

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Ref. 25-961

RESOLUTION

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the
EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee Rules of Procedure

on 27 May 2025

on

The Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2024

Co-rapporteurs:

- *Mr Grímur Grímsson, Member of the Icelandic Parliament, President of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee*
- *Mr Christophe Grudler, Member of the European Parliament, acting Vice President of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee*

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area (EEA JPC):

- Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA Agreement), and in particular Articles 94(4) and 95(4) thereof;
- Having regard to the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2024;
- Having regard to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure of the EEA JPC;
- Having regard to its previous Resolutions on the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement between 1994 and 2023;¹

While:

- A. Emphasising the importance of parliamentary oversight for the good implementation and functioning of the EEA Agreement;
- B. Mindful of its mission to contribute to a better understanding between the European Union (EU) and the EEA EFTA States in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement, as laid out in Article 95(3) of the EEA Agreement;
- C. Acting in accordance with its mandate to examine the Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee, as laid out in Article 95(4) of the EEA Agreement;
- D. Stressing that the EEA EFTA States participate fully in the Internal Market;
- E. Aware of the importance of maintaining homogeneity within the EEA;

¹ Respectively dedicated to the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 1994 (adopted on 29 May 1995), in 1995 (adopted on 3 June 1996), in 1996 (adopted on 14 April 1997), in 1997 (adopted on 25 May 1998), in 1998 (adopted on 19 April 1999), in 1999 (adopted on 16 March 2000), in 2000 (adopted on 24 May 2001), in 2001 (adopted on 20 June 2002), in 2002 (adopted on 20 May 2003), in 2003 (adopted on 27 April 2004), in 2004 (adopted on 25 April 2005), in 2005 (adopted on 22 May 2006), in 2006 (adopted on 27 June 2007), in 2007 (adopted on 29 April 2008), in 2008 (adopted on 25 March 2009), in 2009 (adopted on 29 March 2010), in 2010 (adopted on 12 April 2011), in 2011 (adopted on 4 May 2012), in 2012 (adopted on 30 May 2013), in 2013 (adopted on 17 December 2014); in 2014 (adopted on 19 November 2015); in 2015 (adopted on 14 December 2016); in 2016 (adopted on 23 May 2017); in 2017 (adopted on 7 May 2018); in 2018 (adopted on 13 March 2019); in 2019 (adopted on 16 November 2020), in 2020 (adopted on 28 April 2021); in 2021 (adopted on 25 May 2022); in 2022 (adopted on 15 December 2023); in 2023 (adopted on 21 November 2024).

1. Welcomes the publication of the 2024 Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee, agrees with the EEA Joint Committee on the main issues of concern and makes the following remarks;
2. Recalls the joint celebrations between the EU and the EEA EFTA States in 2024 on the occasion of the 30-year anniversary of the EEA Agreement, and the EEA EFTA Comment on “30 Years, 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe”, adopted by the Standing Committee of the EFTA States on 22 May 2024;
3. Emphasises that over the last 30 years, the EEA Agreement has empowered people to do business, work and study across the EEA, thereby contributing to the prosperity of the 30 EEA States;
4. Underlines the firm and united action of the EU and the EEA EFTA States regarding Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, and the wider geopolitical challenges for the rules-based order resulting from attacks by non-democratic regimes and terrorist actors in general;
5. Calls on the EU and the EEA EFTA States to work hand in hand to step up their continued support for Ukraine;
6. Notes with concern the heightened global trade tensions and their potential impact on economic operators within the EEA and the rules-based multilateral system in general;
7. In this context, calls on the EU and the EEA EFTA States to work together to mitigate any adverse consequences that impact the good functioning of the EEA;
8. Acknowledges the contribution of the EEA EFTA States to ensuring the resilience of the EEA and its energy security;

Incorporation of *acquis* into the EEA Agreement

9. Notes that 557 legal acts were incorporated into the EEA Agreement in 2024, which is a decrease of 67 compared with 624 acts in 2023;
10. Regrets that the number of legal acts awaiting incorporation into the EEA Agreement where the compliance date in the EU has passed (“the backlog”) increased by 4.8% in 2024 compared with 2023;²
11. Reiterates the common interest of both the EU and the EEA EFTA States in the timely incorporation of these legislative acts, and therefore urges both sides to pursue their

² There were 568 outstanding legal acts at the end of 2024, compared with 542 in 2023, 612 in 2022, 589 in 2021, 677 in 2020, 435 in 2019, 612 in 2018, 576 in 2017, 522 in 2016, 435 in 2015, 428 in 2014 and 506 in 2013.

efforts in reducing the backlog; In this context, supports the forward-looking objective of the new European Commission to reduce the bureaucratic burden, including in its cooperation with the EEA.

