DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE

No 75/2008

of 6 June 2008

amending Protocol 30 to the EEA Agreement, on specific provisions on the organization of cooperation in the field of statistics

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 Article 98 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Protocol 30 to the Agreement was amended by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 90/2004 of 8 June 2004 [1].

(2) The EEA statistical programme 1998 to 2002 is no longer applicable and should consequently be deleted under the Agreement.

(3) The structure of Protocol 30 should be simplified.

(4) That structural simplification should have no bearing on the substance concerning the EEA statistical cooperation 2003 to 2007, as included in Protocol 30 by Decisions of the EEA Joint Committee No 163/2003 [2] and No 90/2004.

(5) The EEA Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012 should be based on Decision No 1578/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012 [3] and should include those programme elements which are necessary for the description and monitoring of all relevant economic, social and environmental aspects of the European Economic Area.

(6) Protocol 30 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2008,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Protocol 30 to the Agreement shall be amended as specified in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

The list of committees agreed upon by the Contracting Parties to the Agreement and contained in the Agreed Minute Ad Protocol 30 of the negotiations for an agreement between the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and their Member States and the EFTA States on the European Economic Area shall be without prejudice to participation by the EFTA States in any other EC committee or body in accordance with Article 1(2) of Protocol 30 as amended by this Decision.

[1] OJ L 349, 25.11.2004, p. 52.
[2] OJ L 41, 12.2.2004, p. 64.
[3] OJ L 344, 28.12.2007, p. 15.

Article 3

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 2008.

Article 4

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, 6 June 2008.

For the EEA Joint Committee
The President
Alan SEATTER

(*) No constitutional requirements indicated.

ANNEX

The text of Protocol 30 to the Agreement shall be replaced by the following:

'*Article 1*

General provisions

1. A conference of representatives of national statistical organisations of the Contracting Parties, the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat) and the EFTA Statistical Office (ESO) shall guide statistical cooperation and develop programmes and procedures for statistical cooperation in close coordination with those of the Community and monitor their implementation. This conference and the Statistical Programme Committee (SPC) shall organise their tasks for the purposes of this Protocol in combined meetings as SPC/EEA Conference pursuant to specific rules of procedure to be established by the SPC/EEA Conference.

2. The EFTA States shall, as from the start of the cooperation in connection with the programmes and actions referred to in this Protocol, participate fully without the right to vote in the EC committees and other bodies which assist the EC Commission in the management or development of these programmes and actions.

3. Statistical information from EFTA States shall be transmitted from the EFTA States to Eurostat for storage, processing and dissemination. To this end, ESO shall work in close cooperation with the EFTA States and Eurostat in order to ensure that data from the EFTA States is transmitted properly and disseminated to the various user groups through the normal dissemination channels as part of the EEA statistics.

4. The EFTA States shall defray the additional costs incurred by Eurostat for storing, processing and disseminating data from their countries.

5. The EFTA States shall contribute financially to the Community's overhead costs arising from their participation in programmes and actions referred to in this Protocol other than those incurred for storing, disseminating or processing data in accordance with Article 82(1)(b) of the Agreement.

6. The handling of statistics from the EFTA States shall be governed by Council Regulation (EC) No 322/97 of 17 February 1997 on Community Statistics (OJ L 52, 22.2.1997, p. 1).

7. A joint ESO/Eurostat annual report assessing whether the objectives, priorities and actions planned in connection with this Protocol have been achieved, shall be produced and submitted to the SPC/EEA conference to which reference is made in paragraph 1 and to the EEA Joint Committee.

Article 2

Statistical Programme 2003 to 2007

1. The Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 as established by Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to which reference is made in paragraph 4 shall constitute the framework for the EEA statistical actions to be carried out between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2007. All main fields and statistical themes of the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 shall be considered to be relevant for the EEA statistical cooperation and shall be open for full participation by the EFTA States.

2. From 1 January 2003, a specific EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be developed every year by the EFTA Statistical Office in consultation with the EFTA Heads of National Statistical Institutes Working Group. The EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be based on a subset of, and in parallel with the annual work programme elaborated by the Commission in accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council referred to in paragraph 4.

3. From 1 January 2003, the EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement and the Financial Regulations thereto to an amount representing 75 per cent of the amount shown in budget lines B5-600A and B5-600B or successor article (Statistical Information Policy) entered in the Community budget.

4. The following Community acts are the object of this Article:

— **32002 D 2367**: Decision No 2367/2002/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2002 on the Community statistical programme 2003 to 2007 (OJ L 358, 31.12.2002, p. 1), as amended by:

— **32004 D 0787**: Decision No 787/2004/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 (OJ L 138, 30.4.2004, p. 12).

Article 3

Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012

1. The Community statistical programme 2008 to 2012 as established by Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council to which reference is made in paragraph 4 shall constitute the framework for the EEA statistical actions to be carried out between 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2012. All main fields and statistical themes of the Community statistical programme 2008 to 2012 shall be considered to be relevant for the EEA statistical cooperation and shall be open for full participation by the EFTA States.

2. From 1 January 2008, a specific EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be developed every year jointly by the EFTA Statistical Office and Eurostat. The EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be based on a subset of, and in parallel with the annual work programme elaborated by the Commission in accordance with the Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council referred to in paragraph 4. The EEA Annual Statistical Programme shall be approved by the Contracting Parties in accordance with their own internal procedures.

3. From 1 January 2008, the EFTA States shall contribute financially in accordance with Article 82(1)(a) of the Agreement and the Financial Regulations thereto to an amount representing 75 per cent of the amount shown in budget lines 29 02 03 and 29 01 04 01 (Statistical Information Policy) entered in the Community budget.

4. The following Community act is the object of this Article:

— **32007 D 1578**: Decision No 1578/2007/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2007 on the Community Statistical Programme 2008 to 2012 (OJ L 344, 28.12.2007, p. 15).'