

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

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Brussels
5 Annexes

25TH MEETING OF THE EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

European Parliament, Brussels

Room ASP 5E-2

Tuesday, 22 November 2005, 15.00 – 18.30

Wednesday, 23 November 2005, 09.00 – 12.30

Minutes

Opening of the meeting

1. The Vice-President of the EEA JPC, Ms Wallis, opened the meeting and welcomed in particular the new members of the Norwegian delegation, Mr Hansen, Ms Dāvøy, Ms Agdestein, Mr Hagesætter, Mr Brende and Ms Jensen, and the two new members of the Icelandic delegation, Mr Benediktsson and Ms Gísladóttir.
2. Ms Wallis then welcomed the new Chairman of the Norwegian delegation and the new President of the EEA JPC, Mr Hansen, for the remainder of the calendar year. Before giving the floor to Mr. Hansen, Ms Wallis paid tribute to Mr Høglund, the outgoing President. Mr Høglund thanked the Committee members for a very fruitful cooperation.
3. The meeting was co-chaired by the President and the Vice-President.

Adoption of the Draft Agenda (1057887)

4. The draft agenda was adopted.

Approval of the minutes of the 24th meeting of the EEA JPC (1057956)

5. The draft minutes from the meeting of the EEA JPC, 24-26 April 2005, were adopted.

Development of the EEA Agreement and follow up to resolutions adopted at the 24th Meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee

Statements by

- **H.S.H. Prince Nikolaus of LIECHTENSTEIN, President-in-Office of the EEA Joint Committee and representing the President-in-Office of the EEA Council,**
- **Mr Michael ARON, Political Counsellor, representing the EU President of the EEA Council,**
- **Mr Mathias Brinkmann, representing the EU President of the EEA Joint Committee,**
- **Mr Einar Bull, President of the EFTA Surveillance Authority**

6. Prince Nikolaus gave a summary of the conclusions of the latest EEA Council, held in November 2005. He equally recalled the EEA EFTA states' participation in EEA related agencies and underlined that the latest EU enlargement had proven to be a success and was convinced that the same should apply to the future accession of Romania and Bulgaria. He informed the EEA JPC of the Financial Mechanisms and highlighted the positive developments as regards EU's Better regulation initiative, which the EEA EFTA states supported, and the European Neighbourhood Policy, which the EEA EFTA states regarded positively. The speaker concluded his intervention by drawing attention to the Report of the EEA JPC on the adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005.

7. In his statement, Mr Aron said that the EEA continued to function well and mentioned the benefits all members of the EEA enjoyed through the flanking and horizontal policies. He welcomed the Financial Mechanism and noted the positive participation in the new EU member states. Mr Aron also noted the speedy inclusion of EEA legislation in the EEA EFTA states and welcomed the regular inputs Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway made in the consultation process.

8. Mr Brinkmann highlighted recent developments in the EEA and said that the EEA continued to function well after the enlargement in 2004. He highlighted the issues of EEA EFTA participation in EU agencies and expressed his satisfaction with the EEA EFTA support for the European Neighbourhood Policy.

9. Mr Bull put an emphasis on the most recently published EEA scoreboard and expressed his satisfaction that the EEA EFTA states continued to do well and the number of open cases in the three EEA EFTA states was modest. He highlighted among other things the issues of state aid and the monopoly of gambling in Norway.

10. In the following debate Mr Thórdarson, Ms Wallis, Mr Brende, Ms Dávøy and Mr Høglund discussed the right of the EEA EFTA states to participate in EU committees, the Northern dimension, the European Neighbourhood policy, the Financial Mechanism and the EEA scoreboard with representatives of the Council, Joint Committee and ESA.

New environmental legislation and the EEA

- **Presentation of a working document (1053256)**
- **vote on a draft resolution**

**Co-rapporteurs: Mr Gudlaugur Thor THÓRDARSON
(Independence Party, Iceland)
Ms Dagmar ROTH-BEHRENDT (PES, Germany)**

11. Mr Thórdarson introduced the working paper underlining that to a large extent this was the same document as was presented to the Committee at the last meeting. He said that there had been hopes to present a report/resolution but due to time constraints this had unfortunately not been possible. Mr Thórdarson also introduced a draft resolution based on the working paper and emphasised that the intention with the resolution text was to reach a compromise between the different views within the EEA JPC.

12. The Presidency proposed that due to the time constraints, the members of the EEA JPC would study the resolution text and that oral amendments would be allowed.

