

EEE 1606/24

REPORT

From: European Commission

Subject: Progress report of the EEA Joint Committee

Decision making

1. The EEA Joint Committee has adopted 137 Joint Committee Decisions (JCDs) incorporating 255 legal acts since the 58th meeting of the EEA Council on 28 May 2024. In the period from 1 January to 25 October 2024, the EEA Joint Committee has adopted 247 JCDs incorporating 469 legal acts. In comparison, during the period from 1 January to 27 October 2023, the EEA Joint Committee adopted 294 JCDs incorporating 542 legal acts.
2. As of 2 October 2024, there were 561 legal acts outstanding where the compliance date in the EU had passed, compared to 521 acts on 3 April 2024. Since May 2024, therefore, the overall number of legal acts outstanding has increased. Of the 561 legal acts outstanding on 2 October 2024, 194 acts are still in the early stages of the incorporation process, where the compliance date in the EU has passed less than six months ago.
3. As of 2 October 2024, the number of JCDs awaiting the fulfilment of constitutional requirements where the six-month period had expired was 23, compared to 26 JCDs on 3 April 2024.

4. Important decisions incorporated since the 58th meeting of the EEA Council on 28 May 2024 include:

- Decision No 145/2024 laying down a general framework for securitisation and creating a specific framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation (STS)
- Decision No 167/2024 on a reinforced role for the European Medicines Agency in crisis preparedness and management for medicinal products and medical devices
- Decision No 179/2024 on the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofund)
- Decision No 180/2024 on the European centre for disease prevention and control
- Decision No 181/2024 on serious cross-border threats to health
- Decision No 221/2024 on transparent and predictable working conditions in the European Union
- Decision No 222/2024 on minimum water requirements for water reuse
- Decision No 234/2024 on recycled plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foods, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2008
- Decision No 246/2024 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid granted to undertakings providing services of general economic interest

Decision shaping

5. The EEA EFTA States are participating in 15 EU programmes, and 17 decentralised agencies, as well as in activities of 6 executive agencies.

6. Since the last EEA Council on 28 May 2024, the EEA Joint Committee has taken note of the EEA EFTA Comment on the following subject:

- EEA EFTA Comment on 30 Years 30 States: Together for a Competitive and Resilient Europe

Briefings in the Joint Committee

7. In the period from 28 May 2024 to 25 November 2024 the EEA Joint Committee has received briefings on:

- The EFTA Task Force Report on “Cross-sectoral EU initiatives: the way ahead for the EEA”

Status of files outstanding

8. Discussions on the following files are ongoing:

Energy:

- Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency; Regulation (EU) 2017/460 establishing a network code on harmonised transmission tariff structures for gas; Regulation (EU) 2017/459 establishing a network code on capacity allocation mechanisms in gas transmission systems and repealing Regulation (EU) No 984/2013; Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks and Regulation (EU) 2015/703 establishing a network code on interoperability and data exchange rules; Directive (EU) 2018/2001 promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources; Directive (EU) 2018/844 amending the energy performance of buildings directive and the energy efficiency directive; Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators; Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (REMIT); Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration.

State Aid:

- Council Regulation (EU) No 734/2013 amending Regulation (EC) No 659/1999 laying down detailed rules for the application of Article 93 of the EC Treaty.

Food Chain:

- Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 on genetically modified food and feed (GM Food and Feed); Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2122 on personal consignments.

Transport:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/1199 on helicopter offshore operations (HOFO); Directive (EU) 2015/413 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 facilitating cross-border exchange of information on road-safety related traffic offences (CBE Directive).

Competition Policy:

- Directive (EU) 2019/1 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 to empower the competition authorities of the Member States to be more effective enforcers and to ensure the proper functioning of the internal market (“ECN+ Directive”); Directive 2014/104/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on certain rules governing actions for damages under national law for infringements of the competition law provisions of the Member States and of the European Union.

Financial Services:

- Directive 2014/49/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on deposit guarantee scheme (recast) – DSG III; Regulation (EU) 2019/2176 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 1092/2010 on European Union macro-prudential oversight of the financial system and establishing a European Systemic Risk Board (ESAs review (ESRB)); Regulation (EU) 2019/2099 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2019 amending Regulation (EU) No 648/2012 as regards the procedures and authorities involved for the authorisation of CCPs and requirements for the recognition of third-country CCPs.

Environment:

- Directive (EU) 2016/2284 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2016 on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants, amending Directive 2003/35/EC and repealing Directive 2001/81/EC.

Statistics:

- Regulation (EU) 2016/1952 of the European Parliament and of the Council 26 October 2016 on European statistics on natural gas and electricity prices and repealing Directive 2008/92/EC; Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1799 of 21 November 2018 on the establishment of a temporary direct statistical action for the dissemination of selected topics of the 2021 population and housing census geocoded to a 1 km² grid.

The Joint Committee has reiterated its determination to work towards the rapid conclusion of these issues.

Financial Mechanisms

9. On 12 September 2024, the Agreement on the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Agreement on the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2021-2028 were signed. On the same day, the two additional protocols on market access for fish between the EU and Norway, and between the EU and Iceland, were also signed. For the new period of the EEA and Norway Grants, the EEA EFTA States will contribute a total of 3.268 billion euros to 15 Beneficiary States in the EU.
10. The three priority areas for the period 2021-2028 are:
 - Green transition;
 - Democracy, rule of law and human rights;
 - Social inclusion and resilience.
11. For the period 2014-2021, the EEA and Norway Grants allocated a total of 2.8 billion euros. The period of eligibility for expenditures in projects under both Mechanisms ended in April 2024. The final date for eligibility for support under the Fund for bilateral relations is 30 April 2025.
