



To be left outside alone

– the Norwegian experience

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Outline



- I. Introduction to the EEA Agreement
- II. Norwegian influence
- III. Are we left outside alone?

Introduction to the EEA Agreement I

- The Agreement on the **E**uropean **E**conomic **A**rea entered into force on 1 January 1994, and brings together the EU Member States and the three EEA EFTA States – Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- Participation in the EEA is not free of charge. Approx £ 340 million annual contribution
- The EEA Agreement provides for the inclusion of EU legislation covering the four freedoms – the free movement of goods, services, persons and capital – throughout the 31 EEA States.
- The Agreement also covers cooperation regarding R&D, education, environment, culture, consumer protection etc.



Introduction to the EEA Agreement II

Two-Pillar structure :

- EFTA Surveillance Authority \approx European Commission

Electronic Communications sector:

- Most of the EU regulatory framework for electronic communications is transposed into Norwegian legislation
- Delayed entry into force compared to the EU MS:
 - Directive 2014/61/EU of the European Parliament and the Council on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks



Norwegian influence

A strategy for EU/EEA involvement/influence has been developed:

- Early engagement in policy and regulatory developments in the EU
- Actively engage in topics where we have strong knowledge/experience
- Actively engage to minimize regulatory backlog

BEREC/other NRAs:

- Participation as an observer
- Good cooperation with other EEA NRAs



Are we left outside alone?

- Access to the Internal Market for businesses and citizens
- Harmonized regulatory framework
 - No differentiation
 - Continuously transposition and application
 - Legal certainty
- Codetermination vs. National sovereignty

