

**EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA**  
**STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**OF THE EFTA STATES**

Ref. No.: 1096098  
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**LIECHTENSTEIN CHAIR**  
**WORK PROGRAMME**  
**EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE – FIRST HALF 2010**

**1. General Cooperation**

- **The new EU 2020 strategy**

Monitor the development of and consider EEA EFTA input to the new EU 2020 strategy, which is the successor to the Lisbon Strategy. The strategy is expected to be adopted by the Spring European Council.

- **The Internal Market**

Continue to follow up on the Single Market Review, including active and common approach within the Internal Market Advisory Committee.

- **Lisbon Treaty**

Continue to monitor the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty with special focus on possible implications for the EEA.

- **The EEA Financial Mechanisms 2009 - 2014**

Start preparations for setting up the new EEA Financial Mechanism, including establishing the Rule and Procedures.

- **European Neighbourhood Policy**

Continue to monitor the impact of the ENP on the EEA Agreement.

Monitor developments in the EU-Russia relationship, with special focus on the negotiations of a new framework agreement.

- **Marine Strategy Framework**

Initiate an internal dialogue among EEA EFTA States on how to follow up this directive.

## **2. Priorities in the field of the Subcommittees**

### **Subcommittee I**

- **European Food Safety Authority**

Finalise incorporation of the Food Law Package into the EEA Agreement, including EEA EFTA participation in the European Food Safety Authority, and ensure incorporation of acts related to the package and which have been waiting for its entry into force.

- **Novel Food and GM Food and Feed**

Carry out further discussions on the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of Novel Food and GM Food and Feed, and monitor the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food.

Finalise the EEA Joint Committee Decision on Novel Food and GM Food and Feed.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the Energy Efficiency Package (including the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). Also facilitate the negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Renewable Directive, as well as the Third Liberalisation Package.

- **The New Legal Framework for the marketing of products (NLF)**

Continue to prepare for the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the NLF. Take actions in the fields of accreditation (EFTA at four) and market surveillance. Participate in the CE-marking campaign (EFTA at four) under preparation by the EC.

- **Standardisation**

Prepare EEA EFTA Comments to the EC on the recommendations of the EXPRESS (Expert panel on the review of the European Standardisation System) if necessary. Follow and contribute to the standardisation package to be adopted by the EC mid-2010. Continue to mandate standardisation in parallel with the EC.

- **Medicinal products**

Monitor developments of the 2008 Pharmaceutical Package.

- **Customs rules of origin**

Follow closely developments of the Regional Origin Convention and adapt Protocol 4 accordingly.

Align the list rules in Protocol 4 with the HS 2007 (Harmonised System).

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

Follow closely the endeavours to bring about a single European Patent and establish a new patent court in the EU.

- **Motor vehicles**

Finalise the incorporation of the Framework Directive on approval of motor vehicles and their trailers, and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles into the EEA Agreement.

- **Plant protection products**

Initiate an assessment of the new Regulation on plant protection products.

- **Certification and Marking in Europe**

Continue the co-operation with the Nordic Innovation Centre (NICE) and the non-EFTA Nordic Countries with regard to placing the issue of certification of services on the political agenda in Brussels.

## **Subcommittee II**

- **Telecom Package**

Ensure the incorporation of the Telecom Package into the Agreement and establish the required level of EEA EFTA participation in the new body of Regulators for Electronic Communication (BEREC).

- **New European Architecture of Financial Supervision**

Ensure adequate EEA EFTA participation in the three new surveillance authorities for the financial markets (banks, insurance and securities markets) and the European Systemic Risk Council.

- **New EU Framework for Crisis Management in the Banking Sector**

Monitor closely the Commission consultations on the measures necessary for a new EU Framework for Crisis Management in the Banking Sector.

- **European Aviation Agency**

Finalise discussions on new common rules in the field of civil aviation and the establishment of the European Aviation Safety Agency.

- **Data Retention Directive**

Advance the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the Agreement.

- **Postal Services Directive**

Conclude the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the Agreement.

- **Audiovisual media services Directive**

Conclude the assessment of incorporation of the Directive into the Agreement.

- **Transport**

- Continue discussions on the incorporation of the Regulation on Rail Passengers' Rights and Obligations.
- Continue to prepare for the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Third Maritime Safety Package.
- Provide input to the process and monitor closely the EU's policy on the future of transport.
- Continue to follow closely the proposals on the rights of passengers in bus, coach and maritime transport.
- Contribute actively to the process of identifying the key areas under the EU Maritime Transport Strategy until 2018 and follow developments and initiatives awaited on the EU side.
- Follow closely the proposal for a regulation concerning a European rail network for competitive freight.

### **Subcommittee III**

- **New social security coordination rules**

Finalise the discussions on incorporation into the Agreement of EU acts introducing new social security coordination rules by the end of June 2010.

## **Subcommittee IV**

- **Emissions Trading Scheme**

Continue the dialogue with the Commission on the incorporation of the revised Emissions Trading Scheme Directive and the Directive to Include Aviation into the Emissions Scheme. Focus will be on identifying the required adaptations concerning allocation of allowances and rules on auctioning and quotas.

- **Labour law**

Follow closely the discussions on the proposal for amending the Directive on Working Time, the reconciliation package (parental leave, self-employed and maternity leave) and on a possible revision of the Posting of Workers Directive.

- **Consumer Rights**

Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comment which was submitted on the proposal for a Directive on Consumer Rights.

- **Cross-border Health Care Directive**

Continue to follow closely the discussions on the EU legal framework on health services and assess its impact on the EEA EFTA States.

- **Education, training and youth**

Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comment on the Green Paper on Mobility and the Recommendation on the Mobility of Young Volunteers across the European Union.

- **Legal instrument for the European research infrastructure consortium (ERIC)**

Assess the Regulation and its implications for the EEA EFTA States.

- **Participation in programmes 2007-2013**

- Monitor participation in existing programmes and agencies.
- Raise awareness within the EEA EFTA States about the opportunities available in the new generation of programmes.
- Consider EEA EFTA participation in the European Year of Volunteering 2011.

- Closely monitor developments with regard to the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012.
- Follow up on the Joint Programming Initiatives under the European Research Area (ERA) including the Alzheimer and Neurodegenerative Diseases Initiative.
- Ensure the incorporation of the Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) programme.
- Ensure the incorporation of the Media Mundus programme.
- Monitor closely the EEA EFTA participation in the different strands of the Progress programme.

### **3. Support to the EEA Agreement**

- Emphasise the importance of active involvement in all stages of decision shaping.
- Continue to enhance knowledge of the EEA Agreement within the EEA, in particular within EU institutions.
- Strengthen the contacts with the national experts from EEA EFTA States and their involvement in the work within the EEA EFTA.
- Continue the close cooperation between the EFTA Standing Committee and the Advisory Bodies, i.e. the EFTA Consultative Committee and the EFTA Parliamentary Committee.
- In light of the Lisbon Treaty, explore ways to strengthen the cooperation between the EFTA Parliamentary Committee and the European Parliament.
- Continue to streamline EEA EFTA Working Groups and Committees with the aim of making the work more efficient and practical and to facilitate discussions on horizontal policy issues.