



Plenary sitting

A8-0072/2017

24.3.2017

RECOMMENDATION

on the draft Council decision on conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland
(06679/2016 – C8-0175/2016 – 2016/0052(NLE))

Committee on International Trade

Rapporteur: David Borrelli

Symbols for procedures

- * Consultation procedure
- *** Consent procedure
- ***I Ordinary legislative procedure (first reading)
- ***II Ordinary legislative procedure (second reading)
- ***III Ordinary legislative procedure (third reading)

(The type of procedure depends on the legal basis proposed by the draft act.)

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DRAFT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION

on the draft Council decision on conclusion of the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland (06679/2016 – C8 0175/2016 – 2016/0052(NLE))

(Consent)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the draft Council decision (06679/2016),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 (06956/16),
 - having regard to the draft Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021 (06957/16),
 - having regard to the draft Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway (06960/16),
 - having regard to the draft Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland (06959/16),
 - having regard to the request for consent submitted by the Council in accordance with Article 217 and Article 218(6), second subparagraph, point (a)(v) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (C8-0175/2016),
 - having regard to Rule 99(1) and (4) and Rule 108(7) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the recommendation of the Committee on International Trade (A8-0072/2017),
1. Gives its consent to conclusion of the agreements and protocols;
 2. Instructs its President to forward its position to the Council, the Commission and the governments and parliaments of the Member States and of the Kingdom of Norway, Republic of Iceland and Principality of Liechtenstein.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Agreement on the European Economic Area ('the EEA Agreement') allows Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein ('the EEA EFTA States') to participate fully in the single market.

The EEA goes beyond traditional free trade agreements by extending the full rights and obligations of the EU's single market to the EEA EFTA States. The EEA incorporates the four freedoms of the single market (free movement of goods, persons, services and capital) and related policies (competition, transport, energy and economic and monetary cooperation). The agreement includes horizontal policies strictly related to the four freedoms: social policies (including health and safety at work, labour law and the equal treatment of men and women); policies on consumer protection, the environment, statistics and company law; and a number of flanking policies, such as those relating to research and technological development, which are not based on the EU acquis or legally binding acts, but are implemented through cooperation activities.

In conjunction with this, since the entry into force of the EEA Agreement in 1994 and based on its article 115, these three countries have also contributed to the alleviation of economic and social disparities in the EEA. In addition, Norway has contributed through a separate Norwegian financial mechanism. The most recent financial mechanisms expired on 30 April 2014.

In view of the continued need to alleviate economic and social disparities within the European Economic Area, negotiations were conducted with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an agreement on the future financial contributions to be made by the EEA EFTA States towards improving economic and social cohesion in the European Economic Area. In parallel, but independently of the negotiations on the financial mechanism, a review of the EU-Iceland and EU-Norway fish trade protocols was opened on the basis of the revision clause of the additional protocols to the Free Trade Agreements with Norway and Iceland.

The negotiations led to the initialling on 17 July 2015 of:

- the Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021;
- the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the European Union on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021;
- the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway; and
- the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland.

The EEA Financial Mechanism Agreement and the Norway Agreement will together provide a financial contribution of the EEA EFTA States to the economic and social cohesion in the EEA of EUR 2.8 billion for the period 2014-2021. They will also allocate a certain amount of financial resources to tackling youth unemployment. This outcome means an overall increase

in the financial contribution of 11.3 % compared to the period 2009-2014.

The review of the EU-Iceland and EU-Norway fish trade protocols led to new concessions being granted to both countries for the period 2014-2021. These concessions essentially constitute a renewal of the concessions that were in place for the period 2009-2014 with a modest increase in the concessions for some tariff lines and/or a renewal of the previous concessions for other tariff lines. Norway will renew the fish transit arrangement for a seven-year period, starting from date when the new concessions come into provisional application.

In accordance with Article 218(6) TFEU, consent of the European Parliament is needed in order for the Council to adopt a decision concluding the agreements and additional protocols in question.

The rapporteur is of the view that the alleviation of economic and social disparities within the European Economic Area remains necessary. A new mechanism for the financial contributions of the EEA EFTA States and a new Norwegian financial mechanism should therefore be established.

The 2014-2021 EEA Financial Mechanism and Norway Grants, jointly amounting to 2.8 billion EUR, will significantly contribute to achieving the overall objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

In the light of the above, the rapporteur recommends that the Parliament gives its consent to the conclusion of the agreements and of the additional protocols.

PROCEDURE – COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

Title	Conclusion of the Agreement between the EU, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021, the Agreement between the Kingdom of Norway and the EU on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2014-2021, the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway and the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland	
References	06679/2016 – C8-0175/2016 – COM(2016)0086 – 2016/0052(NLE)	
Date of consultation / request for consent	11.5.2016	
Committee responsible Date announced in plenary	INTA 25.5.2016	
Committees asked for opinions Date announced in plenary	REGI 25.5.2016	
Not delivering opinions Date of decision	REGI 17.3.2016	
Rapporteurs Date appointed	David Borrelli 15.3.2016	
Discussed in committee	30.6.2016	28.2.2017
Date adopted	21.3.2017	
Result of final vote	+	32
	-	2
	0:	4
Members present for the final vote	William (The Earl of) Dartmouth, Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Maria Arena, Tiziana Beghin, David Borrelli, David Campbell Bannerman, Daniel Caspary, Salvatore Cicu, Marielle de Sarnez, Karoline Graswander-Hainz, Bernd Lange, David Martin, Emmanuel Maurel, Anne-Marie Mineur, Sorin Moisă, Franz Obermayr, Artis Pabriks, Franck Proust, Godelieve Quisthoudt-Rowohl, Viviane Reding, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, Tokia Saïfi, Matteo Salvini, Marietje Schaake, Joachim Schuster, Joachim Starbatty, Adam Szejnfeld, Hannu Takkula, Iuliu Winkler, Jan Zahradil	
Substitutes present for the final vote	Klaus Buchner, Agnes Jongerius, Stelios Kouloglou, Ramona Nicole Mănescu, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Jarosław Wałęsa	
Substitutes under Rule 200(2) present for the final vote	Philippe Loiseau, Jordi Solé	
Date tabled	24.3.2017	

FINAL VOTE BY ROLL CALL IN COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE

32	+
ALDE	Schaake Marietje, Takkula Hannu, Tremosa i Balcells Ramon, de Sarnez Marielle
ECR	Campbell Bannerman David, Starbatty Joachim, Zahradil Jan
EFDD	(The Earl of) Dartmouth William, Beghin Tiziana, Borrelli David
ENF	Loiseau Philippe
PPE	Andrikienė Laima Liucija, Caspary Daniel, Cicu Salvatore, Mănescu Ramona Nicole, Proust Franck, Quisthoudt-Rowohl Godelieve, Reding Viviane, Saïfi Tokia, Szejnfeld Adam, Winkler Iuliu
S&D	Arena Maria, Graswander-Hainz Karoline, Jongerius Agnes, Lange Bernd, Martin David, Maurel Emmanuel, Moisă Sorin, Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández Inmaculada, Schuster Joachim
VERTS/ALE	Buchner Klaus, Solé Jordi

2	-
GUE/NGL	Kouloglou Stelios, Mineur Anne-Marie

4	0
ENF	Obermayr Franz, Salvini Matteo
PPE	Pabriks Artis, Wałęsa Jarosław

CORRECTIONS TO VOTES AND VOTING INTENTIONS	
-	Loiseau Philippe

Key:

- + : in favour
- : against
- 0 : abstentions

