



# How EEA EFTA States can influence EU law making



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# How the EEA EFTA States can influence EU lawmaking

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## Advice from EFTA Experts

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

Article 99 (1) EEA Agreement:

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

Openness

Trust

Technology

Trade

Transparency

# Decision shaping by the EEA EFTA States

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



Means available to the EEA EFTA States				
<b>Experts' participation in Commission Experts Groups and Committees, but without the right to vote</b>	<b>Seconded National Experts</b>	<b>Contributing to the management of EU programmes</b>	<b>Contributing to the work of EU agencies</b>	<b>EEA EFTA Comments on new policies and Commission proposals for legislation</b>
Meeting with the EU side in EFTA Working Groups/Expert Groups				



# EEA EFTA Comments

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

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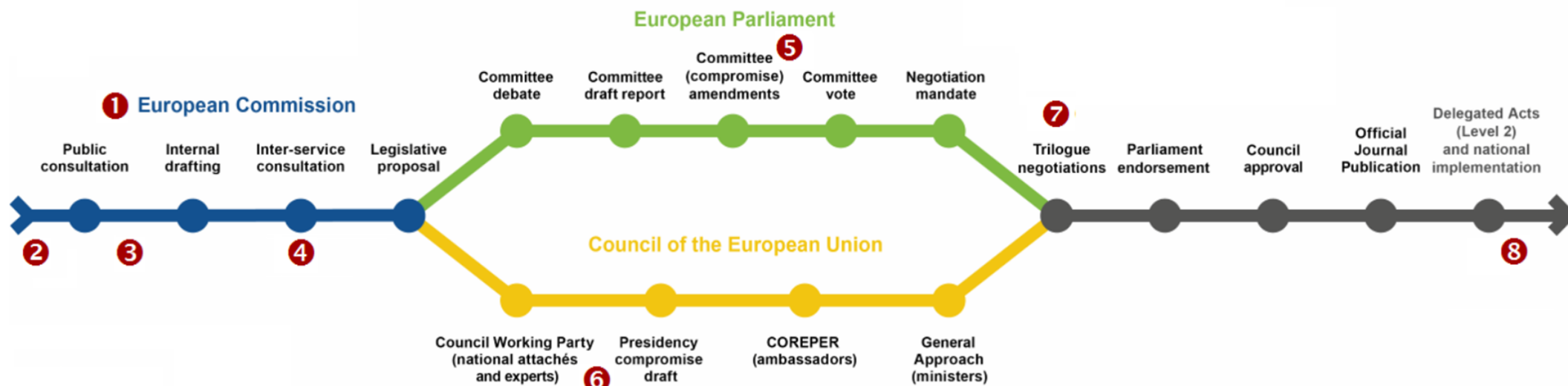
# Participation in the EU policy debate

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



# Alignment with EU legislative process to stay relevant

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





# Follow up on EEA EFTA Comments

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



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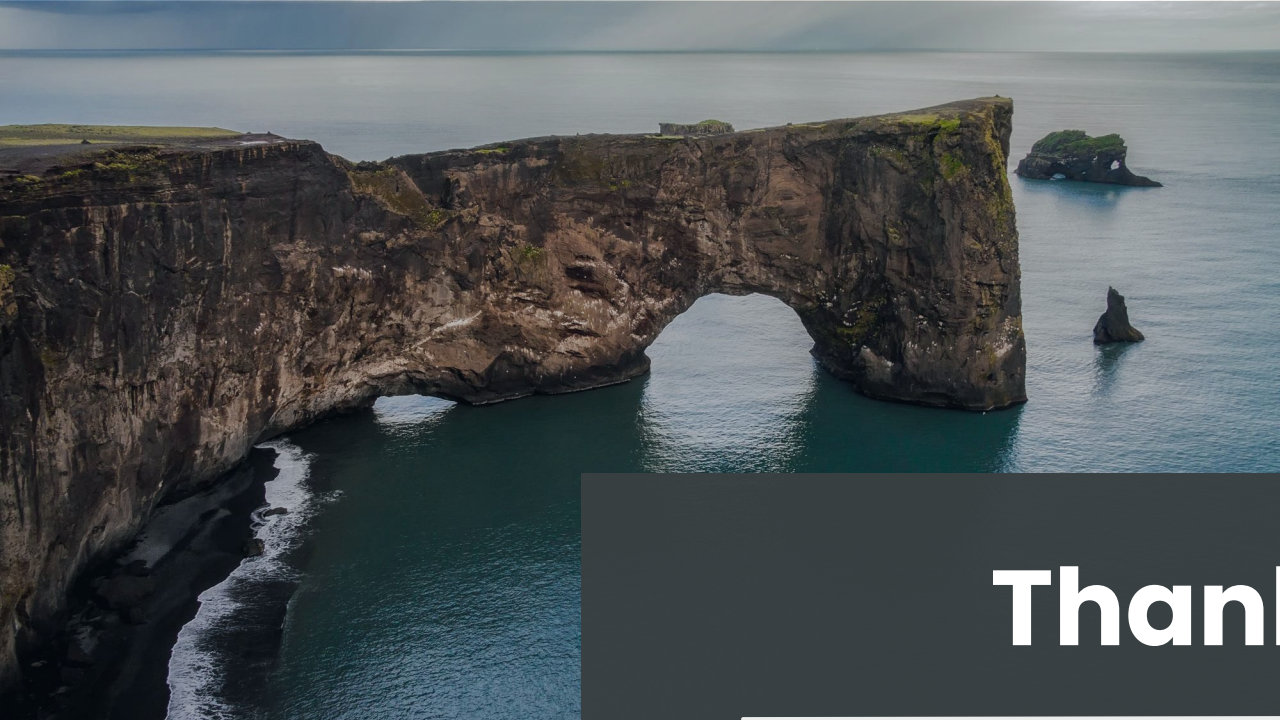


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**Thank You**

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**Trond Helge Baardsen**