

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
STANDING COMMITTEE
OF THE EFTA STATES

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ICELAND CHAIR WORK PROGRAMME
EFTA STANDING COMMITTEE – FIRST HALF OF 2012

I. Key EEA EFTA priorities

Ensure the continued good functioning and homogeneity of the EEA Agreement through the efficient incorporation of pending and new legislative acts into the Agreement.

- **Processing of EU acquis in the EEA Agreement**

Study jointly with the EEAS how to further improve the processing of acquis in the EEA Agreement.

- **Europe 2020 strategy**

Follow closely the implementation and further development of EEA relevant proposals under the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the seven flagship initiatives and the Single Market Act. Ensure participation in the development of EEA relevant measures and consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments where relevant.

- **Economic governance**

Monitor further development of EU initiatives on economic governance and economic policy coordination and consider their impact on the EEA.

- **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020**

Follow the discussions on the **Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020** and assess possible implications for the EEA EFTA States including participation in Programmes (see point III).

- **Implementing and delegated acts**

Monitor the implementation of the new procedures for implementing and delegated acts to ensure continued EEA EFTA access.

- **The EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014**

Ensure the finalisation of projects which have received an extension under the EEA Grants 2004-09 until 30 April 2012. Finalise negotiations on Memoranda of Understanding for the EEA Grants 2009-14 and ensure that the programming starts according to plan.

II. 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.

- **New proposals in the area of financial services**

Follow closely new proposals in the area of financial services such as the Capital Requirements Directives.

- **European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)**

Finalise work on the incorporation of the EASA Regulation setting out that ESA will have the competence to impose fines. [*If adopted by written procedure in December 2011 the point can be taken off*].

- **Single European Sky II**

Continue the discussions on the Single European Sky II Regulation in order to ensure incorporation as soon as possible into the Agreement.

- **Audiovisual media services (AVMS)**

Finalise the discussions on the incorporation of the AVMS Directive into the EEA Agreement.

- **Energy**

Continue to follow closely EU proposals and possible new legislation, particularly the proposal for a Regulation on Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT), the new Directive on Energy Efficiency, and the development of the Energy Infrastructure Package. Facilitate negotiations with the Commission regarding the incorporation into the EEA Agreement of the Renewables Directive, as well as the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market.

- **Public procurement**

Follow up on the public consultation on the revision of EU public procurement rules, including the increased use of e-Procurement. Follow up on the expected proposal for a Directive/Regulation on Concessions.

- **Standardisation**

Follow up on the Commission's Communication on a "Strategic vision for European standards". Follow negotiations in the Council and the European Parliament on the proposal for a new Regulation on European Standardisation and consider submitting EEA EFTA Comments. Follow up the third study on certification of services carried out by Nordic Innovation by a workshop to be held in the EFTA Secretariat in Brussels at the beginning of

March 2012 and bring the findings and conclusions to the attention of the European Parliament via an IMCO workshop later in 2012.

- **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 European Regulators for Electronic Communication (BEREC).

- **Deposit Guarantee Scheme**

Continue to discuss with the Commission a mutually acceptable solution 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 revision of the novel foods proposal, the proposal on the cloning of animals for food production purposes, and the proposal for a Regulation on food intended for infants and young children and on food for special medical purposes.

- **Medicinal products**

Finalise discussions with the EU on the EEA Joint Committee Decision on medicinal products for paediatric use (Paediatrics Regulation).

- **Plant protection**

Finalise discussions on the possible implementation of the new Regulation on plant protection products, Regulation 1107/2009.

- **Climate Change**

Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the revised Emissions Trading Scheme Directive and related acts into the EEA Agreement.

- **Environment**

Finalise preparations for the incorporation of the Directive on the Protection of the Environment through Criminal Law into the EEA Agreement, and hold internal discussions on the EEA relevance of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and on the incorporation of the Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks into the EEA Agreement.

- **Public Health**

Ensure a timely incorporation of the Directive on Patients' Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare into the EEA Agreement and follow the implementation process on the EU side.

- **Labour law**

Follow closely the proposal for a directive concerning the enforcement of the provisions applicable to the posting of workers, and the current negotiations of the social partners regarding the revision of the working time directive

- **Consumer affairs**

Prepare for the incorporation of the consumer rights directive into the EEA Agreement. Follow discussions on a new proposal for a Regulation on a Common European Sales Law as well as on the alternative dispute resolution and on-line dispute resolution mechanisms.

- **Internal Market Information (IMI) System**

Ensure the incorporation of the IMI Regulation into the EEA Agreement.

- **Services directive**

Follow the Commission's process on the performance checks which aim at assessing how different pieces of EU legislation applying to services work in practice.

- **Intellectual Property Rights**

Follow closely endeavours to bring about a single EU Patent and establish a new Patent Court in the EU, and the implementation of the Commission's Strategy on Intellectual Property Rights.

- **Research and Innovation**

Follow closely the proposal for a new Research and Innovation Framework Programme (Horizon 2020), and measures to bring about a European Research Area (ERA), including the possibility to incorporate participation in the European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) into the EEA Agreement

- **Postal Services**

Continue discussions on the Third Postal Directive.

- **Education, Training Youth and Sport**

Follow closely the new forthcoming proposal for a programme in the field of education, training, youth and sport.

- **Professional Qualifications**

Study closely the upcoming proposal for a professional qualifications directive

III. Participation in Programmes

- Study closely upcoming proposals for the new generation of EU programmes 2014-2020.

- Monitor closely the ongoing EU budget review with a focus on the scope of EU programmes post-2014.
- Monitor participation in existing programmes and agencies.
- Raise awareness within the EEA EFTA States about the opportunities available within the programmes.
- Follow up on the Joint Programming Recommendations under the ERA.