Consideration of the draft report on *The adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005* (1057840)

**Co-rapporteurs: Mr Morten HØGLUND (Progress Party, Norway)
Ms Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, Sweden)**

13. Mr Høglund introduced the draft report and resolution, followed by Ms Hedkvist-Petersen's comments. One amendment had been tabled by Ms Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou on the EEA EFTA States' continued contribution to the social and economic cohesion of the EU. The amendment was debated and changed with an oral subamendment.

Free Movement of Services in the EEA – the Services directive

- **Presentation of a working document (1060366)**
- **Adoption of a draft statement**

Rapporteur: Ms Diana WALLIS (ALDE, UK)

14. Ms Wallis introduced the working document and said that although the Committee had decided at its last meeting to introduce a report/resolution at the 25th meeting, the Services directive had yet to be revised in the European Parliament and as the matter stood, the outcome was still unclear. However, it was assumed that a revised directive would be presented within a short time frame and the Committee would revert to the issue at its next meeting.

15. Ms Wallis then introduced a draft statement of the EEA JPC on the Services directive which was adopted unanimously by the Committee.

Vote on the draft resolutions

16. The resolution on *The adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005* (1057840) as amended was adopted unanimously.

Members of the Committee debated the resolution on *New Environmental legislation and the EEA*. Mr Thórdarson suggested that paragraph G would be withdrawn and Mr Brende introduced an oral amendment, adding a new paragraph. Both amendments were agreed to. The resolution, as amended, was adopted unanimously.

Future work of the EEA JPC

17. The Presidency informed members of the EEA JPC of the discussions in the meeting of the Bureau. The Bureau proposed to start work to draft reports/resolutions on the following three topics: The Annual report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2005; the implementation of EEA legislation; and, the High North: Natural resources and the Environment.

18. The Committee agreed to the proposed reports/resolutions and proposed to keep the issue of the EU ban on the use of Fishmeal and the Services directive on the EEA JPC agenda in 2006.

Elections of the President and Vice-President of the EEA JPC for 2006

19. According to the rules of procedure the EU side would hold the Presidency of the EEA JPC and the EFTA side would have the Vice-Presidency. The Committee elected Ms Wallis as President of the EEA JPC for the year 2006.

20. The Presidency also informed the Committee that Mr Heeb who would be elected MPS Chairman on 29 November 2005 in Geneva, would be nominated as the EEA JPC Vice-President.

Any other business

22. Ms Wallis drew the Committee's attention to that a joint meeting between EEA EFTA Foreign Ministers and the EP Committee on Foreign Affairs was planned in 2006, with the participation of the Swiss Foreign Minister.

Next meeting

23. Mr Hansen invited members to the next and 26th meeting of the EEA JPC in Northern Norway on 22-24 May 2006.

Joint meeting with the Internal Market and Consumer Affairs Committee

24. The joint meeting between the EEA JPC and the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Affairs Committee (IMCO) took place after IMCO had voted on the revised Services directive. The meeting provided the Committee members with an important platform to express views on the Services directive in general and the outcome of the vote of the previous day, in particular. Mr Whitehead, President of IMCO, presided over the meeting and welcomed the participation of the EEA JPC.

25. The President of the EEA JPC, Mr Hansen, expressed his gratitude to members of IMCO for meeting the EEA JPC at such an important time. He then informed members of IMCO of the EEA EFTA States and their high level of integration in the Internal market. He said that the Services directive was equally important for stakeholders in the EEA EFTA states as to EU stakeholders and that the issue went to the core of the EEA Agreement. He then highlighted that services had been lagging far behind other sectors in the Internal Market. Services represented a crucial part of the economic activities in Europe but due to barriers, trade in services constituted only around 20% of the cross-border trade within the Internal Market. He underscored the need to ensure the social protection of workers and said that the EEA EFTA States would follow developments. Mr Hansen also raised the issue of better regulation which had great EEA relevance and implications for the EEA EFTA States.

26. In her intervention, Ms Wallis welcomed the joint meeting between the two Committees at such an important time and said that it proved very valuable to members of the EEA JPC to participate in the workings of the European Parliament. The Services directive was to be implemented in the EEA and it was important for members of the European Parliament to hear the views from the three EEA EFTA States.

27. In the lively debate that followed, Mr Brende, Mr Janowski, Ms Wallis and Mr Hansen as well as several members of IMCO participated.

28. In their concluding remarks the Presidencies of both Committees agreed that the meeting had been very successful and accordingly agreed that the precedent created should be repeated.

