EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH SWITZERLAND, ICELAND, AND NORWAY AND TO THE EEA JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

EEA

MINUTES OF THE

MEETING

on

Thursday, 11 October 2007

BRUSSELS

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Annex: list of participants

The meeting opened at 15.10 with Mrs RAEVA in the Chair.

Members excused: Mrs STIHLER, Mr BONDE and Mrs WALLIS

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Due to other engagements, Mrs Wallis, co-rapporteur for the Working Document of the EEA and its Future perspectives (item 6), was not able to attend the meeting today. The item was carried over to the next meeting.

Mr Bonde, co-rapporteur on the Open Method of Coordination was excused and item 5 was postponed for the next meeting.
The draft agenda was adopted as modified.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2007 in Strasbourg

The minutes had been distributed to the members prior to the meeting.

The minutes were approved.

With a view to the 29th meeting of the EEA Joint Parliamentary Committee on 14-15 November 2007 in Strasbourg

3. Consideration of the draft programme and the draft agenda for the Joint Parliamentary Committee meeting

The Chair presented the Programme and the draft JPC agenda.

Re Programme
The EFTA members would arrive in Strasbourg on Tuesday 13 November in order to have meetings with their political "families" (political groups) in the EP.
The Secretary Generals of the Political Groups had been asked to invite the EFTA members to the Groups meetings on Tuesday afternoon and meet with the MEPs from their respective groups in the evening
Members of the SINEEA could contact their political groups on this matter in order to ensure that this arrangement would be a success.

The following morning, Wednesday, the EFTA members are to visit the Plenary.

Re Draft JPC agenda
Item 7: Commissioner BORG had been invited to address the JPC on EU maritime Policy. Mr BORG could not attend the JPC meeting in Vaduz in June and it would therefore be appropriate to have the Commission's evaluation of the Maritime Policy after the hearing procedure on this matter had been closed.

Item 11: The EP side will nominate the EEA JPC President (the chair of the EP delegation) for 2008 and the EFTA side the Vice President.

On the future work of the EEA JPC Mr JANOWSKI proposed to deal with the function of local/regional governments and the EEA, especially in the new member states. The Chair

proposed that the Committee of Regions and local authorities could be invited to be associated to the discussions on this matter.
Mr SAKALAS suggested to deal with the European integration and as a second topic to consider Romania's and Bulgaria's achievements within the EEA. The chair suggested that the ambassadors from Romania and Bulgaria could be invited to the discussion on this matter.
The Chair also reminded members, that the JPC should elaborate the report on the Annual Report on the Functioning of the EEA Agreement in 2007 for its spring meeting 2008 in Iceland.

The Chair would inform the Bureau of the EEA JPC about the proposals. The JPC Bureau would then make a final proposal to the JPC meeting in Strasbourg on possible reports/working documents to be considered at the spring meeting in Iceland.

Mr Alyn SMITH invited the delegation to Scotland to hold a meeting in the Scottish Parliament to discuss fisheries policies and maritime policy.
The Chair thanked Mr SMITH for the invitation and would investigate on the possibility of holding a meeting in Scotland.

4. Consideration of the draft report on *Energy policies/Climate change and the EEA*
EP Co-Rapporteur: Mr Paul RÜBIG

Mr RÜBIG, EP Co-rapporteur gave an oral introduction to the report. Following members intervened in the debate: Mr SAKALAS on consequences of the climate change, Mr Alyn SMITH on renewable energy, Mr JANOWSKI on energy/climate change, the Kyoto protocol and CO2 emissions and the question of deforestation.
Mr RÜBIG answered to questions from members and suggested that the EEA JPC could at one of its coming meetings discuss the "health systems" in the EEA.
The Chair underlined the important role of the local governments in the question of using renewable energy, which should also be interesting for the countries in the North. Cooperation with the Committee of Regions and with the neighbouring countries (Switzerland and Norway) could be of interest for the JPC .

5. Consideration of the draft report on *The Open Method of Coordination and the EEA*
EP Co-Rapporteur: Mr Jens-Peter BONDE

As Mr BONDE was excused, this item was postponed to the next delegation meeting on 24 Oct. in Strasbourg.

6. Working Document on *The EEA and its Future Perspectives*
EP Co-Rapporteur: Mrs Diana WALLIS

As Mrs WALLIS was excused, this item was postponed to next delegation meeting in Strasbourg on 24 October.

7. Any other business

Mr Paul RÜBIG had requested to raise the question of the EU-Switzerland relations under this item.

Background: There had been an intensive debate in (West-) Austria on Swiss laws in the economic sector. Mr RÜBIG had asked the Swiss ambassador, Mr Marfurt to provide him with a brief statement/opinion on the matter and Mr RÜBIG would therefore like to brief the Delegation on this matter. Due to lack of time this matter would be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Next meeting

The next delegation meeting will take place on for Wednesday 24 October at 17.30 in Strasbourg.

The meeting closed at 16.05.

ATTENDANCE LIST

Members

RAEVA (Chair) - SAKALAS (Vice-Chair) - RÜBIG - JANOWSKI - SMITH

Political Groups

HEISTER (EPP-ED) - PERRIN (PES) - KRINGS (ALDE) - MIJERCZYK (UEN)

Members' Assistants

VENCLUDE - GASTEIGER - GUEORGUIEVA

Invitees

HOLLNER (Commission) - KRITIKOS (Council) - LUTHERSSON (EFTA) - ODEGAARD and DJUPVIK (Norwegian Mission) - SCHULTZ (DG EXPO)

Secretariat

OLSEN - d'AGOSTO - MOLLET