



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 30.6.2005  
SEC(2005) 855 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 extends the cooperation of the Contracting parties to the Agreement to include Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on interoperable delivery of pan-European e-Government services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC) and modifies Protocol 31 to that end with effect from 1 January 2005. IDABC is a follow-up to the IDA programme, which has already been incorporated into the EEA Agreement. The adaptations in the present draft decision are based on the existing adaptations to the IDA programme offering the same solutions regarding the financial participation and participation in the committee assisting the Commission in relation with the IDABC programme.. On that basis, the draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee incorporates the following act into the EEA Agreement:
  - **32004 D 0387:** Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on interoperable delivery of pan-European e-government services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC)
3. Article 1.3 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**

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 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC)<sup>2</sup>, as corrected by OJ L 181, 18.5.2004, p. 25.
- (3) Protocol 31 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place with effect from 1 January 2005,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

*Article 1*

Protocol 31 to the Agreement shall be amended as specified in the Annex to this Decision.

*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 2005.

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

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 144, 30.4.2004.

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

*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*

## ANNEX

### *to Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No [...]*

Article 17 (Telematic interchange of data between administrations (IDA)) of Protocol 31 to the Agreement shall be amended as follows:

- (a) The heading shall be replaced by the following:  
‘Telematic interchange of data’
- (b) The text in paragraph 1 shall be replaced by the following:  
‘The EFTA States shall, as from 1 January 1997 participate in the projects and activities of the Community programmes referred to in paragraph 5(a), in accordance with the Work programme in Appendix 3 to this Protocol, and as from 1 January 2005 participate in the projects and activities of the Community programme referred to in paragraph 5(b), to the extent that these projects and activities support other cooperation of the Contracting Parties.’
- (c) In paragraph 2 the word ‘programme’ shall be replaced by ‘programmes’ and the word ‘paragraph 4’ shall be replaced by ‘paragraph 5’.
- (d) In paragraph 3 the word ‘paragraph 4’ shall be replaced by ‘paragraph 5(a)’.
- (e) The following paragraph shall be inserted after paragraph 3:  
‘4. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of cooperation in the programme referred to in paragraph 5(b), participate fully, without the right to vote, in the EEA relevant parts of the Pan-European eGovernment Services Committee (PEGSCO), which assist the EC Commission in the implementation, management and development of that programme, as far as the EEA relevant project parts of the programme are concerned.’
- (f) Paragraph 4 shall be renumbered as paragraph 5.
- (g) The following shall be inserted in paragraph 5 before the indents:  
‘(a) with a view to participation as from 1 January 1997:’
- (h) The following shall be added at the end of paragraph 5:  
‘(b) with a view to participation as from 1 January 2005:  
- **32004 D 0387**: Decision 2004/387/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on interoperable delivery of pan-European eGovernment services to public administrations, businesses and citizens (IDABC) (OJ L 144, 30.4.2004), as corrected by OJ L 181, 18.5.2004, p. 25.’