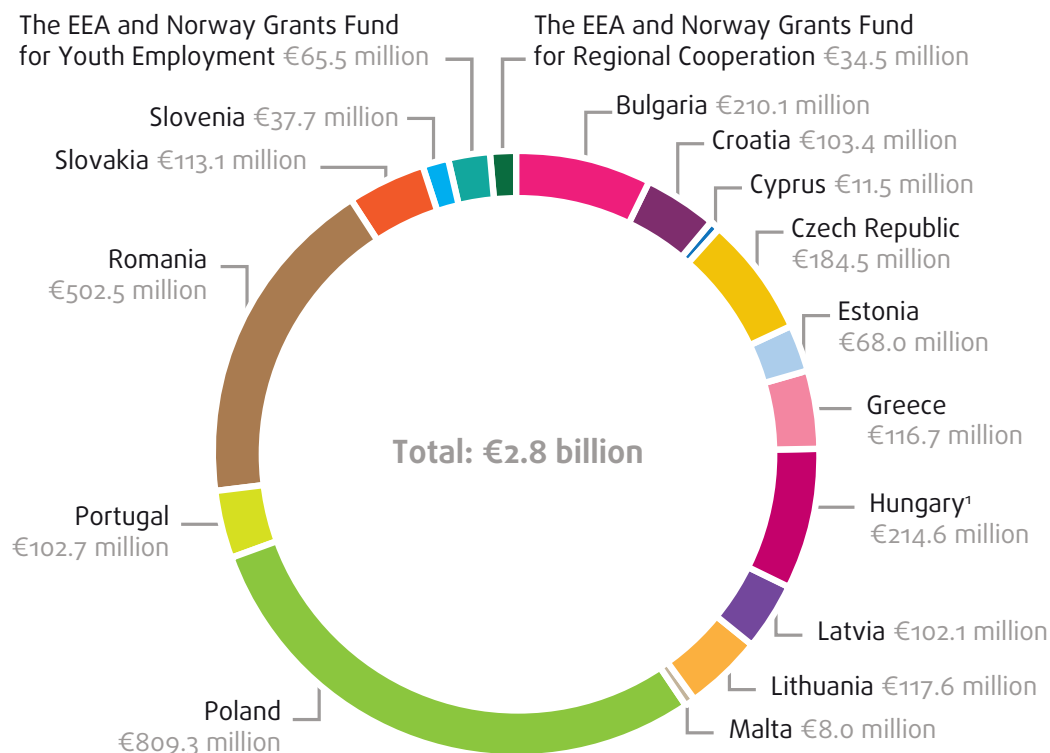
The three priority areas designated for the 2021–2028 funding period are:

- > Green transition
- > Democracy, rule of law and human rights
- > Social inclusion and resilience

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are increasing their contribution from EUR 2.8 billion in the 2014–2021 funding period to a total of EUR 3.2 billion. More details on the programme areas and priorities for the new funding period can be found on www.eeagrants.org.

The 2014–2021 funding period consisted of 97 programmes and two funds. These programmes supported areas covering civil society, innovation and green business, research, scholarships, green energy, adaptation to climate change, the rule of law, strengthened asylum and migration systems, youth employment, social inclusion, cultural heritage, and bilateral and regional cooperation.

Fig. 3 – EEA and Norway Grants 2014–2021



¹ The donor states were unable to reach an agreement with Hungary in 2021 on the appointment of a fund operator to manage the funding for civil society. Consequently, no programmes were implemented under the Grants during the 2014–2021 funding period.

2024: A Snapshot of Results and Achievements

2024 marked a significant year for the EEA and Norway Grants, whose 20th anniversary coincided with 30 years of the EEA Agreement.

In September, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and the EU signed an agreement for the next seven-year funding period, **committing EUR 3.2 billion to the EEA and Norway Grants** (see photo from the signing on page 30). This agreement reaffirmed the shared dedication to addressing pressing challenges such as climate change, social inclusion and innovation across Europe.

The launch of the public consultation on the draft **Blue Book** in October highlighted the priorities for the new funding period, emphasising areas like energy transition, democratic governance and cultural cooperation.

The introduction of the **EEA Civil Society Fund** brought an unprecedented commitment of over EUR 300 million to support democracy, human rights and the rule of law in beneficiary states.

Beyond disabilities – Malta's commitment to every child

This intuitive project in Malta focuses on enhancing healthcare for children with special needs, including autism spectrum disorder. Supported by the EEA and Norway Grants, this initiative has established the Sensory Integration Therapy Centre in Marsa, providing accessible tailored care and educational support under one roof. Personalised training for therapists and innovative interventions are shaping a brighter future for hundreds of children.

Read how the “Beyond disabilities” project is helping to provide fundamental rights to children in Malta.



This new initiative underlines the critical role of civil society in addressing systemic challenges and promoting inclusive development.

Throughout 2024, the EEA and Norway Grants continued to oversee the implementation of thousands of projects, ensuring that the financial mechanisms remained a vital tool for fostering a more equal and resilient Europe.

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are dedicated to fostering a greener Europe by funding projects that support the European Green Deal. The EEA and Norway Grants have contributed to reducing annual CO₂ emissions by 1.4 million tonnes and ensuring renewable energy production of over 505 700 MWh annually.

In addition to environmental sustainability, the Grants focus on inclusivity and resilience, funding initiatives that address societal challenges, improve accessibility and strengthen communities. These projects aim to create safer, more cohesive environments for all.

Cultural heritage preservation is also a priority. The EEA and Norway Grants make culture more accessible while supporting local jobs, skills development and community resilience. Over 5.5 million people have visited cultural heritage sites funded by the Grants, either in person or virtually, highlighting their impact on local economies and cultural awareness.



Nuclear preparedness

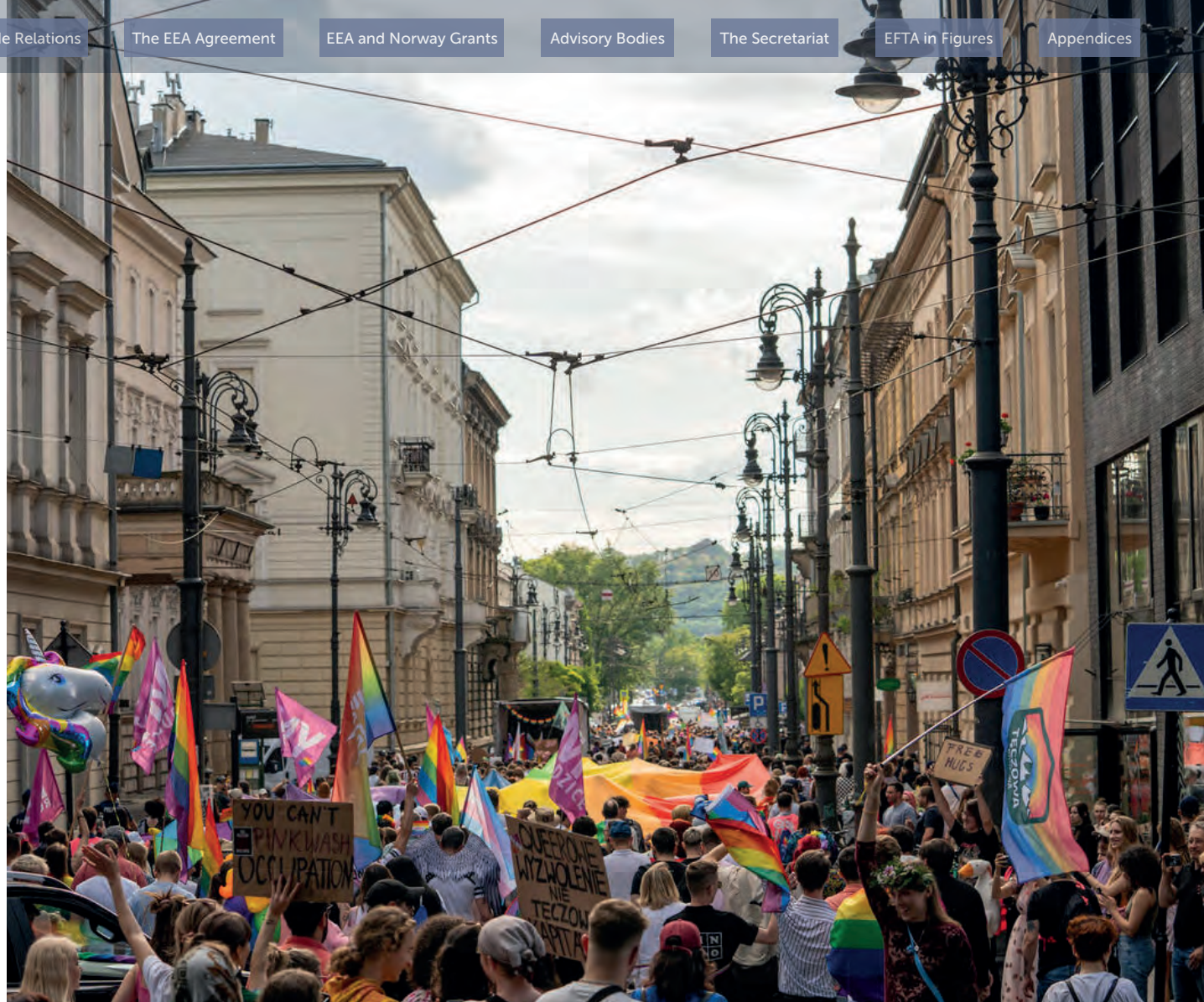
In a joint initiative funded by the EEA and Norway Grants, Lithuania is bolstering its nuclear preparedness to safeguard its population from potential disasters. The project focuses on enhancing authorities' capabilities, implementing a unified warning system, and conducting comprehensive drills with an inclusive approach. These measures aim to establish robust technical and organisational conditions for effective emergency response, ensuring the safety of residents and institutions in the face of nuclear or radiological emergencies.

[Read how the EEA and Norway Grants are helping to bolster nuclear preparedness.](#)

Through these efforts, the EEA and Norway Grants are playing a key role in building a greener, more inclusive and resilient Europe.

By the end of 2024, the EEA and Norway Grants had supported over 3 700 civil society organisations, helping more than 4.6 million people engage in activities that promote human rights, democracy, social justice and gender equality. This ongoing support has been instrumental in empowering communities and fostering active participation in shaping more inclusive societies.

In addition to strengthening civil society, the EEA and Norway Grants continue to prioritise the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. In 2024, over 735 000 individuals benefited from social, healthcare and well-being services funded by the Grants. These services included medical care, legal assistance, counselling, informal education, habitat improvement and shelters, with a special focus on supporting Roma communities and other vulnerable groups.



Creating a space for belonging in Poland

European values are facing challenges as democratic backsliding and the rise of far-right parties and governments have been observed across the continent, as seen in the 2024 European elections. In response, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, through the Active Citizens Fund, are supporting initiatives that promote and safeguard democratic principles, human rights and inclusivity.

The Active Citizens Fund is providing crucial support to a wide range of organisations and projects across Europe, including Poland, that are dedicated to advancing human rights. Among these initiatives, two projects are addressing critical issues faced by the LGBTQIA+ community, focusing on the fundamental rights to assembly, advocacy and the freedom to love and build a family.

[Read more about the work achieved through the Active Citizens Fund here.](#)

Supporting businesses and investing in education are essential for ensuring social inclusion and strengthening Europe's competitiveness in an increasingly globalised world. By the end of 2024, over 180 000 professional staff had been trained through the Grants, over 5 300 jobs had been created, and over 1 500 SMEs had received support, to name a few results. The EEA and Norway Grants had also supported over 4 800 researchers by the end of 2024.

