

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**No 163/2003****of 7 November 2003****amending Protocol 30 to the EEA Agreement, on specific provisions on the organisation of cooperation in the field of statistics**

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, as amended by the Protocol adjusting the Agreement on the European Economic Area, hereinafter referred to as 'the Agreement', and in particular Article 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Protocol 30 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 99/2000 of 27 October 2000 ⁽¹⁾.
- (2) The EEA statistical programme is to be based on Decision No 2367/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 ⁽²⁾ and is to include those programme elements which are necessary for describing and monitoring all relevant economic, social and environmental aspects of the European Economic Area.
- (3) The EEA statistical programme is to take account of the provisions of Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community statistics ⁽³⁾.
- (4) Protocol 30 to the Agreement is therefore to be amended in order to allow for such extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2003,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Protocol 30 to the Agreement is amended as follows:

1. the following is inserted before paragraph 1:

'I. Statistical programme 1998 to 2002';

2. the following is inserted after paragraph 7:

'II. Statistical programme 2003 to 2007

1. A conference of representatives of national statistical organisations of the Contracting Parties, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the Office of the Statistical Adviser of the EFTA States (OSA EFTA) shall guide statistical cooperation and develop programmes and procedures for statistical cooperation in close coordination with those of the Community and monitor their implementation. This conference and the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) shall organise their tasks for the purposes of this Protocol in combined meetings known as the SPC/EEA Conference pursuant to specific Rules of Procedure to be established by the SPC/EEA Conference.

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 7, 11.1.2001, p. 29.

⁽²⁾ OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1.

2. The Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 as established by Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council Decision to which reference is made in paragraph 7 shall constitute the framework for the EEA statistical actions to be carried out between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007. All main fields and statistical themes of the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 shall be considered to be relevant for the EEA statistical cooperation and shall be open for full participation by the EFTA States.

From 1 January 2003, a specific EEA annual statistical programme shall be developed every year by the Office of the Statistical Adviser in consultation with the EFTA Heads of National Statistical Institutes Working Group. The EEA annual statistical programme shall be based on a subset of, and in parallel with the annual work programme elaborated by the Commission in accordance with the Council Decision referred to in paragraph 7.

3. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the cooperation in connection with the programmes and actions referred to in paragraph 2, participate fully without the right to vote in the Communities committees and other bodies, which assist the Commission of the European Community in the management or development of these programmes and actions.
4. Statistical information from EFTA States shall be transmitted from the EFTA States to Eurostat for storage, processing and dissemination. To this end, OSA EFTA shall work in close cooperation with the EFTA States and Eurostat in order to ensure that data from the EFTA States is transmitted properly and disseminated to the various user groups through the normal dissemination channels as part of the EEA statistics.

The handling of statistics from the EFTA States shall be governed by the Council Regulation referred to in paragraph 7.

5. From 1 January 2003, the EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement and the Financial Regulations thereto to an amount representing 75 per cent of the amount shown in budget headings B5-6 0 0 A and B5-6 0 0 B or successor article (Statistical information policy) entered in the Community budget.

The EFTA States shall defray the additional costs incurred by Eurostat for storing, processing and disseminating data from their countries in accordance with the relevant Memorandum of Understanding between the EFTA Secretariat and Eurostat concerning the EFTA contribution related to this paragraph.

The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the Community's overhead costs other than those incurred for storing, disseminating or processing data in accordance with Article 82(1)(b) of the Agreement.

6. A report assessing whether the objectives, priorities and actions planned during the period 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007 have been achieved, shall be produced and submitted to the SPC/EEA conference to which reference is made in paragraph 1 and to the EEA Joint Committee.
7. The following Community acts are the object of this Protocol:

— **397 R 0322**: Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics (OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1),

— **32002 D 2367**: Decision No 2367/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 (OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 1).'

Article 2

The list of committees agreed upon by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement and contained in the Agreed Minute to Protocol 30 of the negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and their Member States and the EFTA States on the European Economic Area shall be without prejudice to participation by the EFTA States in any other Community committee or body in accordance with paragraph 3 of Protocol 30 as amended by this Decision.

Article 3

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2003.

Article 4

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, 7 November 2003.

For the EEA Joint Committee

The President

HSH PRINZ NIKOLAUS von LIECHTENSTEIN

(*) Constitutional requirements indicated.