



Council of the
European Union

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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2016/...

of

**on the conclusion of the Agreement
between the European Union,
Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway
on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021,
the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union
on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021,
the Additional Protocol to the Agreement
between the European Economic Community
and the Kingdom of Norway,
and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement
between the European Economic Community and Iceland**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 217, in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Having regard to the consent of the European Parliament¹,

¹ OJ C ...

Whereas:

- (1) The alleviation of economic and social disparities within the European Economic Area remains necessary. In view of that, a new mechanism for the financial contributions of the EEA EFTA States and a new Norwegian financial mechanism should be established.
- (2) On 7 October 2013, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations with Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an agreement on the future financial contributions of the EEA EFTA States to economic and social cohesion in the European Economic Area.
- (3) The EEA Financial Mechanism (2014-2021) and the Norway Grants (2014-2021) will contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.
- (4) The replacement of the existing financial mechanisms by new mechanisms, which relate to different time periods, different amounts of funds, and different implementing provisions, as well as the renewal and extension of the concessions relating to certain fish and fisheries products, taken as a whole, constitute an important development of the association with the EEA EFTA States, which justifies the recourse to Article 217 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

- (5) The Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland were signed in Brussels on (...)*. Those Agreements and Protocols should be approved on behalf of the Union,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

* OJ: Please insert the date of signature.

Article 1

The Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland are hereby approved on behalf of the Union.¹

Article 2

The President of the Council shall designate the person(s) empowered to deposit, on behalf of the Union, the instruments of approval provided for in Article 3 of the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, Article 11 of the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, Article 5 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland.

¹ The Agreements and the Additional Protocols have been published in [OJ...] together with the decision on signature.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on¹

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President

¹ The date of entry into force of the Agreement will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* by the General Secretariat of the Council.