Finally, the EEA and Norway Grants aim to impact both socially and economically and strengthen cooperation between donor and beneficiary states. Bilateral involvement in programmes and projects contributes to raising awareness, changing attitudes and developing trust between cooperating organisations across borders.

By the end of 2024, nearly 2 500 projects funded by the Grants involved a partner from the donor states. Cooperation under the Grants helps lay the foundations for further collaboration, with many partners planning to develop future projects together.

The EEA and Norway Grants 2021–2028: Working together to reduce social and economic disparities in Europe and strengthen cooperation between European countries

15

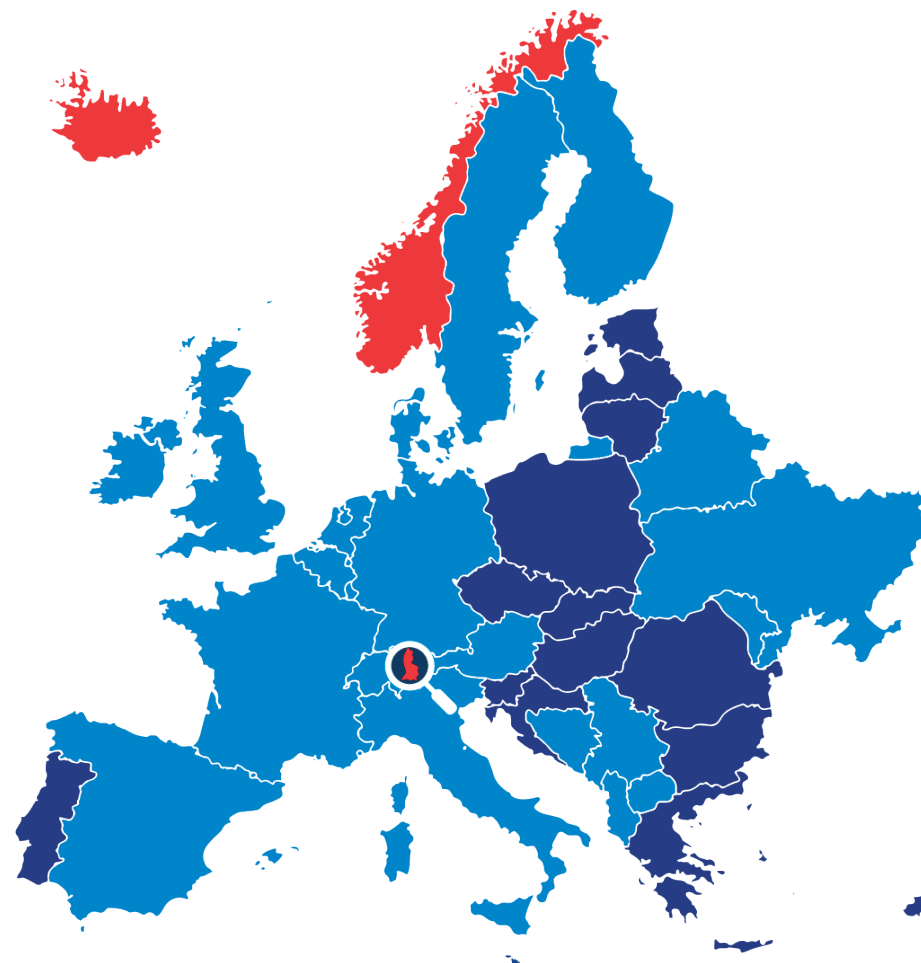
beneficiary
countries

3

donor
countries

3.2

billion
euro





Meeting of the EFTA advisory bodies at the EFTA Ministerial in Geneva in June.

Advisory Bodies

EFTA's **advisory bodies** scrutinise and advise on EFTA's trade relations with third countries, as well as relations with the EU through the EEA Agreement. The EFTA Parliamentary Committee is composed of parliamentarians from the four Member States, while the EFTA Consultative Committee consists of representatives from trade union confederations and employers' organisations. The EEA EFTA Forum is made up of elected local and regional representatives.

Dialogue between the Advisory Bodies and EFTA Ministers

The advisory bodies met with EFTA Ministers three times in 2024. On 24 June, on the margins of the EFTA Ministerial meeting in Geneva, the committees held an **exchange of views** with Ministers on how current geopolitical developments and national security concerns were affecting the functioning of the multilateral rules-based system, and what this meant for EFTA's future orientation. They also discussed how improved EU standards and norms in the field of sustainability had the potential to affect the independent trade policies of the EFTA States. The meeting provided the opportunity to take stock of EFTA's third-country agenda and in particular to reflect on the signing of the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with India.

On 25 November, the advisory bodies **met with EEA EFTA Ministers** on the margins of the EEA Council to assess the opportunities and challenges arising from the EU's endeavour to bolster European competitiveness. They addressed the findings of former Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi with regard to economic security, innovation needs and decarbonisation efforts. They also exchanged views on the further deepening of the Single Market in the financial, energy and labour markets, and what this could entail for the EEA EFTA States. Finally, they discussed how EFTA should best organise itself to handle EU policy initiatives with cross-sectoral dimensions, which could challenge the scope of the EEA Agreement and affect the independent trade policies of the EFTA States.

On 26 November, the advisory bodies **met with the acting Chair of the EFTA Council**, State Secretary Tomas Norvoll, representing Norway's Minister for Trade and Industry, Ms Cecilie Myrseth.



Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen, Acting Chair of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, on EFTA's relevance in the current geopolitical context.

They exchanged views on various important EFTA negotiations and processes, such as the conclusion of negotiations with Kosovo and the outlook for concluding with other major partners like Malaysia, Mercosur, Singapore, Thailand and Ukraine. They also discussed the possible impact of the US elections on trade and EFTA's third-country relations. Finally, they addressed the ratification of the TEPA with India and awareness-raising efforts to foster investment from companies from the EFTA States.

The EFTA Parliamentary Committee

The **EFTA Parliamentary Committee** (EFTA PC) was chaired by Mr Thomas Aeschi, Member of the Swiss Parliament, for third-country issues (EFTA at four) and by Mr Manfred Kaufmann, Member of the Liechtenstein Parliament, for EEA-related matters (EFTA at three). See the **appendices** for all members of the EFTA PC in 2024.



Sigríður Mogensen, Chair of the EFTA Consultative Committee, on modernisation processes in EFTA agreements, including with Ukraine.

Third-country relations/trade

The EFTA PC and EFTA Consultative Committee (EFTA CC) convened on 7 and 8 February in Geneva for their **annual trade seminar**. Discussions focused on prospective international digital rules, the forthcoming 13th WTO Ministerial meeting, prospects for an EFTA–Mercosur FTA, China's commitment to the multilateral trading system, and inclusive trade at global level. As part of the programme, the advisory bodies held their annual meeting with the EFTA Committee on Third-Country Relations. Together with high-level trade officials from the four EFTA States in charge of steering negotiations and advancing EFTA's third-country agenda, members engaged in shaping strategic priorities for 2024 and addressing specific ongoing projects.

From 18 to 22 March, a delegation from the EFTA PC undertook a **working visit to Argentina and Brazil** to add political momentum to negotiations on a trade agreement between EFTA and Mercosur – five years after an agreement in substance was reached in 2019. In Argentina, they met with representatives



Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen, Acting Chair of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, and Rodrigo Otavio Soares Pacheco, Speaker of the Senate in Brazil, during the Parliamentary Committee's visit in March.



Sigríður Mogensen, Chair of the EFTA Consultative Committee, and Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen, Acting Chair of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, meeting with the EFTA Ministers at the Ministerial meeting in Geneva in June.



61st meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee in February in Strasbourg. Photo: European Parliament.

of the National Congress and Senate, as well as with business representatives. In Brazil, the delegation held discussions with Mr Geraldo Alckmin, Vice President of Brazil and Minister of Development, Industry, Trade and Services; Ms Marina Silva, Minister of Environment and Climate Change; Mr Rodrigo Otavio Soares Pacheco, Speaker of the Senate; and Mr Nelsinho Trad, President of the Brazilian Group at Parlasul – the parliament of the Mercosur countries.

On 24 June, on the margins of the EFTA Ministerial meeting, the EFTA PC and EFTA CC **met with Mr Alberto van Klaveren**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile, and congratulated him on the conclusion of the modernisation process of the EFTA–Chile FTA. The committees also discussed the state of play of the sustainability impact assessment with Thailand, and held an exchange of views on the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

This directive would introduce further obligations in the fields of sustainability, labour and human rights for companies operating within the EEA or accessing the Single Market. During their internal meeting, the EFTA parliamentarians discussed the future of nuclear energy and the green transition, following a briefing by a representative of Transmutex, which had developed a technology to mitigate risks and deal with nuclear waste.

On 25 November, ahead of the EEA Council, the EFTA PC and EFTA CC met with key experts to discuss Europe's quest for competitiveness in a changing geopolitical context, the empowerment of the Single Market and its potential impact on the EEA, and the Task Force **report** on cross-sectoral EU initiatives.

Joint meetings with the European Parliament – EEA cooperation

The **EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee** (EEA JPC) is composed of parliamentarians from the EEA EFTA States and Members of the European Parliament. The **first meeting** of the EEA JPC in 2024 was held on 28 and 29 February at the seat of the European Parliament in Strasbourg. There, the committee discussed the latest EEA developments with representatives of the EEA governing bodies and with former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta, who introduced his work relating to the future of the Single Market. Members took stock of the outcome of negotiations on the Artificial Intelligence Act; discussed avenues of cooperation relating to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism in connection with the volcanic eruptions in Iceland; assessed new sustainability provisions stemming from recent



Trine Lise Sundnes, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, on hosting the EEA JPC at Stortinget, the Norwegian Parliament.



Daniel Seger, Member of the Liechtenstein Parliament and Vice Chair of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee, on the importance on fostering dialogue between EFTA and EU parliamentarians.



Christophe Grudler MEP, acting President of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee and member of the European Parliament delegation, on the key benefits of regular dialogue between EU and EFTA parliamentarians.

legislative developments such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), deforestation-free products and the prohibition of products made with forced labour; and exchanged views on the latest developments in the EU's support to Ukraine and future steps towards Ukraine's EU accession. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Andreas Schwab MEP, President of the EEA JPC, and Mr Manfred Kaufmann, Vice President of the EEA JPC.

The **second meeting** took place on 21 and 22 November in Oslo. Against the backdrop of the recent US elections and the current European security landscape, the EEA JPC met with Mr Andrius Kubilius, Commissioner for Defence and Space, to assess further avenues of cooperation to boost Europe's industrial defence capacity. Members also discussed key recommendations in the Draghi report to scale up innovation and decarbonisation, and acknowledged the EEA EFTA States' contribution in driving growth and competitiveness. The committee

also addressed the EUR 3.2 billion financial envelope provided by the EEA EFTA States to 15 EU Member States for the 2021–2028 period, agreeing that the programmes should give momentum to the new political agenda on unleashing competitiveness and increasing resilience. Finally, the EEA JPC adopted its yearly **resolution on the functioning of the EEA Agreement**. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr Christophe Grudler MEP, acting President of the EEA JPC, and Mr Daniel Seger, acting Vice President of the EEA JPC.



EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee representatives at the Norwegian Parliament in November.
Photo: Peter Mydske, Stortinget



Chair of the EFTA Consultative Committee Sigríður Mogensen at the meeting with the acting EFTA Ministerial Chair Tomas Norvoll in November.

The EFTA Consultative Committee

The **EFTA Consultative Committee** (EFTA CC) was chaired by Ms Sigríður Mogensen from the Icelandic employers. See the [appendices](#) for the full list of members.

