



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 11.11.2003  
SEC(2003) 1244 final

Draft

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement,**  
**on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**

- 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 aims to modify Protocol 31 to extend cooperation in the field of Social policy. It provides a framework for cooperation and sets out the modalities for full participation of the EEA EFTA States in the Community programmes and actions in this field:
  - ‘- **32000 D 0750:** Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006) (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 23).’
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. The Commission would hope to be able to put forward the position of the Community in the EEA Joint Committee in December 2003.

Draft

**DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement,**  
**on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms**

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:

- Protocol 31 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No ... of ...<sup>1</sup>.
- It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement to include Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006)<sup>2</sup>.
- Protocol 31 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2004,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Article 5 of Protocol 31 to the Agreement shall be amended as follows:

1. The text of paragraph 5 shall be replaced by the following:

‘The EFTA States shall participate in the Community programmes and actions referred to in the first two indents of paragraph 8 as from 1 January 1996, in the programme referred to in the third indent as from 1 January 2000, in the programme referred to in the fourth indent from 1 January 2001, in the programmes referred to in the fifth and sixth indents as from 1 January 2002 and in the programme referred to in the seventh indent as from 1 January 2004.’

---

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 23.

2. The following indent shall be added in paragraph 8:

‘- **32000 D 0750:** Council Decision 2000/750/EC of 27 November 2000 establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination (2001 to 2006) (OJ L 303, 2.12.2000, p. 23).’

*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 2004.

*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*

---

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