



Agreement on the European Economic Area – Stakeholder reference group in Norway

The Agreement

- Parties: EU and its Member States & Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway



- The Agreement:
 - Trade and cooperation
 - Broader, deeper, more homogeneous and dynamic than other trade agreements
 - Common market, common rules, also on climate and environment
 - Main part: Main rules similar to provisions of the TFEU, no regular changes
 - Annexes & some of the Protocols: Detailed rules and regular changes, EU legislation basis, participation in its development but not its adoption
 - Joint Committee taking decisions on inclusion of and necessary adaptations to EU legislation and solving disputes if they arise
 - 2 institutional pillars with separate decision, surveillance and judiciary organs

Public information and participation in EEA decision-making in Norway

Main focus before JCD Decisions including EU legislation in EEA Agreement

Supplement to the regular public hearing processes that also apply to EEA matters (with some adjustments)

- The Government
 - Publicly accessible database with memo's describing new EU legislation and implications for Norway from early stages via proposals and adoptions through to inclusion in the EEA Agreement and implementation in Norway
- The Environment Agency
 - Dedicated website with information on EU legislation under development, roadmaps and hearings (both in the EU and in Norway) and reports from EU meetings in which Norway participates
- The Ministry
 - Stakeholder reference group

Stakeholder reference group

- Aim
 - Inform stakeholders about EU legislation under development
 - Share Government's preliminary views on possible implications for Norway
 - Questions, assessments and inputs from stakeholders in Norway
- Participants
 - Employer and employee organisations
 - Organisations representing different fields of industry
 - Environment organisations and other interest groups
 - Association of local and regional authorities
 - Representatives from research community
 - Other Government Ministries and agencies

Stakeholder reference group

- Meets 2-3 times a year
- The Ministry invites and sets the agenda based on developments in the EU
 - Participants invited to suggest topics, info from global fora where relevant for context, revert to same topics over time as these develop
- Presentation/information from representatives from the Ministry, Norway's Permanent Mission to the EU and sometimes the EU
 - Usually short welcome by state secretary, provide i.a. Norwegian context
- In person and/or digital participation
 - Digital only during pandemic, in person participation now encouraged to enhance engagement and networking