

EEE 1605/20

REPORT

Subject: Progress report of the EEA Joint Committee

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has adopted 107 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 140 legal acts since the Informal meeting of Members of the EEA Council of 25 May 2020. In the period from 1 January to 23 October 2020, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 170 JCDs incorporating 275 legal acts. This number includes 10 decisions incorporating 10 acts which were adopted by written procedures on 3 April, 18 June and 6 August 2020. In comparison, during the period from 1 January to 25 October 2019, 260 JCDs incorporating 593 legal acts were adopted.
2. As of 30 October 2020, there were 559 legal acts outstanding where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 431 acts on 1 November 2019. Since November 2019 therefore, the overall number of legal acts outstanding has increased by around 30%.
3. As of 30 October 2020, the number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements where the six-month period had expired was 24, compared to 18 in May 2020.

4. Important decisions incorporated since the informal meeting of the EEA Members include:
- 13 decisions incorporating 13 urgent COVID-19 measures, adopted by written procedure on 18 June 2020 (Decision Nos 88/2020-93/2020), in the EEA Joint Committee meeting on 14 July 2020 (Decision Nos 108/2020 and 113/2020), by written procedure on 6 August 2020 (Decision Nos 114/2020 and 115/2020) and at the EEA Joint Committee meeting on 25 September 2020 (Decision Nos 116/2020, 120/2020 and 134/2020);
 - Decision No 81/2020 in the field of financial services, ensuring transparency of information for investors;
 - Decision No 83/2020 on the implementation and functioning of the “.eu” top-level domain name;
 - Decision No 106/2020 on anti-money laundering;
 - Decision No 112/2020 amending the Emissions Trade System (ETS) Directive, which is an important tool for cost-effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
 - Decision No 131/2020 incorporating the 2011 Financial Conglomerates Directive (FICOD) intended to improve supplementary supervision of financial entities that are part of financial conglomerates in cross-border activities;
 - Decision No 136/2020 incorporating the Third Postal Directive.

Decision shaping

5. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 14 EU programmes and 22 agencies, of which 17 are decentralised agencies, and five executive agencies.
6. Since the last Informal meeting of the Members of the EEA Council, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of an EEA EFTA Comment on the following subject:
- EEA EFTA Comment on Artificial Intelligence and Data Strategy

Briefings in the Joint Committee

7. In the period from 25 May 2020 to 18 November 2020 the EEA Joint Committee has received briefings on:

- The EEA EFTA Comment on Artificial Intelligence and Data Strategy
- Europe's Digital Future

Status of issues outstanding

8. The discussions on the following issues have not yet been concluded:

- Ship Inspection and Survey Organizations
- The Regulation establishing the Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- The Single European Railway Area
- The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) Regulation
- Directives pertaining to Energy Efficiency and the Energy Performance of Buildings
- Regulations on electricity network codes
- The Tobacco Products Directive

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 4 November 2020, Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia.
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