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25TH MEETING OF THE EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

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Room ASP 5E-2

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Draft Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Draft Agenda (1057887)
3. Approval of the minutes of the 24th meeting of the EEA JPC (1057956)
4. Development of the EEA Agreement and follow up to resolutions adopted at the 24th Meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee

Statements by

- H.S.H. Prince Nikolaus of LIECHTENSTEIN, President-in-Office of the EEA Joint Committee and representing the President-in-Office of the EEA Council,
- Mr Michael ARON, Political Councillor, representing the EU President of the EEA Council,
- Mr Matthias Brinkmann, Representing the EU President of the EEA Joint Committee,
- Mr. Einar Bull, President of the EFTA Surveillance Authority

followed by an exchange of views

5. Consideration of the draft report on *The adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005* (1057840)

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Morten HØGLUND (Progress Party, Norway)
 Ms Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, Sweden)

followed by an exchange of views

6. *New environmental legislation and the EEA*
- Presentation of a Working Document (1060523)

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Gudlaugur Thor THORDARSON (Independence
Party, Iceland)
Ms Dagmar ROTH-BEHRENDT (PES, Germany)

Exchange of views

7. *The free movement of services in the EEA – the services directive*
- Presentation of a Working Document (1060366)

Rapporteur: Ms Diana WALLIS (ALDE, UK)

- Exchange of views

8. Vote on the draft resolutions
9. Future work of the EEA JPC
10. Elections of the President and Vice-President of the EEA JPC for 2006
11. Any other business
12. Next meeting

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List of Participants

Iceland

Mr. Gundlaugur Thór Thórdarson	Independence Party
Ms. Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir	Social Democratic Alliance
Mr. Bjarni Benediktsson	Independence Party

Liechtenstein

Mr. Franz J. Heeb	Progressive Citizen's Party
Mr. Henrik Caduff	Patriotic Union Party

Norway

Mr. Svein Roald Hansen (President)	Labour Party
Ms. Laila Dævøy	Christian Democratic Party
Ms. Marianne Aasen Agdestein	Labour Party
Mr. Morten Høglund	Progress Party
Mr. Gjermund Hagesætter	Progress Party
Mr. Børge Brende	Conservative Party

European Parliament

Ms. Diana Wallis (Vice-President)	Member of the European Parliament, ALDE, United Kingdom
Ms. Ewa Hedkvist Petersen	Member of European Parliament, PES, Sweden
Ms. Etelka Barsi Pataky	Member of the European Parliament, EPP-ED, Hungary
Ms. Marie Panayotopoulos	Member of the European Parliament, EPP-ED, Greece
Ms. Nina Skottová	Member of the European Parliament, EPP-ED, Czech Republic
Ms. Catherine Stihler	Member of the European Parliament, PES, United Kingdom
Mr Wolf Klinz	Member of the European Parliament, ALDE, Germany
Mr Timothy Kirkhope	Member of the European Parliament, EPP-ED, United Kingdom

Observers

Iceland

Mr Jón Gunnarsson	Social Democratic Alliance
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Switzerland

Mr Erwin Jutzet	Social Democratic Party
Mr Felix Muri	Swiss Peoples's Party
Mr Hans Ulrich Mathys	Swiss People's Party
Ms Kathy Riklin	Christian Democratic Party
Mr René Vaudroz	Radical Democratic Party
Mr Mario Fehr	Social Democratic Party

Mr Peter Briner

Radical Democratic Party

EEA Consultative Committee

Mr. Jon Vea

Confederation of Norwegian
Business and Industry (NHO)

Mr. Leif E. Nielsen

Federation of Danish Cooperatives

EFTA Secretariat

Mr. Harald Nybølet

Head of Unit

Mr. Andri Lúthersson

Officer

Ms. Margrethe Saxegaard

Officer

Ms. Jannicke Witsø

Temporary officer

European Parliament Secretariat

Mr. Henrik Olsen

Head of Secretariat

Ms. Emma Mollet

Administrative Assistant

Secretaries of EFTA Delegations

Ms. Arna G. Bang

Iceland

Ms. Gunilla Kranz

Liechtenstein

Mr. Christian Syse

Norway

Ms. Aud Loen

Norway

Ms. Céline Nerny

Switzerland

Speakers & Guests

H.S.H. Prince Nikolaus of Liechtenstein

President-in-Office of the EEA Joint
Committee and representing the
President-in-Office of the EEA
Council

Mr Matthias Brinkmann

Representing the EU President of
the EEA Joint Committee

Mr Michael Aron

Representing the EU President of
the EEA Council

Mr Einar Bull

President of the EFTA Surveillance
Authority

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A
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25th MEETING

