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LEGISLATIVE ACTS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Subject: COUNCIL DECISION on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Govsatcom and Secure Connectivity)

COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/...

of ...

**on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union
within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment
to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement
on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms
(Govsatcom and Secure Connectivity)**

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 189(2), in conjunction with Article 218(9), thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 of 28 November 1994 concerning arrangements for implementing the Agreement on the European Economic Area¹, and in particular Article 1(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

¹ OJ L 305, 30.11.1994, p. 6, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1994/2894/oj>.

Whereas:

- (1) The Agreement on the European Economic Area² (the ‘EEA Agreement’) entered into force on 1 January 1994.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 98 of the EEA Agreement, the EEA Joint Committee is able to amend, inter alia, Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms.
- (3) It is appropriate to extend the participation rights of EEA EFTA States, as agreed by the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement in Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 319/2021 of 29 October 2021, to the Governmental Satellite Communication (GOVSATCOM) component of the Union Space Programme and to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to include Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council³.
- (4) Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be adopted on the Union’s behalf within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

² OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_international/1994/1/oj.

³ Regulation (EU) 2023/588 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2023 establishing the Union Secure Connectivity Programme for the period 2023-2027 (OJ L 79, 17.3.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/588/oj>).

Article 1

The position to be adopted on the Union's behalf within the EEA Joint Committee concerning the proposed amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms shall be based on the draft decision of the EEA Joint Committee attached to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at ..., ...

For the Council
The President
