

EEE 1601/21

REPORT

Subject: Progress report of the EEA Joint Committee

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has up to 23 April adopted 226 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 365 legal acts since the Informal meeting of the Members of the EEA Council on 18 November 2020. In the period from 1 January to 23 April 2021, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 157 JCDs incorporating 271 legal acts. This number includes four decisions incorporating three acts which were adopted by written procedure on 3 and 15 March 2021. In comparison, during the period from 1 January to 30 April 2020, 64 JCDs incorporating 136 legal acts were adopted.
2. As of 12 May 2021, there were 557 legal acts outstanding where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 559 acts on 30 October 2020. Since October 2020 therefore, the overall number of legal acts outstanding remained stable.
3. As of 12 May 2021, the number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements where the six-month period had expired was 22, compared to 24 on 30 October 2020.

4. Important decisions incorporated since the informal meeting of the Members of the EEA Council on 18 November 2020, include:
- Decision No 179/2020 on Animal Health Law
 - Decisions No 204-207/2020 on Electricity Network Codes
 - Decision No 224/2020 on exceptional measures for the third reference period of the single European sky performance and charging scheme due to COVID-19
 - Decisions 237-243/2020 incorporating 12 acts relating to the end of the United Kingdom's transition period, in the fields of sanitary and phytosanitary requirements (SPS), organic products, transport and financial services
 - Decision No 50/2021 in the field of Financial Services, amending the European Market Infrastructure Regulation (EMIR)
 - Decision No 53/2021 in the field of Financial Services relating to European Venture Capital Funds (EuVECA), European Social Entrepreneurship Funds (EuSEF), Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) and Alternative Investment Funds (AIFMs)
 - Decision No 66/2021 incorporating two urgent COVID-19 measures in the field of transport
 - Decision No 68/2021 relating to State Aid, prolonging the period of application and a time-bound derogation for undertakings in difficulty to take into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Decisions No 88-90/2021 incorporating three urgent COVID-19 measures, two in the field of transport and one in the field of veterinary and phytosanitary matters
 - Decision No 158/2021 in the field of environment, on mercury

Decision shaping

5. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 15 EU programmes and 22 agencies, of which 17 are decentralised agencies, and five executive agencies.
6. Since the last EEA Council, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of EEA EFTA Comments on the following subjects:
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the European Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Evaluation of the Postal Services Directive
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Review of the Construction Products Regulation
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Farm to Fork Strategy
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the revision of the Eurovignette Directive

Briefings in the Joint Committee

7. In the period from 18 November 2020 to 28 May 2021 the EEA Joint Committee has received briefings on:
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the European Strategy for Sustainable and Smart Mobility
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Evaluation of the Postal Services Directive
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Review of the Construction Products Regulation
 - EEA EFTA Comment on the Farm to Fork Strategy

Status of issues outstanding

8. The discussions on the following issues have not yet been concluded:
- Directive on the energy performance of buildings
 - Directive on energy efficiency
 - Directive establishing a single European railway area and related acts (the Railway Package, recast)
 - Regulation on the European Union for Railways and related acts (the 4th railway package)
 - Regulation on common rules in the fields of civil aviation and establishing a European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
 - Regulation on common rules and standards for ship inspection survey organizations and related acts (the Ship Inspection Package)
 - Directive concerning the provision of audiovisual media services (Audiovisual Media Services Directive)
 - Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
 - Directive on Tobacco Products
9. The Joint Committee has reiterated its determination to work towards the rapid conclusion of these issues.

Financial Mechanisms

10. The Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021 amounts to total contributions of 1548.1 and 1253.7 million euro, respectively. As of December 2020, Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
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