22 - 23 November 2005, Brussels

RESOLUTIONS

Adopted pursuant to Rules 11 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure,
at the 25th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee

in Brussels, 22 - 23 November 2005

Resolution on ***The adopted resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005***

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Morten HØGLUND (Progress Party, Norway)
 Ms Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PES, Sweden)

adopted unanimously

Resolution on ***New environmental legislation and the EEA***

adopted unanimously

RESOLUTION

On the resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000 - 2005

Recommendations for action of the EEA JPC itself:

- The JPC shall provide an annual report on its resolutions, outlining the direct requests for action and indicating the status with regards to the compliance of the stated goal. This report, which should be brief and easily comprehensible, should also touch upon outstanding issues from previous years, aiming to provide a continually updated overview of the work of the EEA JPC and its impact;
- The JPC shall, in addition to the current recipients, forward its adopted resolutions and reports to any party which is subject to a recommendation in a resolution, or is called upon in a way which requires follow up;
- The JPC shall assess the decision-shaping opportunity of the EEA EFTA States in the EEA and furthermore look closely at how to optimise their influence on EEA relevant decision-shaping in the future.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. monitoring developments in the EU and its institutions which might affect the EEA Agreement,
- B. underlining the fruitful cooperation between parliamentarians in the EEA, and the good relations between the JPC and the Joint Committee,
- C. mindful of its role as a contributor to a better understanding between the Community and EFTA States in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement, as having a democratic parliamentary control function, as having the right to scrutinize all EC legislation applying to the EEA as well as its implementation and to make direct recommendations,
- D. having adopted 23 resolutions between 2000 and the first half of 2005 on a wide variety of issues having bearing on the EEA Agreement and the functioning of the Single Market,
 - 1. Welcomes the note taken of the EEA JPC resolutions during the past five years by the appropriate bodies, and the written statements by the President-in-Office of the EEA Council and the Joint Committee which are provided at every JPC meeting;
 - 2. Welcomes the progress made on many matters raised by the JPC;

3. Expresses concern over lack of progress of some recommendations made repeatedly, namely the supplementary protection certificates for medicinal products and the .eu top level domain;
4. Reiterates its call on the contracting parties to find a solution with regards to EEA EFTA participation in the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and with regards to the simplification of decision-making procedures for EEA EFTA participation in EU programmes;
5. Welcomes the reduced backlog with regards to transposition of legislation into the EEA Agreement;
6. Regrets, in the name of transparency, the negative response received by the EU with regards to the EEA JPC request for the participation of the EEA JPC President and Vice-President in the EEA Council meetings, and urges the EEA EFTA parliaments to continue its work towards this end;
7. Notes that the opportunity for EEA EFTA States to influence decision-shaping in an enlarging Internal Market is a real challenge which requires a coherent and rational approach, and urges the EEA EFTA States to take full advantage of their opportunity to influence decision-shaping at an early stage in the decision-making procedure;
8. Urges the Joint Committee to provide regular briefings on developments in the EU, and the possible impact on the EEA Agreement, in particular the relaunched Lisbon Strategy and the European Neighbourhood Policy;
9. Encourages the EEA EFTA States to continue to contribute and participate financially to the social and economic cohesion of the EU.
10. Calls upon the contracting parties to ensure homogeneity in the EEA, especially in view of future enlargements of the EEA;
11. With reference to the enhanced role of the European Parliament in EU decision-making, calls on the EEA Council to confer more closely with the JPC on issues of particular concern in the EEA context;
12. Is concerned about the increased backlog when it comes to translation of legal acts, warns that an inadequate response by the relevant parties might affect the harmonisation of EEA legislation and calls upon the EEA EFTA States to improve their administrative procedures in order to ameliorate the situation.

E U R O P E A N E C O N O M I C A R E A

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C O M M I T T E E

RESOLUTION

New environmental legislation and the EEA

The Joint Parliamentary Committee of the European Economic Area:

- A. Acknowledging that nature and pollution see no boundary;
- B. Acknowledging that environmental protection is an essential element of sustainable growth; acknowledging that the European Union is a main initiator of environmental protection measures internationally;
- C. Acknowledging that the European Community should promote a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
- D. Acknowledging the instrumental role the European Parliament has played in strengthening environmental protection;
- E. Noting that the Lisbon agenda and the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU aim at increasing wealth in a manner that respects and enhances social progress and environmental protection;
- F. Acknowledging that environment is a horizontal area according to the EEA agreement part V;
- G. Noting with concern that the marine environment is currently subject to a variety of threats, ranging from the loss or degradation of biodiversity and changes in its structure, loss of habitats, contamination by dangerous substances and nutrients and possible future effects of climate change. If not addressed these threats and pressures will put at risk the generation of wealth and employment opportunities derived from oceans and seas;
- H. Acknowledging the importance of REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals) becoming the new EU regulatory framework for chemicals.
- I. Noting that the objective of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC is to establish a Community framework for the protection of inland surface waters,

transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater, in order to prevent and reduce pollution, promote sustainable water use, protect the aquatic environment, improve the status of aquatic ecosystems and mitigate the effects of floods and droughts;

