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COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/2255

of 24 September 2026

on the position to be adopted on behalf of the European Union within the EEA Joint Committee concerning the amendment of Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement (Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 95, in conjunction with Article 218(9), thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 of 28 November 1994 concerning arrangements for implementing the Agreement on the European Economic Area [1], and in particular Article 1(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Agreement on the European Economic Area [2] (the 'EEA Agreement') entered into force on 1 January 1994.

(2) Pursuant to Article 98 of the EEA Agreement, the EEA Joint Committee is able to amend, inter alia, Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement.

(3) It is appropriate to incorporate Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 [3] into the EEA Agreement.

(4) Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly.

(5) It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be adopted within the EEA Joint Committee concerning the amendment of Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be adopted on the Union's behalf within the EEA Joint Committee concerning the proposed amendment of Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement shall be based on the draft decision of the EEA Joint Committee attached to this Decision.

[1] OJ L 305, 30.11.1994, p. 6, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/1994/2894/oj.
[2] OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/1994/1/oj.
[3] Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 of 26 March 2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks (OJ L 91, 27.3.2014, p. 15, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/312/oj).

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 24 September 2026.

For the Council
The President
P. BURKE

DRAFT

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No …/…

of …

amending Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (the 'EEA Agreement'), and in particular Article 98 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 ([1]) should be incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

(2) Pursuant to Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 93/2017 ([2]), Iceland has a derogation from Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([3]), which is the legal basis for Regulation (EU) No 312/2014. Therefore, Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 should not apply to Iceland.

(3) Article 2(2) of Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 provides that that Regulation is not to apply to balancing zones in Member States that hold a derogation on the basis of Article 49 of Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council ([4]). In accordance with Directive 2009/73/EC, as incorporated into the EEA Agreement by Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 93/2017, such a derogation is to apply to Liechtenstein. Therefore, Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 should not apply to Liechtenstein.

(4) There is no gas transmission network in Norway subject to the provisions of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009. Therefore, Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 should be incorporated into the EEA Agreement and transposed into national law, but its application should be suspended until an operational gas transmission network is in place in Norway. When an operational gas transmission network is in place, Norway should notify the EFTA Surveillance Authority accordingly.

(5) As Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 has been adopted on the basis of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009, the adaptation texts elaborated and adopted under Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 93/2017, incorporating Regulation (EU) No 715/2009 into the EEA Agreement, are relevant for the application of Regulation (EU) No 312/2014.

(6) Annex IV to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended accordingly,

([1]) Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 of 26 March 2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks (OJ L 91, 27.3.2014, p. 15, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/312/oj).

([2]) Decision of the EEA Joint Committee No 93/2017 of 5 May 2017 amending Annex IV (Energy) to the EEA Agreement [2019/205] (OJ L 36, 7.2.2019, p. 44, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2019/205/oj).

([3]) Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005 (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 36, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/715/oj).

([4]) Directive 2009/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas and repealing Directive 2003/55/EC (OJ L 211, 14.8.2009, p. 94, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2009/73/oj).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The following point is inserted after point 53 (Regulation (EU) 2020/740 of the European Parliament and of the Council) of Annex IV to the EEA Agreement:

'54. **32014 R 0312**: Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 of 26 March 2014 establishing a Network Code on Gas Balancing of Transmission Networks (OJ L 91, 27.3.2014, p. 15).

The provisions of the Regulation shall, for the purposes of this Agreement, be read with the following adaptation:

Norway may suspend the implementation of the Regulation until a gas transmission network starts operating on its territory. Norway shall notify the EFTA Surveillance Authority when a gas network is in place.

The Regulation shall not apply to Iceland or Liechtenstein.'.

Article 2

The text of Commission Regulation (EU) No 312/2014 in the Icelandic and Norwegian languages, to be published in the EEA Supplement to the *Official Journal of the European Union*, shall be authentic.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on …, provided that all the notifications under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement have been made (*).

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 …, …

For the EEA Joint Committee

The President

The Secretaries

To the EEA Joint Committee

(*) [No constitutional requirements indicated.] [Constitutional requirements indicated.]