



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 11.01.2006  
SEC(2005) 1791 final

Draft

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**

**amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement,  
on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (SMEs)**

- Draft common position of the Community -  
(presented by the Commission)

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

1. Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement contains specific provisions on the cooperation between the Community and the EEA EFTA States outside the four freedoms.
2. The attached draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee (concerning Decision No 1776/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2005) aims to modify Protocol 31 to extend cooperation in the field of enterprise, entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It amends Council Decision 2000/819/EC on a multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship and in particular for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) (2001-2005), which is already incorporated in the Agreement, with effect from 1 January 2006.
3. Article 1.3(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 concerning the arrangements for implementing the EEA Agreement envisages that the Council establish the Community position for such Decisions on a proposal from the Commission.
4. The draft decision of the EEA Joint Committee is submitted for the approval of the Council, after which the Commission will put forward the position of the Community in the EEA Joint Committee at the earliest possible occasion.

Draft

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**

**amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement,  
on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (SMEs)**

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 Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Protocol 31 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No ... of ...<sup>1</sup>.
- (2) It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement to include Decision No 1776/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2005 amending Council Decision 2000/819/EC on a multiannual programme for enterprise and entrepreneurship, and in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) (2001 to 2005)<sup>2</sup>.
- (3) Protocol 31 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2006,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

The following sub-indent shall be added in the seventh indent of Article 7(5) (Council Decision 2000/819/EC) of Protocol 31 to the Agreement:

- ‘- **32005 D 1776**: Decision No 1776/2005/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 September 2005 (OJ L 289, 3.11.2005, p. 14).’

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<sup>1</sup> OJ C [...], [...], p. [...].

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 289, 3.11.2005, p. 14.

*Article 2*

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2006.

*Article 3*

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,

*For the EEA Joint Committee  
The President*

*The Secretaries  
to the EEA Joint Committee*

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\* [Constitutional requirements indicated.][No constitutional requirements indicated.]