



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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PROPOSAL

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 31 March 2014

To: Mr Uwe CORSEPIUS, Secretary-General of the Council of the European
Union

No. Cion doc.: COM(2014) 197 final - Annex

Subject: ANNEX DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No .../2014 of
amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific
fields outside the four freedoms to the Proposal for a Council Decision on
the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the EEA
Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA
Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms
(Employment and Social Innovation)

Delegations will find attached document COM(2014) 197 final - Annex.

Encl.: COM(2014) 197 final - Annex



EUROPEAN
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COM(2014) 197 final

ANNEX 1

ANNEX

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No .../2014
of
amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside
the four freedoms**

to the

Proposal for a Council Decision

**on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the EEA Joint
Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on
cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**

ANNEX

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No .../2014

of

amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”), and in particular Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to include Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (“EaSI”) and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion¹,
- (2) Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2014.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

Article 15 of Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement shall be amended as follows:

1. In paragraph 2, the words “and which are carried out before 1 January 2014,” are added after the words “paragraph 1”.
2. The following is added in paragraph 8:
 - ‘ **32013 R 1296:** Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (“EaSI”) and amending Decision No 283/2010/EU establishing a European Progress Microfinance Facility for employment and social inclusion (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 238).

Liechtenstein shall be exempted from the participation in, and the financial contribution to, this programme. Norway shall participate in, and financially contribute to, only the EURES axis of the programme.’

¹ OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 238.

3. The text of paragraph 5 is replaced by the following:

‘The EFTA States shall participate in the Community activities referred to in the first indent of paragraph 8 as from 1 January 1999, in the activities referred to in the second indent as from 1 January 2003 and in the activities referred to in the third indent as from 1 January 2014.’

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following the last notification under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2014.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

*For the EEA Joint Committee
The President*

*The Secretaries
to the EEA Joint Committee*

* [No constitutional requirements indicated.] [Constitutional requirements indicated.]