



Council of the
European Union

Brussels, 12 May 2026
(OR. en)

9204/26
ADD 1

**Interinstitutional File:
2026/0106 (NLE)**

**AELE 26
N 28
FL 10
ISL 17
MI 467
EMPL 114
SOC 257**

COVER NOTE

From: Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director

date of receipt: 12 May 2026

To: Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.: COM(2026) 192 annex

Subject: ANNEX to the Proposal for a 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 (Budget Line 07 20 03 01 - Social Security)

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 192 annex.

Encl.: COM(2026) 192 annex



Brussels, 12.5.2026
COM(2026) 192 final

ANNEX

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to the

Proposal for a

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

(Budget Line 07 20 03 01 - Social Security)

ANNEX

DRAFT DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE

No [...]

of [...]

amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”), and in particular Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) It is appropriate to continue the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement in Union actions funded from the general budget of the Union regarding the free movement of workers, coordination of social security schemes and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries.
- (2) Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2026,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In paragraphs 5 and 14 of Article 5 of Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, the words “financial years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025” are replaced by the words “financial years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026 and 2027”.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following the last notification under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2026.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels, .

For the EEA Joint Committee

The President

* [No constitutional requirements indicated.] [Constitutional requirements indicated.]

*The Secretaries
To the EEA Joint Committee*