12. Welcomes the incorporation of a number of important legal acts in 2024, such as: in the field of state aid, Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to *de minimis* aid; 92 acts in the field of financial services, including on securitisation (STS) and the Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR III); 19 legal acts in the field of transport, including uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road; three acts in the field of public health, including regulations on serious cross-border threats to health, on establishing a European centre for disease prevention and control and on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency; and three acts in the field of health and safety at work and labour law, including the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound) and the Directive on transparent and predictable working conditions.
13. Underlines the urgent need to ensure the swift incorporation of certain long-outstanding legal acts, such as Directive 2012/27/EU on Energy Efficiency, Directive 2018/844 amending the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive, directives pertaining to gas infrastructure and transmission, Regulation (EU) 2016/1199 on Helicopter Offshore Operations (HOFO), Directive (EU) 2015/413 on facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety-related traffic offences (the CBE Directive) and Directive 2014/49/EU on Deposit Guarantee Schemes (recast) (DGS III);
14. Regrets the increase in the average transposition deficit of the EEA EFTA States from 1.1% to 1.3% according to the latest Internal Market Scoreboard published in January 2025 reflecting the state of play on 30 November 2024. Since the December 2023 Scoreboard, the deficit of Iceland increased from 1.6% to 2.1%, the deficit of Norway from 0.8% to 1.2% and the deficit of Liechtenstein from 0.1% to 0.6%;³
15. Welcomes that on 31 December 2024, the number of Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements for more than six months stood at 18, compared with 32 JCDs on 31 December 2023;
16. Welcomes that on 31 December 2024, the number of “linked” JCDs whose entry into force depended on the entry into force of other JCDs that had already been or would

³ Since 2009, the EFTA Surveillance Authority has used the interim target of 1% set by the European Council in 2007 as a benchmark. It is now looking towards a benchmark of 0.5% in line with the European Commission’s Single Market Act proposed in April 2011.

be adopted stood at 31, compared with 79 on 31 December 2023, and calls on the EEA Joint Committee to continue prioritising the work on JCDs that may delay the adoption and entry into force of other “linked” JCDs;

EEA EFTA States’ participation in EU agencies and programmes

17. Welcomes the active participation of the EEA EFTA States in 15 EU programmes and 24 agencies in 2024, of which 18 were regulatory agencies and six were executive agencies;
18. Underlines that EEA EFTA participation in EU programmes is a key instrument for the EEA EFTA States’ cooperation with EU institutions and Member States, and therefore welcomes the EEA EFTA Comment on “EEA EFTA Participation in EU Programmes 2028–2034”, adopted by the EFTA Standing Committee on 28 January 2025;
19. Furthermore acknowledges the EEA EFTA States’ participation in programmes under the 2021–2027 financial framework, such as Horizon Europe, European Defence Fund, Digital Europe, LIFE Programme, Erasmus+, European Solidarity Corps, Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) / European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), Single Market Programme, Union Civil Protection Mechanism (RescEU), European Space Programme, Creative Europe, EU4Health, InvestEU, ASAP⁴ and EDIRPA;⁵

Decision shaping

20. Notes the submission of three EEA EFTA Comments in 2024,⁶ on i) the proposal for a regulation laying down additional procedural rules relating to the enforcement of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (COM (2023) 348), ii) the revised Weights and Dimensions Directive, and iii) 30 Years 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe;
21. Underlines that EEA EFTA Comments are useful tools for outlining the EEA EFTA States’ position on EU initiatives and legislation bearing potential EEA relevance, and therefore encourages the EEA EFTA States to pursue their drafting and broad dissemination of these comments, including to the EEA JPC;
22. Encourages the EEA EFTA States and the EU to continue sharing their views, assessments and information as early as possible in the decision-shaping process to ensure that each side’s interests are duly taken into consideration;

⁴ Act in Support of Ammunition Production.

⁵ European Defence Industry Reinforcement through common Procurement Act.

⁶ For comparison, seven EEA EFTA Comments were submitted in 2023.

EEA Financial Mechanism

23. Recalls the signing of the agreement on a new period of the financial contribution of the EEA EFTA States on 12 September 2024, and notes that Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway will provide EUR 3.2 billion in 2021–2028 to 15 EU Member States to reduce economic and social disparities across the EEA;
24. Reiterates the importance of respecting European values, independent institutions and the rule of law as prerequisites for funding under the EEA Financial Mechanism 2021–2028;
25. Notes the publication of the “Blue Book” for the 2021–2028 funding period, outlining the programme areas and funds eligible for support;
26. With reference to the designated priority areas, welcomes the launch of the new EEA Civil Society Fund aimed at strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law across Europe;
27. Encourages both the donors and the beneficiary states to work constructively in order to achieve the swift conclusion of the Memoranda of Understanding and subsequent programme agreements under the new funding period;
28. Meanwhile, encourages both the donors and the beneficiary states to continue working seamlessly towards the completion of the programmes for the period 2014–2021;

Parliamentary oversight

29. Welcomes the reference made in the 2024 Annual Report of the EEA Joint Committee to the JPC meetings held in 2024, and to the EEA JPC Resolution adopted in December 2023;
30. Invites the EEA Joint Committee to continue to detail the activities of the EEA JPC in its Annual Reports, in order to highlight the contribution of the EEA JPC to the good functioning of the EEA Agreement;
31. Encourages the regular participation of representatives of the EEA Joint Committee and EEA Council in meetings of the EEA JPC, and underlines the importance of upholding reciprocal high-level political representation in these meetings;
32. Emphasises that parliamentary oversight carried out by the EEA JPC provides democratic scrutiny of the implementation of the EEA Agreement and thus ensures its democratic legitimacy;

33. Stresses the role of the EU and EEA EFTA parliaments and parliamentarians in explaining the functioning and benefits of the EEA Agreement to citizens, and is of the opinion that communication on the EEA Agreement should be a continuous undertaking;
34. Mindful of the impact of the intensified geopolitical context, including trade tensions and geostrategic rivalry, calls on the EU and the EEA EFTA States to cooperate closely to mitigate the adverse effects on EEA citizens and economic operators;
35. Instructs its President to forward this Resolution to the EEA Joint Committee and the EEA Council.