Basic information

2010/0129(NLE) NLE - Non-legislative enactments Decision	Procedure completed
EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014 **Subject** 3.15.05 Fish catches, import tariff quotas 3.15.06 Fishing industry and statistics, fishery products 6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 6.20.04 Union Customs Code, tariffs, preferential arrangements, rules of origin 6.20.05 Multilateral and plurilateral economic and trade agreements and relations 8.70 Budget of the Union **Geographical area** Iceland Liechtenstein Norway	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
INTA International Trade	KOPPA Maria Eleni (S&D)	23/06/2010
	Shadow rapporteur WAŁĘSA Jarosław (PPE)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PECH Fisheries	GALLAGHER Pat the Cope (ALDE)	02/06/2010

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meetings	Date
General Affairs	3028	2010-07-26
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	3073	2011-03-07

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	External Relations	ASHTON Catherine

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
17/05/2010	Preparatory document	COM(2010)0234	Summary
20/07/2010	Legislative proposal published	09902/2010	Summary
07/09/2010	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
01/12/2010	Vote in committee		Summary
14/12/2010	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A7-0372/2010	
15/02/2011	Decision by Parliament	T7-0044/2011	Summary
15/02/2011	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/03/2011	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
07/03/2011	End of procedure in Parliament		
16/03/2011	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2010/0129(NLE)
Procedure type	NLE - Non-legislative enactments
Procedure subtype	Consent by Parliament
Legislative instrument	Decision
Legal basis	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 218-p6a Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 175-p3 Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 207
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 165
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	INTA/7/03036

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE450.691	08/10/2010	
Committee opinion	PECH	PE448.757	28/10/2010	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A7-0372/2010	14/12/2010	

Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T7-0044/2011	15/02/2011	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	09899/2010	20/07/2010	Summary
Legislative proposal	09902/2010	20/07/2010	Summary

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Preparatory document	COM(2010)0234	17/05/2010	Summary

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
National parliaments	IPEX	
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Final act

Decision 2011/0160
OJ L 069 16.03.2011, p. 0001 Summary

EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014

2010/0129(NLE) - 20/07/2010 - Document attached to the procedure

This document details the contents of the following texts:

1. the Agreement between the EU and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014;
2. the Agreement between the EU and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014;
3. the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Iceland concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014 and;
4. the Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Norway concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014.

The main elements of these agreements and protocols may be summarised as follows:

1) Agreement on the Financial Mechanism of the EEA for the period 2009-2014: this Agreement shall contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to the strengthening of their relations with the Beneficiary States, through financial contributions in the priority sectors. The total amount of the financial contribution shall be **EUR 988,5 million**, to be made available for commitment in annual tranches of EUR 197,7 million over the period running from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2014, inclusive.

The financial contributions shall be available in the following priority sectors: (a) Environmental protection and management; (b) Climate change and renewable energy; (c) Civil society; (d) Human and social development; (e) Protecting cultural heritage.

Academic research may be eligible for funding in so far as it is targeted at one or more of the priority sectors.

Other measures include:

- setting maximum annual envelopes for a number of Member States from 1 May 2009 to 31 December 2013;
- principle of a review of the situation in November 2011 and November 2013, to reallocate any funds not committed to high priority projects in the beneficiary states;
- close links with the Norwegian financial mechanism (see below);
- accountability for all implementation phases of the agreement;
- provision of measures to implement and monitor programmes which have been financed;
- review of the mechanism after five years of implementation.

2) Agreement on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014: Norway shall undertake to contribute for a five year period to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and to the strengthening of its relations with the Beneficiary States, through a separate Norwegian Financial Mechanism in the priority sectors: (a) Carbon Capture and Storage; (b) Green Industry Innovation; (c) Research and Scholarship; (d) Human and Social Development; (e) Justice and Home Affairs; (f) Promotion of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue.

The total amount of the financial contribution shall be **EUR 800 million**, to be made available for commitment in annual tranches of EUR 160 million over the period running from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2014, inclusive.

Measures are also set out as regards:

- the allocation to each beneficiary a percentage of funds for the promotion of decent work and the tripartite dialogue, managed by an entity designated by Norway;
- setting the maximum cost of the Norwegian contribution to a given programme (no more than 85% of the programme cost);
- the review of the situation in November 2011 and November 2013, to reallocate any non-committed available funds to high priority projects in any Beneficiary State;
- the close coordination of contributions from the EFTA States in the framework of this mechanism with the EEA Financial Mechanism;
- setting specific provisions to implement programmes funded through the mechanism;
- the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of planned programmes.

3) Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Iceland: the protocol lays down the special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fishery products originating in Iceland. The annual duty free tariff quotas are provided for in the Annex to this Protocol. These tariff quotas shall cover the period from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2014. The quota levels shall be reviewed by the end of that period taking into account all relevant interests.

4) Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Norway: this protocol lays down the special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fishery products originating in Norway. The annual duty free tariff quotas are provided for in the Annex to this Protocol. These tariff quotas shall cover the period from 1 May 2009 to 30 April 2014. Norway shall take the necessary steps to ensure the continuation of the regulation laid down by Royal Decree of 21 April 2006 allowing for free transit of fish and fishery products landed in Norway from vessels flying the flag of a Member State of the European Union.

Pending the completion of the procedures relating to the conclusions, the Agreements shall be applied on a provisional basis.

EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014

2010/0129(NLE) - 17/05/2010 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude a Agreement between the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Agreement between the EU and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Iceland concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014 and an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Norway concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

LEGAL BASE: Articles 175, third paragraph for the agreements on the financial contributions to economic and social cohesion and Article 207 for the amended fisheries protocols in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

BACKGROUND: since the entry into force of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) in 1994, the EEA EFTA States (now Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) have contributed to alleviating economic and social disparities in the EEA. These contributions have always been agreed for periods of five years.

The most recent five-year-period of financial contributions, covering 2004-2009, expired on 30 April 2009. During that period, the overall financial contribution from the EEA EFTA States was EUR 1.467 billion, allocated partly through a multilateral EEA financial mechanism to the EEA Agreement, financed by all three EEA EFTA States, and partly through a bilateral Norwegian financial mechanism, financed exclusively by Norway. The 2004-2009 financial contributions were negotiated in the context of the 2004 and 2007 EEA Enlargement Agreements. In that context, two bilateral agreements /protocols with Iceland and Norway granting certain concessions with regard to market access for fish and fisheries products were also negotiated for the same 2004-2009 period, with a revision clause, stipulating a deadline coinciding with the expiry of the 2004-2009 financial mechanisms.

Formal negotiations with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on their financial contributions for the period 2009-2014 were opened on 26 September 2008. In parallel to those negotiations, but independently of them, consultations and subsequently negotiations were also launched on the basis of the revision clause of the two bilateral fish protocols with Iceland and Norway.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

CONTENT: The agreements which have been negotiated are as follows:

- an agreement between the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014;
- an agreement between the EU and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014;
- an additional protocol concerning certain fisheries concessions for Iceland for the period 2009-2014;
- an additional protocol concerning certain fisheries concessions for Norway for the period 2009-2014.

EEA and Norwegian financial mechanism: as far as the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms are concerned, the result is an overall package of **EUR 1.8 billion for the period 2009-2014**, composed of a 31% increase in the EEA financial mechanism and a 22% increase in the Norwegian financial mechanism, compared to the period 2004-2009. This outcome reflects the negotiating directives agreed by the Council, which requested a substantial increase in the funds. Due to its financial crisis, it was agreed that Iceland's contribution to the EEA financial mechanism should not be increased in absolute terms.

As an element of the final package, the Commission had agreed to make, on the occasion of the signature of the agreement on the new EEA financial mechanism, the following declaration: "The **new Protocol 38b** has been established as a contribution by the EEA EFTA States to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and is without prejudice to other negotiations, including future EU cohesion negotiations".

The background to this declaration is that while the point of departure for the distribution of the funds in the EEA financial mechanism was the "cohesion key", and in order to find a viable compromise, certain transitional adjustments had to be made, resulting in the final distribution of the EEA funds.

Furthermore, implementation provisions have been agreed. The key element is that the funds will be spent by using the same "programme" method as used in the EU structural funds.

Among the priority areas for the funding are fighting climate change and protecting the environment, promoting green technologies and supporting social development and civil society.

The result of the negotiations on the **two bilateral fisheries protocols between the EU and Iceland and Norway**, respectively, for the period 2009-2014 was essentially a renewal of the previous 2004-2009 protocols with unchanged concessions for Iceland and a relatively modest increase in concessions for Norway, on the basis of which Norway will renew the fish transit arrangement, which had also expired on 30 April 2009.

As the negotiations suffered unfortunate delays and were not concluded until 18 December 2009, it was necessary for the smooth functioning of the EEA to ensure that the above agreements could enter into force on a provisional basis, pending their final conclusion.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: as above.

EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014

2010/0129(NLE) - 15/02/2011 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted a legislative resolution in which it gives its consent to the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Agreement between the European Union and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014, an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland, concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fisheries products for the period 2009-2014, and an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Norway, concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fisheries products for the period 2009-2014.

EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014

2010/0129(NLE) - 20/07/2010 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to conclude an Agreement between the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Agreement between the EU and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Iceland concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014 and an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the EEC and Norway concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the EU of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment was carried out.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 217 in conjunction with Article 218(6)(a) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

CONTENT: this proposal for a Decision aims to conclude the following agreements and protocols, on behalf of the Union:

- an Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the Annex thereto;
- an Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014;
- an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Annex thereto;
- an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway and the Annex thereto.

For further details as regards the content of these agreements and protocols please refer to the summary of the document annexed to the procedure dated 20 July 2010.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATION: in accordance with the proposed Financial Mechanism, the overall envelope is set at **EUR 1.8 billion** for the period 2009-2014.

EU/Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway Agreements: Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014 and imports of certain fish and fisheries products 2009-2014

2010/0129(NLE) - 07/03/2011 - Final act

PURPOSE: to conclude a Agreement between the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, as well as two Additional Protocols in the fisheries sector with Iceland and Norway.

NON-LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2011/160/EU on the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014, an Agreement between the European Union and Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014, an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Iceland, concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fisheries products for the period 2009-2014, and an Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Norway, concerning special provisions applicable to imports into the European Union of certain fish and fisheries products for the period 2009-2014.

BACKGROUND: since the entry into force of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) in 1994, the EEA EFTA States (now Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) have contributed to alleviating economic and social disparities in the EEA. These contributions have always been agreed for periods of five years.

The most recent five-year-period of financial contributions, covering 2004-2009, expired on 30 April 2009. During that period, the overall financial contribution from the EEA EFTA States was **EUR 1.467 billion**, allocated partly through a multilateral EEA financial mechanism to the EEA Agreement, financed by all three EEA EFTA States, and partly through a bilateral Norwegian financial mechanism, financed exclusively by Norway.

It is now necessary to provide a new financial mechanism for 2009-2014.

Pursuant to Council Decision 2010/674/EU, the following agreements and protocols were signed, on behalf of the Union:

- Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the Annex thereto,
- Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014.

It also concluded two new bilateral Protocols with Iceland and Norway granting certain concessions with regard to market access for fish and fisheries products: (a) Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Annex thereto; (b) Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway and the Annex thereto.

The replacement of the existing financial mechanisms by new mechanisms, which relate to different time periods, different amounts of funds, and different implementing provisions, as well as the renewal and extension of the concessions relating to certain fish and fisheries products, taken as a whole, constitute **an important development of the association with the EEA EFTA States**.

This is the purpose of this Decision.

CONTENT: by this Decision, the following agreements and protocols are hereby approved on behalf of the Union:

- Agreement between the European Union, Iceland, the Principality of Liechtenstein and the Kingdom of Norway on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 and the Annex thereto,
- Agreement between the European Union and the Kingdom of Norway on a Norwegian Financial Mechanism for the period 2009-2014,
- Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland and the Annex thereto,
- Additional Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway and the Annex thereto.

EEA and Norwegian financial mechanism: as far as the EEA and Norwegian financial mechanisms are concerned, the result is an overall package of **EUR 1.8 billion for the period 2009-2014**, composed of a 31% increase in the EEA financial mechanism and a 22% increase in the Norwegian financial mechanism, compared to the period 2004-2009. This outcome reflects the negotiating directives agreed by the Council, which requested a substantial

increase in the funds. Due to its financial crisis, it was agreed that Iceland's contribution to the EEA financial mechanism should not be increased in absolute terms.

As part of this new mechanism, a new **Protocol 38b** has been established as a contribution by the EEA EFTA States to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area, and is without prejudice to other negotiations, including future EU cohesion negotiations.

Implementing provisions: implementation provisions have been agreed. The key element is that the funds will be spent by using the same "programme" method as used in the EU structural funds. Among the priority areas for the funding are:

- fighting climate change;
- protecting the environment;
- promoting green technologies;
- supporting social development and civil society.

Fishing Protocols: the result of the negotiations on the two bilateral fisheries protocols between the EU and Iceland and Norway, respectively, for the period 2009-2014 was essentially a renewal of the previous 2004-2009 protocols with unchanged concessions for Iceland and a relatively modest increase in concessions for Norway.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: this Decision shall enter into force on 7 March 2011. The Protocols and Agreements shall enter into force as soon as all the necessary procedures have been completed.