

EEE 1608/15

PROGRESS REPORT

Subject: Progress Report by the EEA Joint Committee to the 44th meeting of the EEA Council

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has adopted 165 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 243 legal acts since the EEA Council of 18 May 2015. In the period from 1st January to 1st November 2015, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 293 JCDs incorporating 436 legal acts. In the same period of 2014, 234 JCDs incorporating 552 legal acts were adopted.
2. As of 1st November 2015, there were 422 outstanding legal acts where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 421 acts on 4 May 2015. Since May 2015 therefore the overall number of outstanding legal acts has increased by 0.2%.
3. Since the last EEA Council, the EFTA side has continued to identify further actions needed to permanently reduce the number of outstanding acts and avoid their re-emergence.
4. The number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements where the six-month period had expired increased from 3 on 1 May 2015 to 11 on 1 November 2015. Additionally, on 1 November 2015 there were 19 JCDs where the entry into force depended on the fulfilment of constitutional requirements of other already adopted JCDs or the incorporation of an EU legal act into the EEA Agreement, as compared to 17 on 1 May 2015.

5. Important decisions incorporated since the 43rd meeting of the EEA Council include:

- Decision No 147/2015 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients
- Decision No 188/2015 on ship-source pollution and on the introduction of penalties for infringements
- Decision No 191/2015 on the protection of the environment through criminal law
- Decisions Nos 197, 198, and 200/2015 on animal by-products
- Decision No 229/2015 on industrial emissions and integrated pollution prevention and control

Decision shaping

6. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 14 EU programmes and 18 agencies, of which 13 were regulatory agencies and five executive agencies.

7. Since the last EEA Council, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of EEA EFTA Comments on the following subjects, to which the EU side has provided oral and/ or written reactions:

- Internal Market Strategy for Goods and Services
- Better Regulation Package

Briefings in the Joint Committee

8. Briefings on the following subjects were provided in the EEA Joint Committee:

- Capital controls in Greece
- Capital controls in Iceland
- Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) negotiations

Status of outstanding issues

9. The discussions on the following issues have not yet been concluded:
- the Regulations establishing the European Supervisory Authorities, and related pieces of legislation in the field of financial services,
 - the Directive on the Deposit Guarantee Scheme,
 - the Third Package for the Internal Energy Market,
 - the remaining part of the 2009 TELECOM package, including the Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC),
 - the Third Postal Directive,
 - the Regulation on Medicinal Products for Paediatric Use,
 - the Marine Strategy Framework Directive,
 - the Offshore Safety Directive,
 - the EU legal acts in the area of organic production.

The Joint Committee has reiterated its determination to work towards the rapid conclusion of these issues.

Financial Mechanisms

10. For the period 2009-2014, 993.5 million euro (including Croatia) has been set aside under the EEA Financial Mechanism and an additional 804,6 million euro (including Croatia) under the Norwegian Mechanism to contribute to reducing economic and social disparities in 16 EU countries in Central and Southern Europe and to strengthening bilateral relations.
11. Programmes and projects under both Mechanisms may be implemented until 2016. By 1st May 2014, all of the 150 programmes had been approved by the donors. The Commission has given its consent to all programmes.

12. The draft Protocol 38c to the EEA Agreement on a continuation of the EEA Financial Mechanism for the 2014-2021 period was initialled on 17 July 2015 and the agreement on the text of draft Protocol 38c as well as of the Agreement on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 will be confirmed by an exchange of letters
-