



EFTA AND EEA PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES



The EFTA Parliamentary Committee is a forum for debate and democratic scrutiny of the EFTA countries' relations with the EU and of EFTA's trade relations with third countries. Members of the Committee are Parliamentarians from the four EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. The EFTA Parliamentary Committee functions as an advisory body within the EFTA structure. The work of the Committee provides EFTA with a valuable link to political life in each member country, and through its co-operation with parliamentarians in the European Union, the Committee also serves as a link between political life in the EU and in EFTA.

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

Informal exchanges of views and discussions between Parliamentarians from the various EFTA countries started back in 1963. These meetings were formalised in 1977 when the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA Countries was founded. Since 1981, regular meetings have taken place between the European Parliament and the Committee of Members of Parliament of EFTA Countries. With the entry into force of the EEA Agreement in 1994, these relations were institutionalised in the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee (EEA JPC).

Since the entry into force of the EEA Agreement in 1994, there have been two EFTA Parliamentary Committees: the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA States (MPS), which deals with EEA-related matters and forms the EFTA side of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), and the Committee of Members of Parliament of the EFTA Countries (CMP), which deals with all other matters, particularly relations with third countries. The CMP has up to five members from

the national Parliament of each EFTA country, while the MPS has six members from Norway, four from Iceland and two from Liechtenstein. Switzerland has observer status in the MPS. However, the CMP and MPS hold their meetings jointly and function practically as one.

ACTIVITIES

The Parliamentary Committee normally holds four meetings a year, in addition to the two customary joint meetings with EFTA Ministers. Annual meetings with the EFTA Consultative Committee ensure a fruitful exchange of views between Parliamentarians and Social Partners in the EFTA Member States.

The Committee attaches great importance to a number of issues related to the EEA, EFTA third-country relations and WTO matters. Members focus in particular on such issues as EU/EEA enlargement, the EU-Swiss Agreements, EU developments and their impact on the EEA. The Committee has visited parliaments in the Member States to promote the EEA and the Swiss – EU agreements.

MEMBERS OF THE EFTA PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Icelandic delegation

*Mr Gunnar Birgisson (CMP/MPS Chairman),
Independence Party*

Mr Birkir J. Jónsson, Progressive Party

*Ms Bryndis Hlödversdóttir, Social Democratic
Alliance*

*Mr Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson, Independence
Party*

Mr Lúdvík Bergvinsson, Social Democratic Alliance

Liechtenstein delegation

Mr Jürgen Zech, Progressive Citizen's Party

Mr Hugo Quaderer, Patriotic Union

Norwegian delegation

Mr Morten Høglund (CMP/IMPS Vice-Chairman),

Progress Party

Mr Vidar Bjørnstad, Labour Party

Ms Gunn Karin Gjøl, Labour Party

Ms Julie Christiansen, Conservative Party

Ms Heidi Sørensen, Socialist Left Party

Mr Ivar Østberg, Christian Democratic Party

Swiss delegation (observers in the MPS)

Mr Erwin Jutzet, Social-Democratic Party

Mr Eugen David, Christian-Democratic Party

Mr Peter Briner, Radical-Democratic Party

Mr Mario Fehr, Social-Democratic Party

Mr Hans Ulrich Mathys, Swiss People's Party

EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE (EEA JPC)

The task of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee is to contribute, through dialogue and debate, to a better understanding between the Community and the EFTA States in the fields covered by the EEA Agreement. The focus of the Committee is to scrutinise developments in the EU that have an impact on the functioning of the EEA Agreement. Its members have the right to put oral and written questions to the representatives of the EEA Council and the EEA Joint Committee. The EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee meets twice a year.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE EEA JPC 1999 – 2004

Draft Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2003

Rapporteurs: Mr Morten Høglund (Progressive Party, Norway) and Ms Diane Wallis (ELDR, the United Kingdom), 26 - 27 April 2004

Towards participatory democracy: the role of local and regional authorities in the EU and the EEA

Rapporteurs: Ms Erika Mann (PES, Germany) and Ms Bryndis Hlódversdóttir (Social Democratic Alliance, Iceland), 26 - 27 April 2004

