Basic information

2004/0233(CNS) CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	Procedure completed
EC/Switzerland agreement: participation in the European Environmental Agency and the European environment information and observation network **Subject** 3.70 Environmental policy 6.40.01 Relations with EEA/EFTA countries 8.40.08 Agencies and bodies of the EU **Geographical area** Switzerland	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	FLORENZ Karl-Heinz (PPE-DE)	30/11/2004

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	31/01/2005
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	24/11/2004

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	2711	2006-02-27

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Environment	

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
		COM(2004)0658	Summary

08/10/2004	Legislative proposal published		
16/11/2004	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
15/03/2005	Vote in committee		Summary
12/04/2005	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0088/2005	
10/05/2005	Decision by Parliament	T6-0163/2005	Summary
10/05/2005	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/02/2006	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
27/02/2006	End of procedure in Parliament		
28/03/2006	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2004/0233(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	International agreement
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 175-p1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p2/3-a1 EC Treaty (after Amsterdam) EC 300-p4
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/6/24173

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0088/2005	12/04/2005	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0163/2005 OJ C 092 20.04.2006, p. 0018-0063 E	10/05/2005	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2004)0658	08/10/2004	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date

European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act
Decision 2006/0235 OJ L 090 28.03.2006, p. 0036-0047 Summary

EC/Switzerland agreement: participation in the European Environmental Agency and the European environment information and observation network

2004/0233(CNS) - 10/05/2005 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted the report by Karl-Heinz FLORENZ (EPP-ED, DE) by 601 votes in favour, 4 against and 4 abstentions on Switzerland's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network.

EC/Switzerland agreement: participation in the European Environmental Agency and the European environment information and observation network

2004/0233(CNS) - 27/02/2006 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement allowing Swiss participation on the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Environment Information and Observation Network EIONET.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/235/EC on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Community, of the Agreement between the European Community and the Swiss Confederation concerning the latter's participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network.

CONTENT: the trans-frontier nature of environmental issues necessitates that the EEA work closely with third-countries. Switzerland was one of the last European countries with which neither the EEA nor EIONET, had any formal agreement, hence the conclusion of this Council Decision.

The Agreement states that Switzerland will participate fully on the EEA as well as the EIONET under the terms and conditions spelt out for other non-EU participants, i.e. Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway.

Switzerland will contribute financially, on an annual basis, to both the Agency and EIONET. The annual contribution for a given year will be calculated on the basis of the Community subsidy to the budget of the Agency, divided by the number of Member States of the Community.

In return, Switzerland is expected to inform the Agency of the main elements of its information networks as well as establish a national focal point for co-ordinating and transmitting information to be supplied at national level to the Agency and/or EIONET. Switzerland will participate fully on the Agency but it will have no voting rights.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 April 2006.

EC/Switzerland agreement: participation in the European Environmental Agency and the European environment information and observation network

2004/0233(CNS) - 08/10/2004 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE : The signature and conclusion of an Agreement between the European Community and Switzerland for Swiss participation in the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network (EIONET).

PROPOSED ACT : Council Decision.

CONTENT : Article 19 of the EU Regulation establishing the European Environment Agency allows for third country membership of the Agency. Switzerland is one of the major European countries, which has no membership arrangement with the Agency in spite of the useful information and knowledge it has concerning the Alps. In 1999 Switzerland made a formal application to join the Agency. The negotiation process for membership was concluded in June 2004 and the European Commission is now presenting two Council Decisions, which would put into effect Swiss membership of both the EEA and EIONET.

Prior to commencing the negotiations the Council requested the Commission to achieve two objectives. Firstly, that arrangements for Swiss participation as an observer without voting rights are in conformity with the Treaty of the Union and secondly that the financial contribution from Switzerland to the Agency represents the full costs of its participation. For the calculation of this annual figure, the objective was that the Agency's annual subvention should be divided by the number of Member States. The draft Agreement being presented grants the country conditions for participation, similar to those governing the participation of the current non-EU Member States of the Agency such as Liechtenstein, Iceland and Norway. Moreover, Switzerland's financial contribution reflects the wishes of the Council. Under the terms of the Agreement, Switzerland will have to establish an infrastructure for providing uniform environmental data relating to its territory. It will have the right to participate in the Management Board of the Agency without the right to vote. A Joint Committee has been set up allowing for technical adaptations, including the incorporation into Annex I of the Agreement allowing for future Community legislation relating to the EEA. For its part, the Agency will treat Switzerland as a Member State, through equal treatment in terms of provisions of environmental data and information and analysis, staffing provisions, contracts to third parties and appointments of and participation in Topic Centres.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: Switzerland will contribute financially to the EEA to cover the full cost involved in its participation. This full cost, and thus Switzerland's contribution, is calculated as the annual Community subvention, divided by the number of EU Member States. For the Community there are no negative financial implications.