



Brussels, 24.5.2018
COM(2018) 357 final

2018/0185 (NLE)

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 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement

(Text with EEA relevance)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL

- **Reasons for and objectives of the proposal**

The draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee (annexed to the proposed Council Decision) aims at ensuring continuous cooperation with the EEA EFTA States (Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland) in the context of the European statistical programme 2013-17, which was extended to 2020 by Regulation (EU) 2017/1951¹.

The annexed draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee therefore suggests amending Protocol 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement accordingly.

The EEA EFTA States shall financially contribute to the EU budget for their participation in this programme. The position on this draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee shall therefore be established by the Council.

- **Consistency with existing policy provisions in the policy area**

The annexed draft Joint Committee Decision extends the already existing EU policy to the EEA EFTA States (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein).

- **Consistency with other Union policies**

The extension of the EU acquis to the EEA EFTA States, through their incorporation into the EEA Agreement is conducted in conformity with the objectives and principles of that Agreement, aiming at establishing a dynamic and homogeneous European Economic Area, based on common rules and equal conditions of competition.

2. LEGAL BASIS, SUBSIDIARITY AND PROPORTIONALITY

- **Legal basis**

The legislation to be incorporated into the EEA Agreement is based on Article 338(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

Article 1(3) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94² concerning arrangements for implementing the EEA Agreement provides that the Council establishes the position to be adopted on the Union's behalf on such Decisions, on a proposal from the Commission.

The Commission in cooperation with the EEAS submits the draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee for adoption by the Council as the Union's position. The Commission would hope to be able to present it in the EEA Joint Committee at the earliest possible opportunity.

- **Subsidiarity (for non-exclusive competence)**

The proposal complies with the subsidiarity principle for the following reason.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2020.

² OJ L 305, 30.11.1994, p. 6-8

The objective of this proposal, namely to ensure the homogeneity of the Internal Market, cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States and can therefore, by reason of the effects, be better achieved at Union level.

The process of incorporation of the EU acquis into the EEA Agreement is conducted in conformity with the Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 of 28 November 1994 concerning arrangements for implementing the Agreement on the European Economic Area which confirms the approach taken.

- **Proportionality**

In accordance with the principle of proportionality, this proposal does not go beyond what is necessary in order to achieve its objective.

- **Choice of the instrument**

In conformity with Article 98 of the EEA Agreement, the chosen instrument is the EEA Joint Committee decision. The EEA Joint Committee shall ensure the effective implementation and operation of the EEA Agreement. To this end, it shall take decisions in the cases provided for in the EEA Agreement.

3. RESULTS OF EX-POST EVALUATIONS, STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS AND IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- Not applicable

4. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS

In order to be in position to participate in the European statistical programme, the EEA EFTA States shall financially contribute to budget of the European Union. The exact amount shall be determined once this Council decision is adopted.

5. OTHER ELEMENTS

- Not applicable

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 338(1) in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 of 28 November 1994 concerning arrangements for implementing the Agreement on the European Economic Area³, and in particular Article 1(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) The Agreement on the European Economic Area⁴ ('the EEA Agreement') entered into force on 1 January 1994.
- (2) Pursuant to Article 98 of the EEA Agreement, the EEA Joint Committee may decide to amend, inter alia, Protocol 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement.
- (3) In order to ensure continuous cooperation with the EEA EFTA States in the area of statistics, Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁵ should be included in Protocol 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement.
- (4) Protocol 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly.
- (5) The position of the Union within the EEA Joint Committee should therefore be based on the attached draft decision,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be adopted, on behalf of the Union, within the EEA Joint Committee on the proposed amendment to Protocol 30 (on specific provisions on the organization of

³ OJ L 305, 30.11.1994, p. 6.

⁴ OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3.

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2017/1951 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 amending Regulation (EU) No 99/2013 on the European statistical programme 2013-17, by extending it to 2020.

cooperation in the field of statistics) to the EEA Agreement, shall be based on the draft decision of the EEA Joint Committee attached to this Decision.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council
The President*