DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE

No 78/2010

of 11 June 2010

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 159/2009 of 4 December 2009 [1].

(2) In view of the incorporation of the legislative package on the Single European Sky into the Agreement, and of the key role of the SESAR project for the future development of the implementing measures within that field, and in view of the participation by the EFTA States in the public financing of the project through the 7th Framework programme on Research and Development, it is appropriate to encourage suitable cooperation between the Contracting Parties to the Agreement in matters covered by the activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking as set up by Council Regulation (EC) No 219/2007 of 27 February 2007 on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system (SESAR) [2], so as to encourage participation of stakeholders from the EFTA States in the SESAR project.

(3) Protocol 31 to the Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The following paragraph shall be inserted after paragraph 8a in Article 1 (Research and technical development) of Protocol 31 to the Agreement:

'8b. The Contracting Parties shall encourage appropriate cooperation between the competent organisations, institutions and other bodies in their respective territories so as to encourage participation of stakeholders from the EFTA States on equal terms as those from the EU Member States in the SESAR project, including activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking in accordance with its basic Regulation (*).

The EFTA States participate fully, except for the right to vote, in the Single European Sky committee which assists the European Commission in the management, development and implementation of the activities of the SESAR Joint Undertaking.

(*) 32007 R 0219: Council Regulation (EC) No 219/2007 of 27 February 2007 on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to develop the new generation European air traffic management system (SESAR) (OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 1).'

[1] OJ L 62, 11.3.2010, p. 65.
[2] OJ L 64, 2.3.2007, p. 1.

Article 2

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

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, 11 June 2010.

For the EEA Joint Committee
The President
Alan SEATTER

(*) No constitutional requirements indicated.