Key topics in the **2024 work programme** included:

- > 30th anniversary of the EEA: The EEA Consultative Committee (EEA CC) adopted a report and resolution on 30 years of EEA cooperation (see joint work with the EU below) and discussed the empowerment of the Single Market on various occasions.
- > New EU leadership: The EFTA CC kept a close watch on the EU parliamentary elections and appointment of the new EU Commission, as well as developments in the Commission's key priorities such as competitiveness and the deepening of the Single Market.

- > EU rules and regulations of a horizontal nature: The EFTA CC discussed the implications for EEA cooperation of EU rules and regulations of a horizontal nature, i.e. acts relevant to EEA cooperation that also affect areas falling outside EEA cooperation, such as trade.
- > Third-country relations: The EFTA CC followed various negotiations between EFTA and third parties, including the conclusion of negotiations with India and the ongoing process with Mercosur. The Chair and Vice Chair participated in the EFTA PC visit to Mercosur countries to lend support to the negotiations.
- > Trade in a changed geopolitical context: A key topic throughout the year was the future of the multilateral trading system in light of geopolitical developments such as the war in Ukraine and China–US trade rivalries, as well as the effects of EU sustainability legislation on the independent trade policies of the EFTA States.

Main meetings in 2024

On 7 and 8 February, the EFTA CC and EFTA PC held their **annual trade seminar** in Geneva (see details above).

On 10 April, the EFTA CC held its joint meeting with the EFTA Standing Committee, as well as a joint seminar with the EFTA Working Groups on Health and Safety at Work and Free Movement of Persons, Employment and Social Policy. The seminar focused on EU efforts to strengthen the social dialogue, on the directives on work-life balance and wage transparency, and on the priorities of the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU in the field of social affairs. In their meeting with the Standing Committee, members discussed the latest developments and future perspectives for the

EEA and EFTA's relations with the EU. In addition, the EFTA CC held internal discussions on the state of play of the European energy market and the empowerment of the Single Market.

On the margins of the EFTA Ministerial on 24 June and in addition to meetings with EFTA Ministers and the EFTA PC (see details on page 37), the EFTA CC and its Bureau held internal meetings, where a key focus was the topic of labour rights in India in view of the EFTA–India TEPA.

The committee met online on 12 September to discuss the new EU leadership's priorities in economic and social policy, to deepen discussions on labour rights in India, and to gain an insight into the state of play of CBAM.

At its meeting on 26 November, the EFTA CC elected a new Chair (Mr Halldór Oddsson from the Icelandic Confederation of Labour) and Bureau for 2025, in accordance with its rotation system. It also advanced its discussions on a possible EFTA CC Opinion on trade in a changed geopolitical context, and tasked the EFTA Secretariat with writing a discussion paper / first draft under this title.

Finally, at its online meeting on 11 December, the EFTA CC adopted its **work programme for 2025**.

Joint work with the EU

The **EEA Consultative Committee** (EEA CC) brings together members of the EFTA CC from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway and members of the European Economic and Social Committee.

The **plenary meeting** with the EU social partners took place on 23 and 24 May in Reykjavik, where the committee adopted a **resolution and report** on 30 years of EEA cooperation. The EEA CC also met with Ms Þórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir, then Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland, to discuss the future of EEA cooperation, and with Dr Gunnar Thor Pétursson, Professor of Law and former Director of the EFTA Surveillance Authority, to discuss a European Commission report comparing decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union and those of the EFTA Court in the field of social security.

A second EEA CC meeting was held on 26 November, where members discussed competitiveness and civil protection, and received updates on EU–Swiss relations and on the Norwegian report published in 2024 on the country's experience of EEA cooperation.



Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iceland Thórdís Kolbrún Reykfjörð Gylfadóttir with the EEA Consultative Committee in Iceland in May.

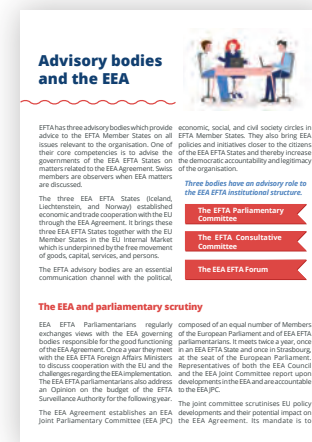


The EEA EFTA Forum meeting at EFTA House in Brussels in December.

The EEA EFTA Forum

The **EEA EFTA Forum** of Elected Representatives of Local and Regional Authorities was chaired by Mr Tom Georg Indrevik from the Norwegian delegation in 2024. See the **appendices** for all members of the EEA EFTA Forum.

The Forum held its annual meeting at EFTA House on 28 and 29 November. It adopted opinions on the revised Directive on Urban Wastewater Treatment and on the potential revision of the Public Procurement Directives.

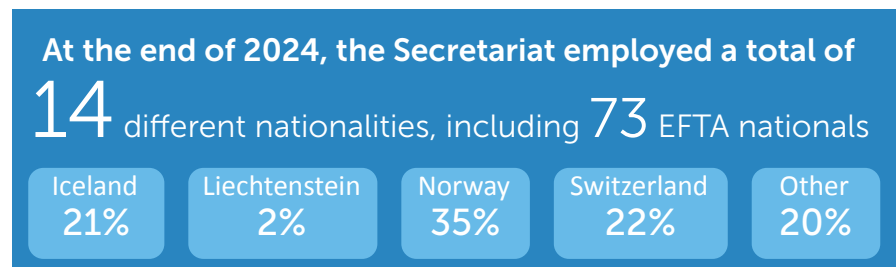




The Secretariat

EFTA staff at the annual staff seminar in Genval in September.

The EFTA Secretariat is a committed and trusted partner, providing high quality expertise and advice to its Member States in promoting free trade and economic integration. At the end of 2024, a total of 90 staff members were employed in the Secretariat's **three duty stations** in Geneva, Brussels and Luxembourg. While each duty station has a different focus, reflecting the different activities of the organisation, they all work together as one, in alignment with EFTA's mission, vision and values.

Fig. 4 – Nationalities at EFTA (%)

Forming the foundation of the EFTA culture, the values of the Association (professionalism, cooperation, trust, responsibility and respect) underpin an efficient and harmonious organisation, which provides valuable services to the Member States.

The Secretariat prides itself on being a workplace of equality, diversity and inclusion, and mutual respect among employees, who shall be treated fairly and enjoy equal opportunities. The Secretariat has a **Gender Equality Policy** that aims to ensure equal conditions and opportunities for employees at the Secretariat.

The EFTA Secretariat is a great place to work, and offers a dynamic and supportive environment to its highly skilled professionals. EFTA offers many opportunities for staff members to develop their potential and grow as professionals and individuals.

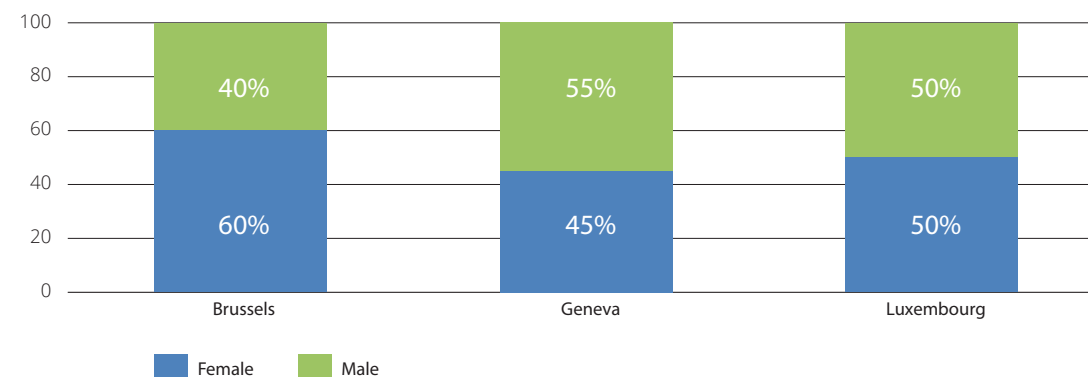
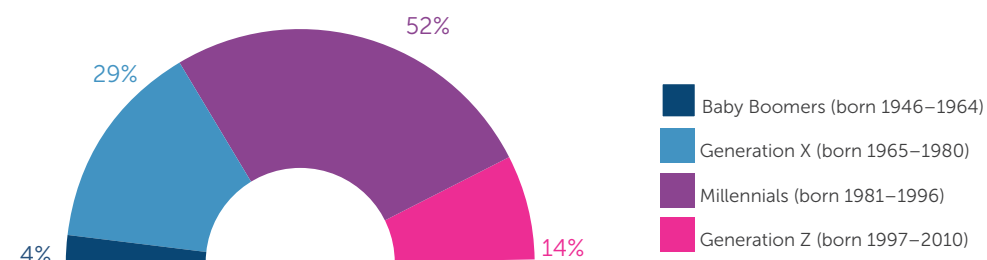
Duty station	Focus
Geneva – Headquarters	Negotiation and management of FTAs with non-EU countries, and support to the EFTA Council
Brussels	Support in the management of the EEA Agreement and assistance to Member States in preparing new legislation for incorporation into the Agreement
Luxembourg – EFTA Statistical Office	Contribution to the development of a broad and integrated European Statistical System

Gender balance of all staff members:

56% female, **44%** male

Gender balance in management roles:

41% female, **59%** male

Fig. 5 – Gender ratios in the Secretariat**Fig. 6 – Generations at EFTA**

The **average age** at the Secretariat is **39.7** years.

In 2024, the Human Resources team advertised **18** jobs at EFTA.

Junior Professional Programme

Every year, EFTA offers exciting opportunities to motivated, well-educated people in the early stages of their professional lives, equipping them with valuable experience to further develop their careers. **Junior Professionals** bring valuable contributions to the work of the Secretariat for the 11 months they spend with the organisation. In September 2024, eight motivated new colleagues joined EFTA as Junior Professionals.



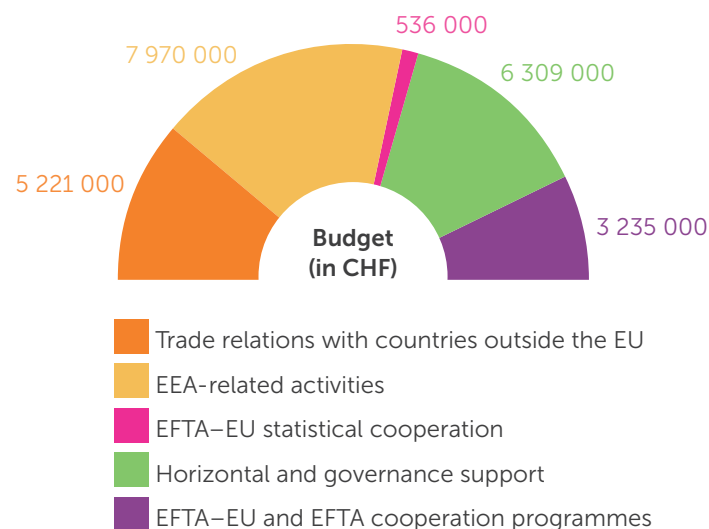
EFTA Junior Professionals in Brussels, Geneva and Luxembourg 2024–2025.

Budget and Annual Financial Reporting

The Secretariat's budget is prepared in line with the framework budgeting principle used by the Member States' public administrations to increase awareness of budgetary spending at all levels. The budget is accompanied by a performance plan describing the main objectives and expected outcomes of the services provided by the Secretariat to the Member States. Both the plan and subsequent performance reports keep the EFTA States informed of the Secretariat's performance in various activities, ensuring full transparency.

EFTA's budget is prepared in two currencies: Swiss francs (CHF) and euro (EUR). The total budget for 2024 was equivalent to CHF 23 271 000. The Secretariat's annual statement of accounts, prepared according to the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), is published on the EFTA website once the relevant Council procedures for that year have been finalised.

