

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

Ref. No.: 1102752  
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**NORWEGIAN CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME**  
**EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE – FIRST HALF OF 2011**

The main focus of the Norwegian Chair during the first half of 2011 will be to:

- Ensure an efficient incorporation of pending and new legislative acts in order to safeguard the good functioning and homogeneity of the EEA Agreement.
- Follow the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty and its impact on the EEA Agreement, particularly how the EEA Agreement will be managed in the European External Action Service, the continuation of the EEA EFTA States' participation in the decision shaping process and the impact of increased power of the European Parliament.
- Finalise the implementation of the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009 - 2014.

This Programme will be supplemented by the Work Programmes for the Subcommittees and for selected EEA EFTA Working Groups.

**I. Key EEA EFTA Priorities**

- **Europe 2020: Flagship initiatives and the Single Market Act**

Follow closely the unveiling of the flagship initiatives of Europe 2020 with particular focus on EEA relevant proposals.

Follow proposals resulting from the Single Market Act and assess their EEA relevance.

Consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments where relevant.

- **The Lisbon Treaty**

Continue to follow the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty. Particular focus should be on how the EEA Agreement will be managed in the European External Action Service, how the EEA EFTA States continue to participate in decision shaping, and on the impact of the increased power of the European Parliament.

- **Comitology Procedure**

Ensure continued access of the EEA EFTA States in the new procedures introduced in the Lisbon Treaty on comitology.

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

Finalise preparations for implementation of the new EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms.

- **Horizontal issues**

Explore the possibilities to increase the number of national experts from the EEA EFTA States in EU institutions.

Pursue an active information and communication policy on EEA EFTA related matters.

## **II. 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.
- Closely monitor developments with regard to the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity 2012.
- Follow up on the Joint Programming Recommendations under the European Research Area (ERA).
- 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.
- Monitor the ongoing EU budget review with focus on the scope of EU programmes post 2014.

## **III. Legal Acts and Policies (not exhaustive)**

- **New European Architecture of Financial Supervision**

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

- **European Aviation Safety Agency**

Finalise the assessment on new common rules in the field of civil aviation and establishing a European Aviation Safety Agency.

- **Audiovisual Media Services**

Finalise the assessment of the incorporation of the Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the Energy Infrastructure Package and the Energy Efficiency Plan (to be presented in early 2011). Facilitate the negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Renewables Directive, as well as the Third Liberalisation Package.

- **Telecom**

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

- **Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

Continue to discuss with the Commission a mutually acceptable adaptation to the Deposit Guarantee Scheme, safeguarding the interests of consumers.

- **Foodstuffs**

Finalise the EEA Joint Committee Decision on Novel Food and GM Food and Feed and monitor the finalisation of a new Regulation on Novel Food.

Monitor the finalisation of a new Regulation on food information to the consumers.

- **Data Privacy**

Monitor the progress made on a proposal for a new legal framework on data privacy. Advance the assessment of possible incorporation of the Data Retention Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Postal Services Directive**

Conclude the assessment of the incorporation of the Postal Services Directive into the EEA Agreement and the participation of the EEA EFTA States in the European Regulatory Group for Postal Services.

- **Social Security**

Ensure the incorporation of the new Annex VI on Social Security coordination rules into the EEA Agreement.

- **Climate Change**

Continue to prepare for the incorporation of the revised Emissions Trading Scheme Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Environment**

In the area of environment finalise the following:

- The internal discussion on the EEA relevance of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law.
- The internal discussions on the EEA relevance of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.
- The internal discussions on the EEA relevance of the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

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

- **Competition**

Prepare for a swift incorporation of two block exemptions for specialisation agreements and for agreements concerning research and development, as the current block exemptions will expire on 31 December 2010.

- **Employment and Social Policy / Education, Training and Youth**

Follow up on the EEA EFTA Comment on the Green Paper on Mobility. Monitor developments linked to the Youth on the Move flagship initiative, Agenda for New Skills and Jobs and the new EU Anti-Poverty Platform.

- **Research and Innovation**

Follow closely the endeavours to implement the Innovation Union flagship initiative and measures to bring about a European Research Area, including the possibility to incorporate participation in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) into the EEA Agreement.