- J. Noting with interest that the EU, through the Greenhouse gas emission Directive 2003/87/EC, has developed the world's largest company-level scheme for trading in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂).
1. Welcomes the strategic approach the EU has taken with its sixth action programme for the environment;
 2. Urges the EEA EFTA States to use actively their rights to access the Commission's early deliberations on legislative proposals in the field of Environment, in order to ensure that EFTA views are known and taken into account in the Commission's consultation processes;
 3. Welcomes the *Thematic Strategy on the Prevention and Recycling of Waste* which aims to further develop waste management policy, targeting environmental impact in a proportionate manner based on life-cycle thinking.
 4. Welcomes the *Thematic Strategy on the Conservation and Protection of the Marine Environment* which aims to ensure that all European marine waters are environmentally healthy by 2021 and integrating existing and proposed policies for the different uses and users of the marine environment.
 5. Welcomes the proposal for a new EU regulatory framework for chemicals (REACH).

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STATEMENT ON THE SERVICES DIRECTIVE

Brussels, 23 November 2005

Welcomes in general terms the aims of the proposed Directive on Services in respect of its potential contribution towards the functioning of the Internal Market and the attainment of the Lisbon goals.

Expresses the hope that the form of the Directive eventually agreed by the EU legislative process will indeed attain the stated objectives.

Confirms its intention to continue to follow the ongoing legislative process.

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE

Press Statement

Brussels, 23 November 2005

Members of the European Parliament and Parliamentarians from Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein met in Brussels on 22-23 November 2005 for the 25th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee (EEA JPC).

Under the joint chairmanship of its President Svein Roald HANSEN, Member of the Norwegian Parliament, and Vice-President Diana WALLIS, Member of the European Parliament, the Joint Parliamentary Committee adopted unanimously two resolutions on the following topics:

The resolutions of the EEA JPC 2000-2005

Co-rapporteurs: Mr Morten HØGLUND (Progress Party, Norway) and Ms Ewa HEDKVIST PETERSEN (PSE, Sweden)

The EEA JPC urged the Joint Committee to provide regular briefings on developments in the EU, and the possible impact of the EEA Agreement, in particular the re-launched Lisbon Strategy and the European Neighbourhood Policy. Moreover, the EEA JPC urged the EEA EFTA States to take full advantage of their opportunity to influence decision-shaping at an early stage in the decision-making procedure. The Committee also called on the EEA Council to confer more closely with the EEA JPC on issues of particular concern in the EEA context.

New environmental legislation and the EEA

The EEA JPC noted that the Lisbon agenda and the Sustainable Development Strategy of the EU aim at increasing wealth in a manner that respects and enhances social progress and environmental protection. The Committee noted with concern that the marine environment is currently being subject to a variety of threats and if not addressed these threats and pressures will put at risk the generation of wealth and employment opportunities derived from oceans and seas.

The EEA JPC also had a joint meeting with the European Parliament Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (IMCO) where it had a fruitful debate on the

Services Directive. It was agreed that similar joint meetings could be held in the future on the Internal market and the EEA.

Following a constructive debate in the JPC, the Committee adopted unanimously a statement on the Services Directive welcoming in general terms the aims of the proposed Directive on Services in respect of its potential contribution towards the functioning of the Internal Market and the attainment of the Lisbon goals. The JPC expressed the hope that the form of the Directive eventually agreed by the EU legislative process will indeed attain the stated objectives and confirmed its intention to continue to follow the ongoing legislative process.

Prince Nikolaus of LIECHTENSTEIN, President-in-Office of the EEA Council, Matthias BRINKMANN, representing the European Commission, Michael ARON, representing the UK Presidency of the EU Council and Einar BULL, President of the EFTA Surveillance Authority briefed the JPC on the functioning and development of the EEA Agreement.

Members of the Swiss Parliament attended the meeting as observers.

The next EEA JPC meeting is scheduled to take place in Norway on 22-24 May 2006.

The adopted resolutions and the statement are attached.

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