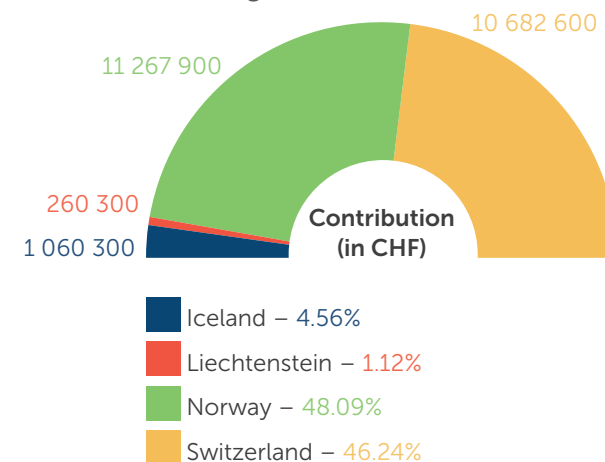
Fig. 7 – 2024 EFTA budget (CHF)



The EFTA Board of Auditors

The EFTA Board of Auditors (EBOA) is the auditing authority of EFTA. It is a permanent committee which, in cooperation with external auditors, performs annual audits of the three EFTA institutions: the EFTA Secretariat, the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) and the EFTA Court. For matters relating to the Secretariat, EBOA meets at four (one representative from each EFTA State) and reports directly to the EFTA Council. For matters relating to the EEA Agreement (ESA and the EFTA Court), EBOA meets at three (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and reports to the ESA/Court Committee. EBOA works in cooperation with the European Court of Auditors.

Fig. 8 – Contributions from the EFTA States to the 2024 EFTA budget (CHF)





EFTA in Figures

Fig. 9 – EFTA's FTA network – merchandise trade: 2023 (in million EUR)

	Total trade	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
EFTA's 40 FTA partners outside the EU*	138 376	81 428	56 949	24 479
Albania	108	65	43	21
Bosnia and Herzegovina	382	174	208	-34
Canada	12 990	4 713	8 277	-3 565
Central American States	942	527	415	112
Costa Rica	474	235	239	-4
Guatemala	165	74	91	-18
Panama	302	218	84	134
Chile	1 587	527	1 061	-534
Colombia	1 450	613	837	-225
Ecuador	613	129	483	-354
Egypt	1 950	1 396	554	842
Georgia	216	129	87	42
Gulf Cooperation Council	30 897	19 488	11 409	8 079
Bahrain	378	309	69	241
Kuwait	1 003	684	319	365
Oman	405	307	99	208
Qatar	1 280	983	297	686
Saudi Arabia	7 268	6 483	785	5 698
United Arab Emirates	20 562	10 722	9 840	882
Hong Kong, China	18 956	14 321	4 635	9 686
Indonesia	3 649	578	3 071	-2 493

	Total trade	Exports	Imports	Trade balance
Israel	2 098	1 338	760	578
Jordan	878	676	202	475
Republic of Korea	7 918	4 509	3 409	1 100
Lebanon	1 789	1 622	167	1 456
Mexico	5 611	2 346	3 264	-918
Montenegro	56	52	4	48
Morocco	1 032	464	567	-103
North Macedonia	206	103	103	0
Palestinian Authority	74	72	2	70
Peru	2 561	150	2 411	-2 261
Philippines	2 090	396	1 694	-1 299
Serbia	1 101	711	391	320
Singapore	12 943	8 390	4 553	3 837
Southern African Customs Union	5 293	772	4 522	-3 750
Botswana	22	9	13	-4
Eswatini	14	5	10	-5
Lesotho	0	0	0	0
Namibia	87	53	34	19
South Africa	5 170	705	4 465	-3 760
Tunisia	538	219	320	-101
Türkiye	19 317	16 059	3 258	12 801
Ukraine	1 131	889	242	648

Source: Eurostat

* Although EFTA concluded an FTA with Moldova in 2023, Moldova was not included in this table as the FTA only entered into force in 2024 for Iceland, Moldova and Norway, while it has yet to be implemented in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. India is not featured in this table as the reference period is 2023 and the FTA was signed in 2024 and has not yet entered into force for any party.

Fig. 10 – Global leaders in merchandise trade: 2023 (in billion USD)

Rank	Economy	Total	Share (as %) of world total	Exports	Imports
1	China	5 936	15.1	3 379	2 557
2	EU ^[1]	5 486	14.0	2 763	2 723
3	United States	5 193	13.2	2 021	3 172
4	Japan	1 503	3.8	717	786
5	United Kingdom	1 313	3.3	521	792
6	Republic of Korea	1 275	3.2	632	643
7	Hong Kong, China	1 228	3.1	574	654
8	Mexico	1 214	3.1	593	621
9	Canada	1 139	2.9	569	570
10	India	1 104	2.8	432	672
11	EFTA	1 070	2.7	601	469
12	United Arab Emirates ^[2]	954	2.4	486	468
13	Singapore	900	2.3	476	423
14	Chinese Taipei	791	2.0	432	359
15	Russian Federation ^[3]	728	1.9	424	303
16	Vietnam	680	1.7	354	326
17	Australia	659	1.7	371	287
18	Türkiye	617	1.6	255	362
19	Brazil	592	1.5	340	253
20	Malaysia	579	1.5	313	266
	Top 20 combined ^[4]	32 960	83.9	16 253	16 707
	World ^[4]	39 264	100	19 347	19 917

Source: WTO Trade Statistical Review 2023

[1] Excludes intra-EU trade.

[2] WTO Secretariat estimates.

[3] Imports are value free-on-board.

[4] Includes significant re-exports or imports for re-export.

Fig. 11 – Global leaders in commercial services trade: 2023 (in billion USD)

Rank	Economy	Total	Share (as %) of world total	Exports	Imports
1	EU ^[1]	2 811	23.1	1 492	1 319
2	United States	1 717	14.1	994	723
3	United Kingdom	970	8.0	581	389
4	China	929	7.6	380	549
5	Singapore	623	5.1	328	295
6	India	582	4.8	337	245
7	EFTA	481	3.9	224	257
8	Japan	427	3.5	203	223
9	Canada	283	2.3	136	147
10	United Arab Emirates ^[2]	273	2.2	165	108
11	Republic of Korea	268	2.2	123	145
12	Hong Kong, China ^[3]	177	1.4	98	79
13	Australia	156	1.3	73	82
14	Türkiye	149	1.2	101	48
15	Saudi Arabia	133	1.1	46	87
16	Israel	125	1.0	83	42
17	Brazil	125	1.0	44	81
18	Mexico	123	1.0	52	71
19	Thailand	121	1.0	56	64
20	Chinese Taipei	117	1.0	54	63
	Top 20 combined	10 588	86.8	5 569	5 018
	World	12 196	100	6 326	5 870

Source: WTO Trade Statistical Review 2023

[1] Excludes intra-EU trade.

[2] Preliminary estimates for 2023.

[3] WTO Secretariat estimates.

Fig. 12 – EFTA: a major trading partner for the EU^[1] (in million EUR and %)

Merchandise trade: 2023						
Rank	Partner	Export	Import	Total trade	Balance	As % of EU's external trade
	Extra-EU27 ^[1]	2 557 028	2 522 568	5 079 597	34 460	100.0
1	United States	503 819	347 173	850 991	156 646	16.8
2	China	223 436	520 447	743 882	-297 011	14.6
3	United Kingdom	336 235	181 044	517 278	155 191	10.2
4	EFTA	256 338	257 903	514 242	-1 565	10.1
5	Türkiye	111 388	95 901	207 289	15 487	4.1
	Rest of the world			2 290 943		45.1

Trade in commercial services: 2023						
Rank	Partner	Export	Import	Total trade	Balance	As % of EU's external trade
	Extra-EU27 ^[1]	1 426 670	1 273 881	2 700 551	152 789	100.0
1	United States	318 696	427 270	745 966	-108 574	27.6
2	United Kingdom	279 544	229 934	509 478	49 611	18.9
3	EFTA	190 293	114 488	304 781	75 806	11.3
4	China	58 787	42 988	101 774	15 799	3.8
5	Singapore	37 201	43 388	80 588	-6 187	3.0
	Rest of the world			841 556		31.2

Source: Eurostat

[1] Extra-EU trade includes imports/exports of goods and services that enter or leave the statistical territory of the EU from a third country.

Fig. 13 – EFTA's merchandise trade: 2023 (in million EUR and %)

Country	Total trade	Total trade with EU27	EU27 share of total trade (%)	Total exports to the world	Exports to EU27	EU share of total exports (%)	Total imports from the world	Imports from EU27	EU share of total imports (%)
Switzerland ^{[1][2]}	726 777	329 001	45.3	388 535	155 249	40.0	338 241	173 752	51.4
Norway	254 510	161 212	63.3	165 005	111 418	67.5	89 505	49 794	55.6
Iceland	14 813	7 947	53.7	6 295	3 972	63.1	8 518	3 976	46.7
Liechtenstein ^[2]	5 350	3 776	70.6	3 531	2 342	66.3	1 819	1 435	78.9
EFTA total	1 001 450	501 936	50.1	563 366	272 980	48.5	438 084	228 957	52.3

Shares of total trade values (%)	EU27		EFTA FTAs		Rest of the world	
	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export
Iceland	46.7	63.1	8.7	2.9	32.0	27.5
Liechtenstein ^[2]	78.9	66.3	7.4	9.1	13.7	24.0
Norway	55.6	67.5	9.5	3.7	33.4	28.0
Switzerland ^{[1][2]}	51.4	40.0	14.1	19.3	34.4	40.6
EFTA total	52.3	48.5	13.0	14.5	34.1	36.6

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

[1] Trade in non-monetary gold included.

[2] Trade between Liechtenstein and Switzerland is not included due to the existence of the Switzerland-Liechtenstein Customs Union.

Fig 14 – EFTA's merchandise trade with the EU: 2023 (in million EUR)

PARTNER	EFTA			Iceland			Liechtenstein			Norway			Switzerland		
	Exports to	Imports from	Total trade	Exports to	Imports from	Total trade	Exports to	Imports from	Total trade	Exports to	Imports from	Total trade	Exports to	Imports from	Total trade
EU27	272 980	228 957	501 936	3 972	3 976	7 947	2 342	1 435	3 776	111 418	49 794	161 212	155 249	173 752	329 001
Austria	10 818	11 203	22 020	3	86	88	528	306	834	361	694	1 055	9 926	10 118	20 044
Belgium	14 428	6 138	20 566	55	126	182	29	6	35	9 035	1 920	10 955	5 308	4 086	9 394
Bulgaria	696	586	1 281	1	10	11	11	4	15	72	119	190	611	453	1 064
Croatia	606	455	1 061	1	5	6	4	24	28	239	81	321	362	344	706
Cyprus	162	63	225	4	1	5	1	0	1	38	47	85	119	15	135
Czechia	2 477	4 622	7 098	5	83	88	9	49	58	305	1 170	1 476	2 158	3 319	5 477
Denmark	9 487	6 009	15 497	177	479	656	6	19	25	8 116	4 137	12 253	1 188	1 375	2 563
Estonia	434	838	1 272	3	57	61	0	0	1	217	620	837	213	160	374
Finland	6 307	3 887	10 195	12	87	99	18	20	39	5 607	2 236	7 843	670	1 544	2 214
France	28 955	22 860	51 815	404	237	641	225	25	250	9 718	2 535	12 252	18 608	20 063	38 671
Germany	79 949	72 988	152 937	303	763	1 065	1 181	748	1 929	31 103	10 146	41 249	47 362	61 331	108 693
Greece	1 477	446	1 923	10	7	17	2	0	2	636	172	808	829	266	1 095
Hungary	1 513	2 203	3 716	44	46	89	52	51	103	265	493	758	1 153	1 614	2 767
Ireland	2 176	5 428	7 604	20	58	78	7	1	8	589	465	1 055	1 560	4 904	6 464
Italy	27 958	29 349	57 307	32	251	283	100	59	159	2 819	2 772	5 591	25 007	26 267	51 275
Latvia	398	553	952	15	68	83	0	0	0	197	410	607	186	76	261
Lithuania	1 805	1 527	3 332	72	124	196	1	1	2	1 532	1 117	2 649	200	286	486
Luxembourg	364	403	767	0	4	4	0	2	3	27	97	124	336	300	636
Malta	212	167	379	3	2	5	1	0	1	19	74	93	188	91	280
Netherlands	22 688	11 201	33 888	2 255	652	2 907	13	37	50	13 806	4 284	18 090	6 614	6 227	12 842
Poland	13 460	6 769	20 230	138	196	334	58	34	91	10 168	3 217	13 385	3 097	3 323	6 420
Portugal	2 085	1 720	3 805	106	32	138	1	2	3	783	342	1 126	1 194	1 344	2 538
Romania	2 248	1 644	3 892	1	35	36	8	4	13	570	477	1 048	1 669	1 128	2 796
Slovakia	933	1 724	2 657	10	42	52	11	18	28	159	345	504	753	1 319	2 072
Slovenia	16 183	12 738	28 921	0	24	24	2	7	9	31	192	223	16 150	12 515	28 665
Spain	10 438	11 544	21 982	247	128	375	29	10	40	2 228	1 952	4 180	7 934	9 454	17 388
Sweden	14 723	11 890	26 613	51	373	424	44	7	51	12 776	9 682	22 458	1 852	1 829	3 681

