



EEA COORDINATION UNIT  
PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN



# How Liechtenstein administers its participation in the EEA Agreement - our strengths and challenges

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## Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

### **Strength - clearly defined responsibilities for the EEA in LI**

- Government
- EEA Coordination Unit
- Brussels Mission
- EEA Experts in the Offices
- Parliament
- Stakeholders
- EEA Database - "every EU act belongs to a Minister and to an official"



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

Government

## Strength - commitment of the Government

- Government commits itself by a Government decision to achieve an implementation rate of at least 99% twice a year (currently: 99.3%)
- Government declares by a Government decision the binding timetables for national implementation measures twice a year
- Government adopts a Government decision nominating the Liechtenstein representatives and their priorities as regards EFTA Working Groups and EU Committees once a year



## Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

Prime Minister / Foreign Minister

- The EEA belongs to the Prime Minister's portfolio since 1995
- When Liechtenstein joined the EEA on May 1, 1995, the EEA Coordination Unit was established under the Prime Minister's Office
- The EEA Coordination Unit administers the EEA on a daily basis as regards legal questions and reports to the Prime Minister
- European Policy belongs to the Foreign Minister's portfolio since 1995



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

EEA Coordination Unit

## **The main responsibilities of the EEA Coordination Unit are:**

- Coordinating the monitoring of draft EU acts
- Coordinating incorporation and implementation of EEA law (implementation of EEA-relevant EU acts into national law – currently 15.404 acts)
- Advising the Government and the Offices of the National Administration on EEA-law-matters
- Representing the Government in proceedings before the ESA, the EFTA Court and the ECJ



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

EEA Coordination Unit

- EEA Network with (Informal) Network of “EEA Contact Persons”
- Documentation/information on EU/EEA topics (EEA Register)
- Contact office for citizens and companies with cross-border problems (SOLVIT)
- National coordinator for the Internal Market Information System (IMI) and "Your Europe“



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

## Mission in Brussels

- The Mission in Brussels deals with questions related to the EEA Council (EEA matters and political dialogue, supported by the EEA Coordination Unit), the EEA Joint Committee and the EFTA Standing Committee; it reports to the Foreign Minister
- Participates in EU and EEA Committees, conducts negotiations and generally maintains the contact with the EU- and EFTA Counterparts



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

## Mission in Brussels

- The Mission in Brussels is, more specifically, responsible for e.g. the EEA Financial Mechanism(s) as well as for budgetary matters with regard to the participation in EU programmes
- Overall coordination of matters related to Schengen/Dublin



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

EEA Experts in the Offices

- Approx. 119 officers deal with EEA matters (frequency varies)
- EEA Guidelines adopted by Government (rights and obligations, skills etc. are defined with regard to the experts EEA-tasks, prepared by the EEA Coord. U.)
- Participation in EU- and EFTA Committees as experts
- Implementation of EEA law
- Support in infringement proceedings



# Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

Stakeholders

## **(Informal) Network of "EEA Contact Persons" established in 2002 by the EEA Coordination Unit:**

- Early information on draft EU acts in english / EU acts by the EEA Coordination Unit to Stakeholders
- Stakeholders are requested to give input on practical consequences of new draft EU acts / EU acts
- The aim of this network is to receive an input on the practical consequences of new EU acts in Liechtenstein at an early stage



## Responsibilities for the EEA in LI

### Parliament

- The Parliament consists of 25 members and approves in one reading the Government Bill as regards Art. 103 EEA proceedings (fulfilment of constitutional requirements) and in two readings Government Bills regarding implementation of EEA acts
- The EEA/Schengen Commission meets eight times a year and consists of five members of Parliament
- The Foreign Affairs Commission meets eight times a year and consists of five members of Parliament



## How EU acts become EEA acts in LI?

EEA Database

- All EU acts (and important draft EU acts) applicable in the EEA are entered into a specially designed EEA Database
- Responsibilities of the Minister, Office, EEA Expert in the Office and the EEA Coordination Unit lawyer are assigned and entered into the EEA Database



## How EU acts become EEA acts in LI?

EEA Database

- All steps concerning incorporation (e.g. Standard Sheet, JCD) and implementation (Draft Government Bill, Government Bill, readings in Parliament) and their timetable are entered into the EEA Database
- Timetables for implementation can only be postponed by the involved Office with prior consent of the responsible Minister



## How EU acts become EEA acts in LI?

EEA Database

- ESA Infringement proceedings (LFN, RDO, claims to the EFTA Court) are also entered into the EEA Database
- The EEA Database is a convenient system which allows search by EU act, responsible Minister, responsible officer, responsible Office, implementation acts, ESA infringement proceedings, etc.



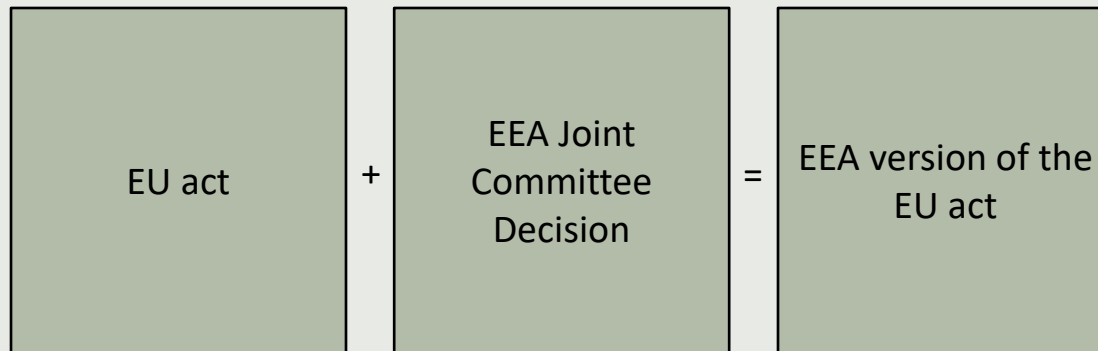
## How EU acts become EEA acts in LI?

- LI considers EEA Law as domestic law after incorporation
- EU-Regulations are directly applicable
- Directives have to be implemented
- German is an official EU language



## How to read an EEA act?

- By reading the EU act together with the EEA Joint Committee Decision, its EEA version is obtained:



- Webtool: How to read EU acts incorporated into the EEA Agreement?  
<https://www.efta.int/EEA/How-read-EU-acts-incorporated-EEA-Agreement-524556>



# EEA Coordination Unit

Monitoring of draft  
EU legal acts

Incorporation of EU  
legal acts into the  
EEA Agreement

Implementation of  
EEA legal acts

ESA infringement  
proceedings /  
proceedings before  
the EFTA Court and  
the ECJ

EEA/EU legal advice  
for government and  
offices

EEA information  
and EEA  
documentation

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**EEA Information material / Facts and figures**

<https://www.llv.li/en/national-administration/eea-coordination-unit/things-to-know>

<https://www.sewr.llv.li>