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NOTE

From: Presidency
On: 12 September 2017
To: Working Party on European Free Trade Association (EFTA)
Subject: Forward Look for September to December 2017

1. The Forward Look set out in the Annex below is a revised version of document no. 10902/17 and aims at providing delegations with information about relevant meetings/events scheduled to take place from September to December 2017.
2. To the extent possible and in order to facilitate the work of the delegations, the Forward Look also contains information about the items that will be proposed for discussion at the forthcoming meetings of the EFTA Working Party, as well as an indication of the dates when items discussed in the EFTA Working Party would be transmitted for approval to COREPER/the Council.
3. This document will be kept under constant review and updated regularly.

WORKING PARTY ON THE EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION (EFTA)**- FORWARD LOOK FOR SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017 -****I. WORK PROGRAMME:****Meetings of the EFTA Working Party**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>INDICATIVE AGENDA</u> ¹
12 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EEA Agreement: presentation by the EEAS and the Commission, with special focus on the backlog;• debriefing by the EEAS on the negotiating round on an institutional framework agreement held with Switzerland on 11 September;• draft COUNCIL DECISIONS on the signing and conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of an Agreement between the European Union and the Swiss Confederation on the Linking of their Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Systems;• debriefing by the EEAS following the Norwegian parliamentary elections of 11 September.

¹ This indicative agenda is designed to allow delegations to better anticipate and prepare for the meetings of the EFTA Working Party. It must be stressed that the information contained in this document is indicative; the final list of items to be discussed at a Working Party meeting is that contained in the Notice of Meeting and Provisional Agenda (CM document) circulated for the respective meeting.

19 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first discussion on the draft Conclusions of the 48th meeting of the EEA Council; • draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products; • draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union and Iceland on the protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs.
26 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • second discussion on the draft Conclusions of the 48th meeting of the EEA Council, with a view to sending a consolidated text to the EEA EFTA side; • preparation for the negotiating round to be held with Andorra, Monaco and San Marino from 9 to 13 October in Brussels.
10 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion of the comments to the draft Conclusions of the 48th meeting of the EEA Council received from the EEA EFTA side, with a view to sending a response back to the EEA EFTA side; • state of play of EU relations with Switzerland and Liechtenstein (ahead of the EFTA Working Party trip).
24 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion of the compromise proposals of the EEA EFTA side to the draft Conclusions of the 48th meeting of the EEA Council and EU final position to be agreed; • debriefing by the EEAS on the negotiating round held with Andorra, Monaco and San Marino from 9 to 13 October in Brussels.

7 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> debriefing by the EEAS on the meeting between President Juncker and the President of the Swiss Confederation, Ms Doris Leuthard, on <i>[tbc, depending on the timing of the meeting]</i>.
21 November (<i>tbc</i>)	<i>[tbd]</i>
28 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> preparation for the negotiating round to be held with Andorra, Monaco and San Marino from 11 to 15 December in Brussels.
12 December	<i>[tbd]</i>

COREPER

<u>DATE</u>	<u>"I" ITEMS (NO DISCUSSION)</u>
27 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products; = Adoption draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union and Iceland on the protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs. = Adoption
30 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the European Union's common position for the 48th meeting of the EEA Council

COUNCIL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>"A" ITEMS (NO DISCUSSION)</u>
9 October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products; = Adoption• draft COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union and Iceland on the protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs. = Adoption
7 November	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of the European Union's common position for the 48th meeting of the EEA Council

- *Reception at the Estonian Permanent Representation: at 17:30 on 18 September*
- *TRIP of the EFTA Working Party to Switzerland and Liechtenstein: 17 to 20 October*

II. OTHER EVENTS:

A. EEA AGREEMENT

- *48th meeting of the EEA Council: 14 November (am)*
- *Meetings of the EEA Joint Committee (EFTA Secretariat, Brussels):*
 - 22 September, 27 October, 15 December.

- ***Draft Decisions of the EEA Joint Committee ('JCD') expected in the second-half of 2017***
 - a) JCD on Rules of Procedure of the EEA JC (amending Bulgaria and Romania, 2007)
 - b) JCD on Rules of procedure of the EEA JC (amendments to EEA languages following the 2014 enlargement to Croatia)
 - c) JCD incorporating Directive (EU) 2015/1535 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services (ISC 193/2016)
 - d) JCD incorporating Regulation (EU) 2016/792 on harmonised indices of consumer prices and the house price index: derogation for Liechtenstein (ISC 58/2017)
 - e) JCD incorporating Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure (ISC 38/2017)
 - f) JCD incorporating Directive (EU) 2016/802 relating to a reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (ISC 79/2017)
 - g) JCD incorporating Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market and repealing Directive 1999/93/EC, (ISC 86/2017)
 - h) JCD on participation of the EEA EFTA States in Union's Preparatory Action on Defence Research
- ***European Parliament***

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
12 September	Strasbourg	<p>Plenary vote on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and Iceland concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products; b) the conclusion of an agreement between the European Union and Iceland on the protection of geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

<i>tbc</i>	Brussels	Consent vote in the Committee on International Trade (INTA) on a) the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway concerning additional trade preferences in agricultural products reached on the basis of Article 19 of the Agreement on the European Economic Area.
15 to 16 November	Strasbourg	49th EEA JPC meeting

B. EEA EFTA COUNTRIES

- Parliamentary elections in Norway: 11 September
- 69th Session of the Nordic Council (Helsinki, 31 October to 2 November)

C. SWISS CONFEDERATION

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
21 to 22 September	Zug	36th EU-Switzerland Inter-parliamentary meeting
28 September	Brussels	EU-Swiss Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products: a) meeting of the Working Group on Wine and Spirit Drinks; b) meeting of the Working Party on PDOs and PGIs.

16 November	Bern	Meeting of the EU-Swiss Joint Committee of the Agreement on Trade in Agricultural Products
23 November	Brussels	Meeting of the EU-Swiss Joint Committee of the Free Trade Agreement
29 November	Brussels	Meeting of the EU-Swiss Air Transport Committee

D. PRINCIPALITY OF ANDORRA, PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO AND REPUBLIC OF SAN MARINO

Calendar of the negotiations on one or several Association Agreements:

- 9 to 13 October;
- 11 to 15 December.

E. FAROE ISLANDS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
15 November	Brussels	17th Joint Committee on EU-Faroe Islands Free Trade Agreement

III. EU MINISTERIAL MEETINGS WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF THE EFTA STATES

A. INFORMAL MEETINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
20-21 September	Energy and Transport

B. FORMAL MEETINGS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
7 November	Ecofin (<i>discussions with the EFTA States' Finance Ministers in the margins of the formal meeting</i>).