Source: Eurostat

Fig. 15 – EFTA's top 25 trading partners in merchandise trade: 2023 (in million EUR and %)

Rank	Economy	Total trade	Share (%)	Export	Share (%)	Import	Share (%)	Trade balance
	World	1 001 450	100.0	563 366	100.0	438 084	100.0	125 282
	- EFTA's 40 FTA partners*	138 376	13.8	81 428	14.5	56 949	13.0	24 479
	- Intra-EFTA	5 509	0.6	2 573	0.5	2 936	0.7	-363
1	EU27	501 936	50.1	272 980	48.5	228 957	52.3	44 023
2	United States	102 481	10.2	64 539	11.5	37 942	8.7	26 597
3	China	75 119	7.5	45 307	8.0	29 812	6.8	15 495
4	United Kingdom	56 708	5.7	45 719	8.1	10 990	2.5	34 729
5	India	19 505	1.9	15 994	2.8	3 512	0.8	12 482
6	Japan	17 735	1.8	8 903	1.6	8 832	2.0	72
7	Australia	8 673	0.9	2 948	0.5	5 725	1.3	-2 776
8	Thailand	8 660	0.9	4 284	0.8	4 376	1.0	-92
9	Uzbekistan	7 724	0.8	208	0.0	7 515	1.7	-7 307
10	Brazil	7 378	0.7	3 666	0.7	3 712	0.8	-46
11	Russian Federation	6 746	0.7	2 826	0.5	3 920	0.9	-1 094
12	Taiwan	4 495	0.4	2 360	0.4	2 135	0.5	225
13	Kazakhstan	3 974	0.4	472	0.1	3 503	0.8	-3 031
14	Vietnam	3 527	0.4	822	0.1	2 706	0.6	-345
15	Ghana	3 260	0.3	92	0.0	3 168	0.7	-2 696
16	Malaysia	2 905	0.3	1 403	0.2	1 502	0.3	-680
17	Burkina Faso	2 765	0.3	4	0.0	2 762	0.6	-2 670
18	Nigeria	2 245	0.2	1 326	0.2	919	0.2	484
19	Argentina	1 967	0.2	746	0.1	1 221	0.3	-1 218
20	Côte d'Ivoire	1 902	0.2	99	0.0	1 803	0.4	-477
21	Bangladesh	1 497	0.1	116	0.0	1 381	0.3	-635
22	Kyrgyzstan	1 113	0.1	21	0.0	1 091	0.2	-992
23	Suriname	1 095	0.1	3	0.0	1 092	0.2	-976
24	Mali	949	0.1	10	0.0	940	0.2	-918
25	Mongolia	930	0.1	146	0.0	784	0.2	-781
	Rest of the world	12 272	1.2	4 371	0.8	7 901	1.8	-3 531

Source: Eurostat

* EFTA's 40 FTA partners (excluding EU) include: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Central American States (comprising Costa Rica, Guatemala and Panama), Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC, comprising Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates), Hong Kong China, Indonesia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, North Macedonia, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Singapore, Southern African Customs Union (SACU, comprising Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Namibia and South Africa), Tunisia, Türkiye and Ukraine. Although EFTA concluded an FTA with Moldova in 2023, Moldova was not included as an FTA partner in this table as the FTA only entered into force in 2024 for Iceland, Moldova and Norway, while it has yet to be implemented for Switzerland and Liechtenstein. India is not included as an FTA partner in this table as the reference period is 2023 and the FTA was signed in 2024 and has not yet entered into force for any party.

Fig. 16 – EFTA States' top five trading partners: 2023 (as %)

Top trading partners	Import		Export	
	Partner	Share (%)	Partner	Share (%)
Iceland	Norway	11.9	Netherlands	35.8
	China	9.0	United States	9.7
	Germany	9.0	United Kingdom	8.7
	Netherlands	7.7	France	6.4
	United States	6.8	Norway	5.8
	Total	44.2	Total	66.4
	Rest of the world	55.8	Rest of the world	33.6
Liechtenstein	Germany	41.1	Germany	33.5
	Austria	16.8	Austria	14.9
	China	6.0	United States	10.8
	South Africa	3.8	France	6.4
	Italy	3.2	China	5.4
	Total	70.9	Total	70.9
	Rest of the world	29.1	Rest of the world	29.1
Norway	Germany	11.3	United Kingdom	19.1
	China	11.2	Germany	18.8
	Sweden	10.8	Netherlands	8.4
	United States	7.5	Sweden	7.7
	Netherlands	4.8	Poland	6.2
	Total	45.6	Total	60.2
	Rest of the world	54.4	Rest of the world	39.8

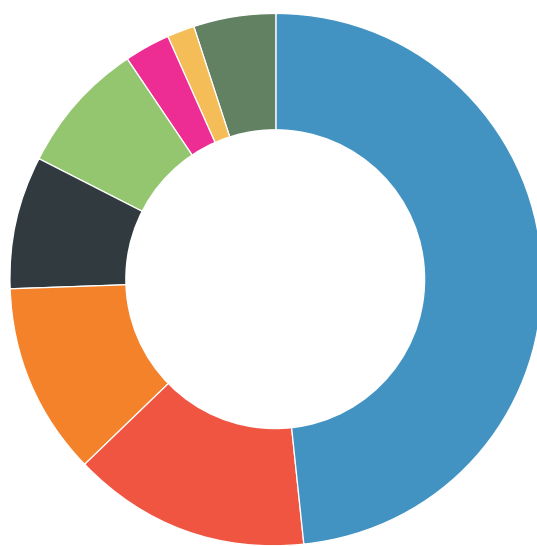
Top trading partners	Import		Export	
	Partner	Share (%)	Partner	Share (%)
Switzerland	Germany	18.1	United States	15.0
	United States	9.1	Germany	12.2
	Italy	7.8	China	10.7
	France	5.9	Italy	6.4
	China	5.6	France	4.8
	Total	46.5	Total	49.1
	Rest of the world	53.5	Rest of the world	50.9
EFTA	Germany	16.7	Germany	14.2
	United States	8.7	United States	11.5
	China	6.8	United Kingdom	8.1
	Italy	6.7	China	8.0
	France	5.2	France	5.1
	Total	44.0	Total	46.9
	Rest of the world	56.0	Rest of the world	53.1

Source: Eurostat

EFTA Member State

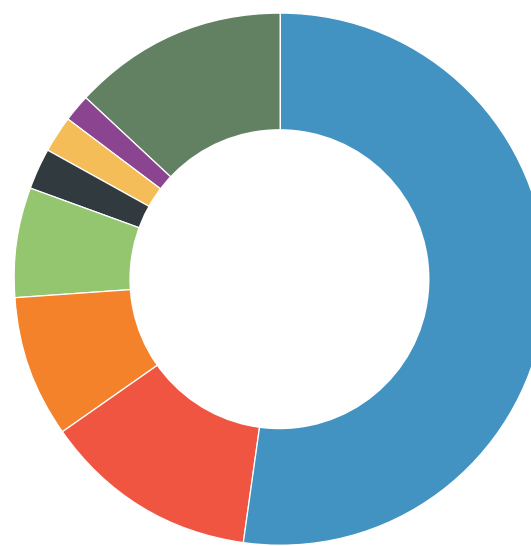
EU27 Member State

Fig. 17 – EFTA's top export destinations for merchandise trade: 2023



48.5%	EU27	8.0%	China
14.5%	FTA partners	2.8%	India
11.5%	United States	1.6%	Japan
8.1%	United Kingdom	5.1%	Rest of the world

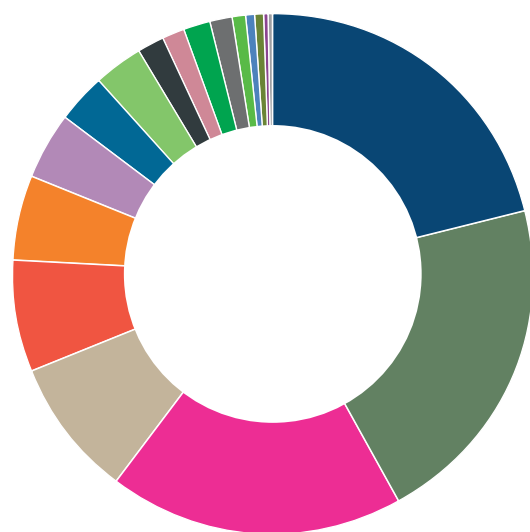
Fig. 18 – EFTA's top import sources of merchandise trade: 2023



52.3%	EU27	2.5%	United Kingdom
13.0%	FTA partners	2.0%	Japan
8.7%	United States	1.7%	Uzbekistan
6.8%	China	13.0%	Rest of the world

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT), excluding intra-EFTA trade

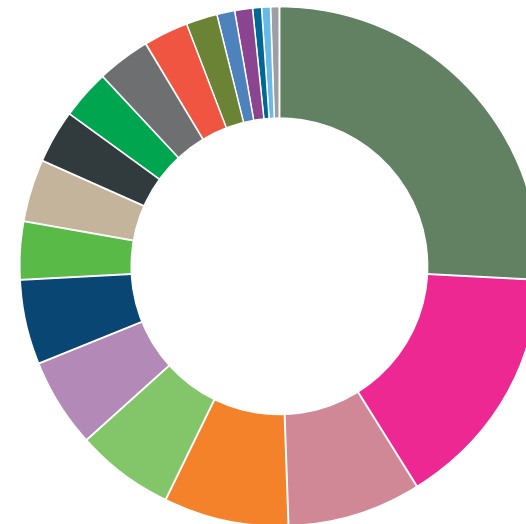
Fig. 19 – EFTA's key exports by commodity: 2023



21.2%	Mineral products	1.5%	Vehicles, aircraft etc
21.0%	Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	1.5%	Plastic, rubber, raw hides and skins, leather etc
18.2%	Chemical products	1.3%	Prepared foodstuff, beverage etc
8.6%	Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	1.0%	Textiles and textile articles
7.1%	Product of the chemical or allied industry	0.6%	Fruit, coffee, cereals and other
5.2%	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	0.6%	Wood and articles of wood and pulp of wood etc
4.1%	Base metals and articles of base metals	0.2%	Articles of stone, plaster, cement and ceramic products
3.1%	Live animals and animal products	0.1%	Animal or vegetable fats and oils
3.1%	Electric motors and generators etc	0.0%	Fish
1.6%	Arms and ammunition and various products	0.0%	Plants and vegetables

