



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 16.3.2004
SEC(2004) 294 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 the cooperation in the field of Environment, through the inclusion of:

32003 R 1382: Regulation (EC) No 1382/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system (Marco Polo Programme) (OJ L 196, 2.8.2003, p. 1).
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 aims at putting forward the position of the Community in the EEA Joint Committee as soon as possible after the adoption of the Council.

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:

- (1) Protocol 31 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No ... of ...¹.
- (2) It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the Agreement to include Regulation (EC) No 1382/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system (Marco Polo Programme)².
- (3) Protocol 31 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from **DD MM YYYY**,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The following subparagraph shall be added in Article 3(7) of Protocol 31 to the Agreement:

- ‘(c) Community acts which shall take effect from **DD MM YYYY**:
- **32003 R 1382**: Regulation (EC) No 1382/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 July 2003 on the granting of Community financial assistance to improve the environmental performance of the freight transport system (Marco Polo Programme) (OJ L 196, 2.8.2003, p. 1).’

¹ OJ L ...

² OJ L 196, 2.8.2003, p. 1.

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 **DD MM YYYY**.

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*

* No constitutional requirements indicated.