Recommendation on the EU ban of CO gas in the packaging of fresh meat

Draftsman: Mr Morten Høglund (Progress Party, Norway), 26 - 27 April 2004

The Wider Europe and the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Birkir Jonsson (Progressive party, Iceland) and Ms Erika Mann (PES, Germany), 27 November 2003

The "Draft Constitution for Europe" and its implications for the EEA

Rapporteurs: Ms Diana Wallis (ELDR, the United Kingdom) and Mr Vidar Bjørnstad

(Labour Party, Norway), 27 November 2003

The Future of an enlarged Europe

Rapporteurs: Ms Diana Wallis (ELDR, the United Kingdom) and Mr Vidar Bjørnstad

(Labour Party, Norway), 20 May 2003

The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2002

Rapporteurs: Mr Gunnar Birgisson (Independence Party, Iceland) and Mr Gary Titley

(PES, United Kingdom), 20 May 2003

The Financial Services in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Johannes Blokland (EDD, the Netherlands) and Mr Jürgen Zech (Progressive Citizen's Party, Liechtenstein), 26 November 2002

The decision-shaping in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Ms Gunn Karin Gjøl (Labour Party, Norway) and Mr Gary Titley

(PES, the United Kingdom), 26 November 2002

The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2001

Rapporteurs: Mr Össur Skarphedinsson (The Alliance, Iceland) and Mr Markus Ferber (EPP-ED, Germany), 27 May 2002

Liberalisation of Energy markets in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Ms Marjo Matikainen-Kallström (EPP-ED, Finland) and Mr Vidar Bjørnstad (Labour Party, Norway), 27 May 2002

New Governance for the EU and its implications for the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Gary Titley (PES, the United Kingdom) and Mr Jürgen Zech (Progressive Citizens' Party, Liechtenstein), 16 October 2001

New Competition Policies in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Thorgerdur Gunnarsdóttir (Independence Party, Iceland) and Mr Markus Ferber (EPP-ED, Germany), 16 October 2001

EU Comitology and the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Vidar Bjørnstad (Labour Party, Norway) and Mr Markus Ferber (EPP-ED, Germany), 20 June 2001

The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2000

Rapporteurs: Mr Gary Titley (PES, the United Kingdom) and Mr Otto Büchel (Patriotic Union, Liechtenstein), 20 June 2001

E-commerce and EEA legislation

Rapporteurs: Ms Marjo Matikainen-Kallström (EPP-ED, Finland) and Mr Vilhjálmur Egilsson (Independence Party, Iceland), 27-28 November 2000

EFTA participation in EC programmes

Rapporteurs: Ms Siri Frost Sterri (Conservative Party, Norway) and Ms Toine Manders (ELDR, the Netherlands), 27-28 November 2000

The Annual Report on the functioning of the EEA Agreement in 1999

Rapporteurs: Mr Otto Büchel (Patriotic Union, Liechtenstein) and Mr Gary Titley (PES, the United Kingdom), 24-25 May 2000

Justice and Home Affairs and the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Markus Ferber (PPE-DE, Germany) and Mr Morten Lund (Centre Party, Norway), 24-25 May 2000

Homogeneity in the European Economic Area

Rapporteurs: Ms Kristinn H. Gunnarsson (Progressive Party, Iceland) and Mr Toine Manders (ELDR, the Netherlands), 24-25 May 2000

Food Safety in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Ms Grete Knudsen (Labour Party, Norway) and Ms Marjo Matikainen-Kallström (PPE, Finland), 16 March 1999

Consumer issues in the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Jonas Sjöstedt (GUE/NGL, Sweden) and Mr Alois Beck (Progressive Citizens' Party, Liechtenstein), 16 March 1999

The Enlargement of the EU and its effect on the EEA

Rapporteurs: Mr Sören Wibe (PSE, Sweden) and Mr Vilhjálmur Egilsson (Independence Party, Iceland), 16 March 1999

For more information about the EEA and EFTA Parliamentary Committees, please visit
<http://secretariat.efta.int/parliamentary>