Source: Eurostat

Fig. 20 – EFTA's key imports by commodity: 2023



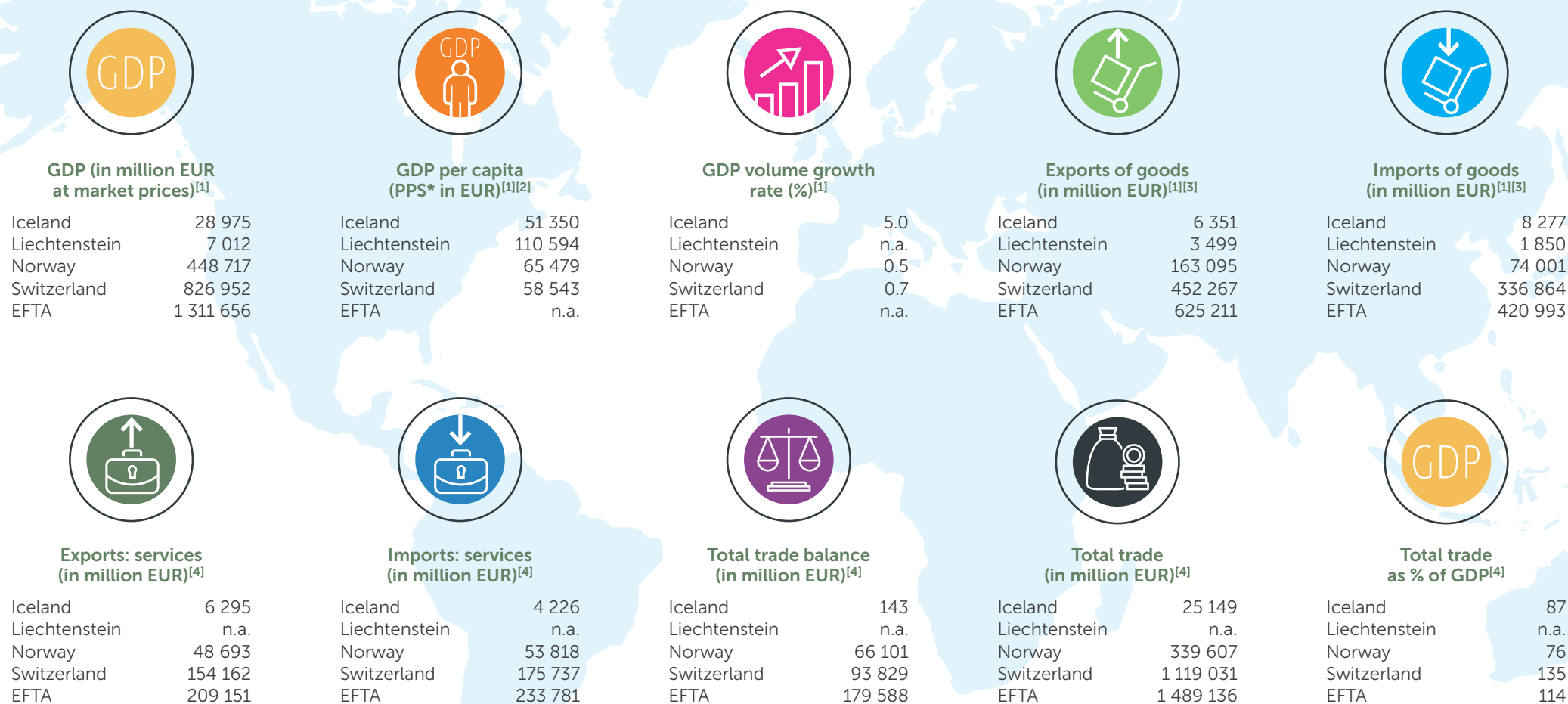
26.0%	Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	3.2%	Plastic, rubber, raw hides and skins, leather etc
15.2%	Chemical products	3.1%	Prepared foodstuff, beverage etc
8.2%	Vehicles, aircraft etc	2.9%	Product of the chemical or allied industry
7.8%	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	1.9%	Wood and articles of wood and pulp of wood etc
6.2%	Electric motors and generators etc	1.3%	Fruit, coffee, cereals and other
5.5%	Base metals and articles of base metals	0.9%	Articles of stone, plaster, cement and ceramic products
5.3%	Mineral products	0.7%	Live animals and animal products
3.7%	Textiles and textile articles	0.5%	Plants and vegetables
3.7%	Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	0.4%	Animal or vegetable fats and oils
3.4%	Arms and ammunition and various products	0.0%	Fish

Fig. 21 – EFTA States' top five trading commodities: 2023 (%)

Import			Export		
	Commodity	Share (%)		Commodity	Share (%)
Iceland	Vehicles, aircraft etc	14.5		Base metals and articles of base metals	39.3
	Electric motors and generators etc	12.1		Live animals and animal products	34.4
	Mineral products	11.6		Prepared foodstuff, beverage etc	6.7
	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	11.1		Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	5.3
	Product of the chemical or allied industry	7.6		Animal or vegetable fats and oils	3.5
	Total	56.9		Total	89.2
	Other commodities	43.1		Other commodities	10.8
Liechtenstein	Base metals and articles of base metals	20.5		Base metals and articles of base metals	19.6
	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	17.6		Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	12.0
	Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	12.3		Chemical products	11.0
	Vehicles, aircraft etc	8.1		Vehicles, aircraft etc	10.5
	Electric motors and generators etc	7.3		Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	10.4
	Total	65.8		Total	63.6
	Other commodities	34.2		Other commodities	36.4
Norway	Vehicles, aircraft etc	14.1		Mineral products	68.8
	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	13.4		Live animals and animal products	8.6
	Base metals and articles of base metals	10.7		Base metals and articles of base metals	5.9
	Electric motors and generators etc	9.7		Arms and ammunition and various products	3.0
	Mineral products	9.5		Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	2.9
	Total	57.3		Total	89.2
	Other commodities	42.7		Other commodities	10.8
Switzerland	Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	33.5		Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	30.3
	Chemical products	17.9		Chemical products	25.6
	Vehicles, aircraft etc	6.5		Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	11.8
	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	6.2		Product of the chemical or allied industry	9.8
	Electric motors and generators etc	5.1		Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	6.2
	Total	69.2		Total	83.7
	Other commodities	30.8		Other commodities	16.3
EFTA	Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	26.0		Mineral products	21.2
	Chemical products	15.2		Precious stones, metals, and jewellery	21.0
	Vehicles, aircraft etc	8.2		Chemical products	18.2
	Nuclear reactors, boilers etc	7.8		Optical, photographic, cinematographic and instruments	8.6
	Electric motors and generators etc	6.2		Product of the chemical or allied industry	7.1
	Total	63.4		Total	76.1
	Other commodities	36.6		Other commodities	23.9

Source: Eurostat (COMEXT)

Fig. 22 – Economic indicators 2023



Sources: Eurostat and Amt für Statistik Liechtenstein

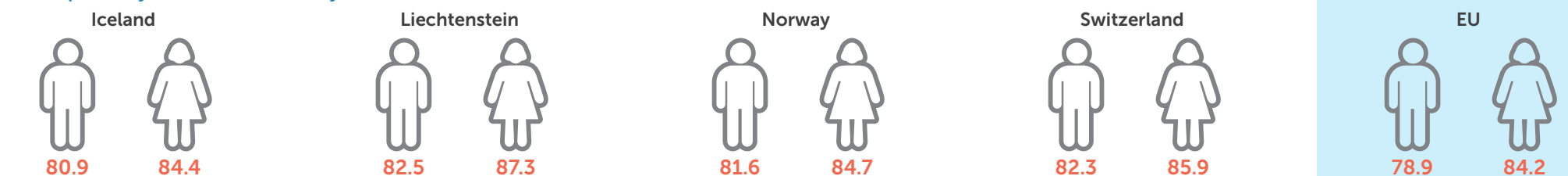
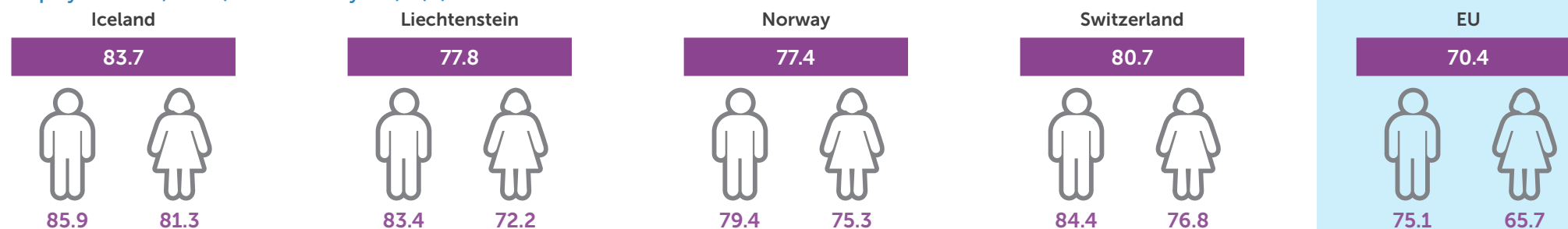
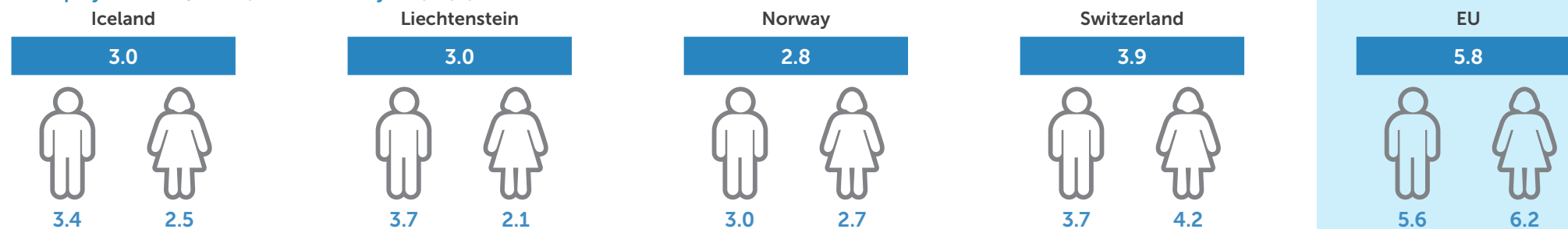
[1] Figures for Liechtenstein refer to 2022.

[2] The high GDP per capita for Liechtenstein is partly explained by the fact that a large number of foreign residents are employed in Liechtenstein and thus contribute to its GDP, while they are not included in the resident population.

[3] Excluding trade with Switzerland, which Liechtenstein is in a customs union with.

[4] Excluding Liechtenstein in EFTA aggregate.

* Purchasing Power Standard (PPS) is an artificial currency unit that neutralises the effect of price level differences across countries.

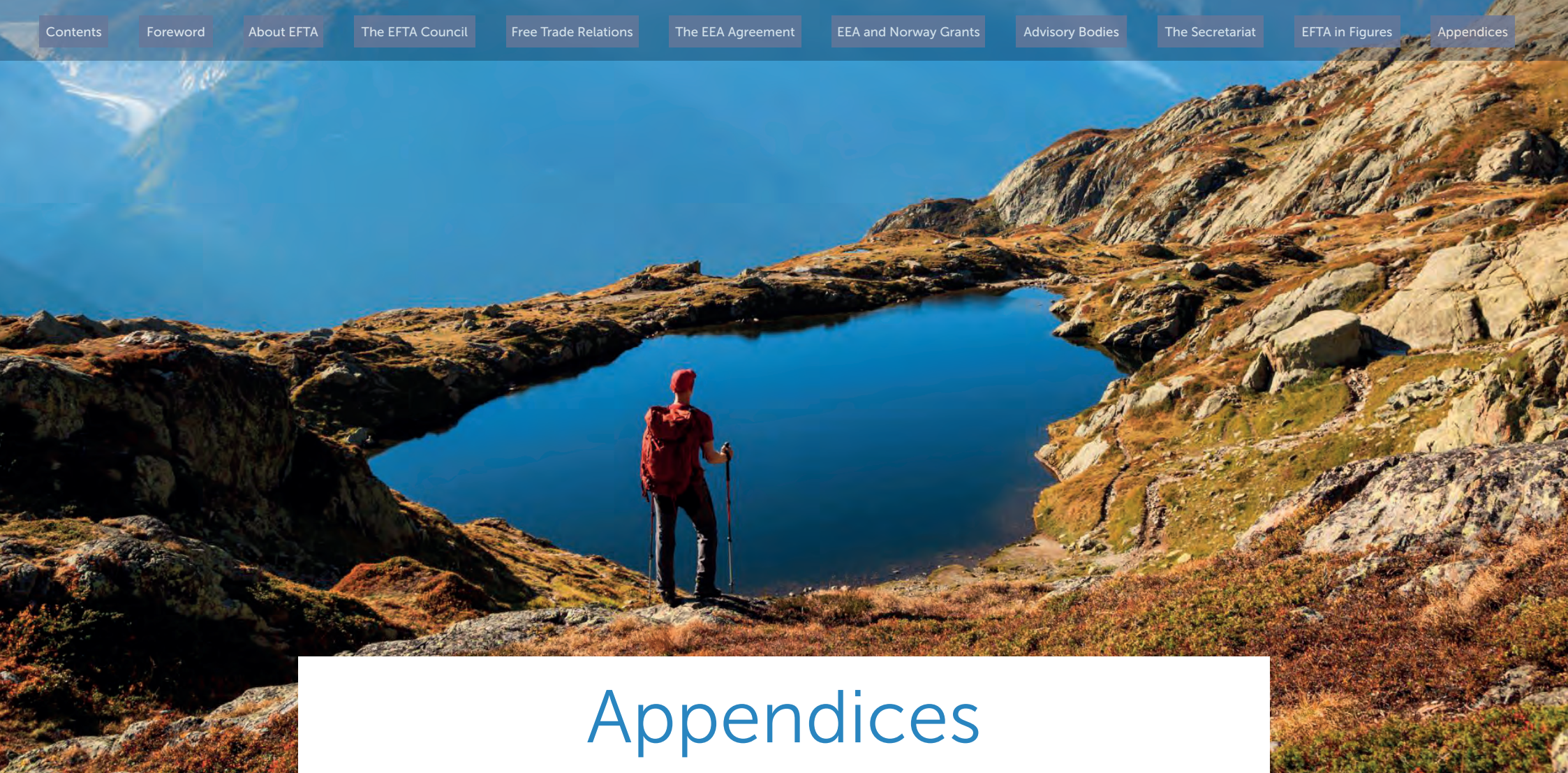
Fig. 23 – Social indicators**Life expectancy at birth – 2023^[1] (in years)****Infant mortality rate (per 1 000 live births), 2023****Population growth rate, 2023–2024 (%)****Employment rate, 2023 (from 15 to 64 years)^[2] (%)****Unemployment rate, 2022 (from 20 to 64 years)^[3] (%)**

Sources: Eurostat and Amt für Statistik Liechtenstein

[1] Value imputed by Eurostat or other receiving agencies, provisional.

[2] Total employment (resident population concept - Labour Force Survey).

[3] Percentage of active population.



Appendices

EFTA's Worldwide Network (Status on 31 December 2024)

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Free Trade Agreements

	Date of signature	2024 total imports (in million EUR)	2024 total exports (in million EUR)
Albania	17-Dec-09	43	80
Bosnia and Herzegovina	24-Jun-13	184	208
Canada	26-Jan-08	2 625	4 531
Chile	26-Jun-03	417	593
Modernised	24-Jun-24		
Colombia	25-Nov-08	612	576
Costa Rica	24-Jun-13	249	242
Ecuador	25-Jun-18	135	184
Egypt	27-Jan-07	144	1 442
Georgia	27-Jun-16	17	158
Gulf Cooperation Council	22-Jun-09	2 023	8 780
Hong Kong, China	21-Jun-11	1 246	4 863
India	10-Mar-24	3 031	2 481
Indonesia	16-Dec-18	666	631
Israel	17-Sep-92	510	1 296
Jordan	21-Jun-01	46	301
Lebanon	24-Jun-04	33	190
Mexico	27-Nov-00	1 344	2 539
Moldova	27-Jun-23	25	62
Montenegro	14-Nov-11	6	49
Morocco	19-Jun-97	522	455
North Macedonia	19-Jun-00	110	86
Palestine	30-Nov-98	3	60
Panama	24-Jun-13	67	234
Peru	24-Jun-10	447	153
Philippines	28-Apr-16	290	400
Republic of Korea	15-Dec-05	2 488	4 770
Serbia	17-Dec-09	385	693
Singapore	26-Jun-02	3 295	4 158
Southern African Customs Union	26-Jun-06	798	760
Tunisia	17-Dec-04	317	201
Türkiye	10-Dec-91	3 048	3 427
Modernised	25-Jun-18		
Ukraine	24-Jun-10	271	777

FTA negotiations

	Negotiations ongoing since
Kosovo^[1]	2022
Malaysia	2014
Mercosur	2017
Singapore (Digital Economy Agreement)	2023
Thailand^[2]	2022
Vietnam	2012

[1] Negotiations concluded on 26 September 2024; FTA signed on 22 January 2025.

[2] Negotiations concluded on 29 November 2024; FTA signed on 23 January 2025.

FTA negotiations suspended or on hold

Algeria	Negotiations on hold since 2008
Russia / Belarus / Kazakhstan	Negotiations suspended since 2014
Honduras	Negotiations on hold since 2014

Joint Declarations on Cooperation

	Date of signature
ASEAN	19-Sep-24
Mauritius	09-Jun-09
Mongolia	28-Jun-07
Myanmar	24-Jun-13
Nigeria	12-Dec-17
Pakistan	12-Nov-12

Individual EFTA States' free trade relations

China	FTAs with Iceland and Switzerland; FTA negotiations with Norway
Faroe Islands	FTAs with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland
Japan	FTA with Switzerland
United Kingdom	FTA with Switzerland and FTA with the EEA EFTA States

Members of the EFTA Parliamentary Committee 2024

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Iceland

Ingibjörg Ólöf Isaksen

Progressive Party, Head of the Icelandic delegation (Vice Chair)

Jódis Skúladóttir

Left-Green Movement

Diljá Mist Einarsdóttir

Independence Party

Thorgerdur K. Gunnarsdóttir

Liberal Reform

Arndís Anna Kristínardóttir

Pirate Party

Gunnarsdóttir

Alternate members

Birgir Þórarinnsson

Independence Party

Sigmar Guðmundsson

Reform Party

Stefán Vagn Stefánsson

Progressive Party

Gísli Rafn Ólafsson

Pirate Party

Liechtenstein

Manfred Kaufmann

Patriotic Union, Head of the Liechtenstein delegation (MPS Chair)
Progressive Citizens' Party

Daniel Seger

Alternate members

Hubert Büchel

Patriotic Union

Karin Zech-Hoop

Progressive Citizens' Party

Norway

Trine Lise Sundnes

Labour Party, Head of the Norwegian delegation

Sivert Bjørnstad

Progress Party

Heidi Nordby Lunde

Conservative Party

Per Olaf Lundteigen

Centre Party

Runar Sjøstad

Labour Party

Torgeir Knag Fylkesnes

Socialist Left Party

Alternate members

Nikolai Astrup

Conservative Party

Åsmund Aukrust

Labour Party

Sigbjørn Gjelsvik

Centre Party

Terje Halleland

Progress Party

Mani Hussaini

Labour Party

Mímir Kristjánsson

Red Party

Sveinung Rotevatn

Liberal Party

Per Martin Sandtrøen

Centre Party

Jan Tore Sanner

Conservative Party

Solveig Vitanza

Labour Party

Switzerland (observers in the MPS)

Thomas Aeschi

Swiss People's Party, Head of the Swiss delegation (CMP Chair)

Hans-Peter Portmann

FDP. The Liberals

Eric Nussbaumer

Social Democratic Party

Benedikt Würth

The Centre

Hannes Germann

Swiss People's Party

Alternate members

Elisabet Schneider-Schneiter

The Centre

Carlo Sommaruga

Social Democratic Party

Damian Müller

FDP. The Liberals

Nicolas Walder

Green Party

Thomas Matter

Swiss People's Party

Members of the EFTA Consultative Committee 2024

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Iceland

Dagný Aradóttir Pind	Federation of State and Municipal Employees (BSRB)
Ísak Einar Rúnarsson	Confederation of Icelandic Enterprise (SA)
Sigríður Mogensen (Chair)	Federation of Icelandic Industries (SI)
Halldór Oddsson	Icelandic Confederation of Labour (ASÍ)

Liechtenstein

Brigitte Haas (Bureau Member)	Liechtenstein Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI)
Sigi Langenbahn	Liechtenstein Employees Association

Norway

Thea Forsberg	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS)
Lin Andrea Gulbrandsen	Confederation of Vocational Unions (YS)
Tymon Bugajski	Confederation of Norwegian Enterprise (NHO)
Jarle Hammerstad	Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service Enterprises (Virke)
Liz Helgesen	Norwegian Confederation of Unions for Professionals (UNIO)
Kim Sivertsen (1. Vice Chair)	Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO)

Switzerland

Jan Atteslander	economiesuisse
Catherine Lance Pasquier	Fédération des Entreprises Romandes Genève (FER Genève)
Urs Furrer	Swiss Association of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
Marco Taddei	Swiss Union of Employers
Denis Torche (2. Vice Chair)	Swiss Workers' Federation
Reto Wyss	Swiss Trade Union Confederation (USS)

Permanent observers

Óttar Freyr Gíslason	Icelandic Association of Local Authorities
Anne Margrethe Lund	BusinessEurope
Elena Crasta	European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

Members of the EEA EFTA Forum of Elected Representatives of Local and Regional Authorities 2024

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Members of the Forum

Iceland

Berglind Harpa Svavarsdóttir	President of the Association of Municipalities in Northeast Iceland
Rósa Guðbjartsdóttir	Mayor and Board member of the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities
Anton Kári Halldórsson	President of the Association of Municipalities in South Iceland
Þórdís Lóa Þórhallsdóttir	Deputy Mayor of the City of Reykjavik
Lára Halldóra Eiríksdóttir	President of the Association of Municipalities in North Iceland
Halldóra Fríða Þorvaldsdóttir	President of the Association of Municipalities in Suðurnes

Norway

Members

Tom Georg Indrevik	Mayor, Øygarden municipality
Ståle Grøtte	Member of the Executive Committee, Rælingen municipality
Toralf Heimdal	Mayor, Bardu municipality
Renate Møgster Klepshvik	Deputy Mayor, Austevoll municipality
Ingrid Nergaard Fjeldstad	Member of the City Council, Bergen municipality
Gro Bråten	Member of the Executive Committee, Agder county

Substitutes

Andreas Vollsund	Mayor, Time municipality
Isak Busch	Mayor, Røros municipality
Beate Marie Dahl Eide	Mayor, Seljord municipality
Svein Erik Indbo	Deputy Country Mayor, Rogaland county
Trude Brosvik	Member of the Executive Committee, Vestland county
Sindre Martinsen-Evje (Ap)	Deputy County Mayor, Østfold county

Switzerland (Observer)

David Eray	Canton of Jura
Didier Castella	Canton of Fribourg

Work Programmes of the EFTA Standing Committee for 2024

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Priorities of the Icelandic Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee: First half of 2024

The purpose of this overview is to highlight the priorities of the Icelandic Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee during the first half of 2024. The priorities are supplemented by work programmes of the EFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups.

30th Anniversary of the EEA Agreement

The 30th Anniversary of the EEA Agreement underlines the special partnership between the EEA States and the prosperity it has brought about for its citizens and businesses during the last 30 years. It is important to underline the unity of the EEA States in times of multi-dimensional global challenges. The EEA EFTA States look forward to participating in a gathering of EEA leaders in relation to the European Council meeting in March and hosting a special event in relation to the EEA Council in May 2024.

Incorporation of EEA-relevant acts

Timely incorporation of EEA-relevant EU legislation into the EEA Agreement is essential to ensure a level playing field throughout the EEA. Efforts should be continued to deliver a meaningful number of draft Joint Committee Decisions on a steady basis to the EU side.

Particular focus will be made in the fields of energy, statistics and financial services. Continued efforts will be made to move forward older files in the backlog. In the area of health preparedness and response, Iceland will place emphasis on including the relevant acts in the EEA Agreement as soon as possible.

Strive to reduce the number of Joint Committee Decisions where entry into force is pending due to constitutional requirements, particularly for Joint Committee Decisions where more than six months have passed since adoption.

Future of the Internal Market and files with horizontal dimensions

In the current geopolitical climate, EU legislative priorities relating to the Internal Market are increasingly focused on economic security and how to ensure the competitiveness of the Internal Market. With the assistance of the EFTA Taskforce, it will be important to continue the broad discussion on related proposed legislation and acts. Specifically, to determine the implications for the EEA EFTA States inside or outside the Agreement with the assistance of related EFTA Working Groups. The EEA EFTA States should also look into jointly contributing to the work of the EU on the future of the Internal Market.

Decision shaping

An increased emphasis shall be made on providing more EEA EFTA Comments where possible at an earlier stage. Discussions shall be undertaken on whether the current process can be simplified, with the aim of creating a clearer policy on when comments shall be submitted. Given the importance of activating all EEA EFTA actors, the EFTA Advisory Bodies will be informed when an EEA EFTA Comment is to be undertaken and when it has been submitted to the EU.

In view of EP elections and a new European Commission, the possibility of setting joint priorities

of the EEA EFTA States will be looked into based on the five-year work programme of the European Commission.

EEA outreach

With the 30 years of the Agreement, continued emphasis shall be placed on strengthening knowledge of the EEA Agreement and the Financial Mechanisms. Full use will be made of the available tools and the EFTA House to disseminate information on the EEA.

In addition to biannual EEA seminars, a special event on plastic pollution in the ocean will be organised under the Icelandic chairmanship. Furthermore, as a part of a broader emphasis on Iceland's foreign policy on fighting plastic pollution, an Art Exhibition "Arctic Creatures" will be held in the EFTA House during the first half of 2024.

Participation in programmes

Continue to ensure the EEA EFTA States' participation in relevant EU programmes for the current programme period 2021–2027, based on the rights and obligations set out in the EEA Agreement.

Synergies between the three EFTA House organisations

Under Iceland's last chairmanship emphasis was placed with successful outcomes on a number of synergy elements between the three EFTA House organisations, including efficient cost management and a joint facilities and service team. Now the focus will be placed on looking into ways to increase the interaction of staff to enhance knowledge between the three organisations.

Work Programmes of the EFTA Standing Committee for 2024 (continued)

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Priorities of the Norwegian Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee: Second half of 2024

This year we celebrate the 30th anniversary since the entry into force of the EEA Agreement, and 30 years of successful, mutually beneficial and prosperous cooperation within the European Economic Area.

While the EEA EFTA States' cooperation with the EU has developed steadily in recent years, the climate and biodiversity crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's illegal war against Ukraine, increasing geopolitical tensions and the challenges relating to Europe's competitiveness highlight the importance of continued and deepened commitment.

While the EEA Agreement represents stability and predictability, it is also vital that the EEA cooperation is up to speed with an EU that is rapidly adapting to a changing international landscape.

The Single Market is one of Europe's most valuable assets in a changing world, and its main long-term engine to ensure future prosperity and welfare, as highlighted in the EU's Strategic Agenda 2024–29. A strong Single Market enhances resilience and economic security in the face of crises and serves as a tool to address strategic dependencies. Therefore, continued political commitment to the Single Market will be of utmost importance in the years to come.

Following the European elections in June 2024, a new European Commission will be established during the second half of 2024. As the new Commission takes office, it is also expected to issue new political guidelines, priorities and work plans. An important priority for the second half of 2024 will be for the EEA EFTA States, under the Norwegian Chair, thus be to establish a close working relationship with the new Commission, and to be a partner in the development of its policy and legal initiatives relating to the functioning of the Single Market and the European Economic Area.

The Norwegian Chair of the EFTA Standing Committee has identified two priorities for the second half of 2024. The priorities are supplemented by the work programmes of the EFTA Subcommittees and Working Groups.

1. Incorporation of legal acts:

Taking into account the key objective of maintaining a dynamic and homogeneous European Economic Area, based on common rules and equal conditions of competition, and to underpin the EEA EFTA States as the EU's closest and most reliable partners, a key priority will be to ensure timely incorporation of EEA-relevant EU legal acts into the EEA Agreement.

A particular focus will be put on reducing the backlog, including in areas where the backlog numbers are high, and on long-outstanding files.

In addition, keeping a close eye on new legislation with consequences for the Internal Market will be necessary. Consequently, following up the report from the Task Force on Files with Distinctive Horizontal Dimensions will be a priority.

2. Outreach:

Making use of the opportunity that the anniversary provides, we will continue the outreach on the EEA cooperation. A particular focus will be on the incoming Commission and new members of the European Parliament.

Key messages will include:

- > On the basis of 30 years of close cooperation under the EEA Agreement, the Schengen Agreement and a number of additional bilateral agreements, the EEA EFTA States are full members of the Single Market and the EU's closest and most reliable partners.
- > The 30 EU and EEA EFTA Member States are closely integrated and interconnected, and share economic strengths, opportunities and vulnerabilities. The EEA cooperation thus has a particular relevance in the current geopolitical environment, also in relation to economic security and trade policies.
- > While economic cooperation lies at the core of the EEA Agreement, it is also based on a set of fundamental values and principles. The EEA EFTA States are closely aligned with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy, most notably in the joint efforts to support Ukraine, including on sanctions against the aggressor.

Work Programmes of the EFTA Standing Committee for 2024 (continued)

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The *outreach activities* will include:

- > Continuation of the anniversary digital outreach, capitalising on the dedicated anniversary website, special video series and other visual products created to highlight the impact the EEA EFTA States and the EU have achieved together over the last 30 years – and how they can work together to solve critical challenges such as decarbonisation. In the preparations of the new programme period 2028–2034 on the EU side, underlining that the participation of the EEA EFTA States follows from, and must be in accordance with, the provisions of the EEA Agreement;
- > Exploring whether the Draghi and Letta reports can provide opportunities to contribute targeted input on the EEA cooperation;
- > Making use of the EFTA House as a relevant venue for outreach, including by:
 - > organising an exhibition on the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms from the period 2014–2021, demonstrating the contributions of the EEA EFTA States to reducing economic and social disparities in the EEA;
 - > organising an event for relevant stakeholders after the EEA Council in November to mark the end of the anniversary year;
- > Continue to identify and provide input to relevant EU legislation and measures in the pre-pipeline and pipeline stages through inter alia making active use of EEA EFTA Comments as an instrument for influencing the EU decision-making process, in addition to having meetings with officials from EU institutions and other written statements;
- > Organising in Luxembourg together with Eurostat an EEA 30th anniversary event aimed at Eurostat staff to raise awareness about the EEA Agreement and statistical cooperation between the EFTA States and the EU in the framework of the EEA Agreement and beyond.

Meetings organised by the EEA Coordination Division and the Internal Market Division and EU Acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2024

	Number of meetings in 2024	Number of acts incorporated in 2024
EEA Joint Committee	8	557
Standing Committee of the EFTA States	8	-
SUBCOMMITTEES I-IV	8 ¹	-

Meetings under Subcommittee I	-> Back to section	42	388
Working Groups			
Competition Policy		11 ²	3
Customs Matters		4	0
Customs Security Measures		0	0
Energy Matters		4	1
Fisheries		0	0
Food Chain ³		3	212 ⁴
Intellectual Property Rights		3	0
Processed Agricultural Products		0	0
Public Procurement		0	5
State Aid		7 ⁵	3
Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT)		3	3

1 In November 2009, the Standing Committee approved the practical merger of Subcommittees I, II, III and IV.

2 Including internal working group meetings and ad hoc meetings.

3 Food Chain encompasses veterinary matters, animal feed, phytosanitary matters and foodstuffs.

4 In addition, 94 acts were implemented through the simplified procedure.

5 Including ad hoc meetings on the Foreign Subsidies Regulation.

Meetings organised by the EEA Coordination Division and the Internal Market Division and EU Acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2024 (continued)

	Number of meetings in 2024	Number of acts incorporated in 2024
Expert groups under TBT		
Agricultural and Forestry Tractors	0	0
Appliances Burning Liquid or Gaseous Fuels	0	0
Chemicals	0	50
Construction	0	4
Cosmetics	0	2
Electrical Equipment	0	0
Explosives	0	1
Fertilisers	0	2
Machinery	0	0
Marine Equipment	0	2
Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs)	0	5
Measuring Instruments	0	0
Medicinal Products and Medical Devices	3	11
Motor Vehicles	0	19
Personal Protective Equipment	0	0
Plant Protection Products	0	44
Pressure Equipment	0	0
Product Safety and Market Surveillance	3 ⁶	0
Recreational Crafts	0	0
Telecommunications Equipment	0	0
Tobacco	0	1
Wine and Spirit Drinks	1 ⁷	20

⁶ Joint meetings with the Working Group on TBT.

⁷ One ad hoc expert group meeting.

Meetings organised by the EEA Coordination Division and the Internal Market Division and EU Acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2024 (continued)

	Number of meetings in 2024	Number of acts incorporated in 2024
Meetings under Subcommittee II <small>→ Back to section</small>	24	123
Working Groups		
Company Law	1	0
Electronic Communication, Audiovisual Services and Information Society	3	5
Data Protection Expert Group	2	1
Financial Services ⁸	14	92
Postal Services	0	0
Transport	4	25
Meetings under Subcommittee III <small>→ Back to section</small>	4	3
Working Groups		
Free Movement of Persons, Employment and Social Policy	1	0
Recognition of Professional Qualifications	1	3
Social Security	2	0

8 Three Working Group on Financial Services, six regular task force and five ad hoc task force meetings.

Meetings organised by the EEA Coordination Division and the Internal Market Division and EU Acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2024 (continued)

	Number of meetings in 2024	Number of acts incorporated in 2024
Meetings under Subcommittee IV <small>→ Back to section</small>	23	43
Working Groups		
Budgetary Matters	2	0
Civil Protection	2	0
Consumer Affairs	2	0
Cultural Affairs	1	0
Education, Training and Youth	2	0
Enterprise Policy and Internal Market Affairs	3	2
Environment	2	23
Gender Equality, Anti-Discrimination and Family Policy	2	1
Heads of National Statistical Institutes	1	12
Health and Safety at Work and Labour Law	2	3
Public Health	2	2
Research and Innovation	2	0
SUBCOMMITTEE V <small>→ Back to section</small>	4	0

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