EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FORUM OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE EEA EFTA STATES

Ref. 18-4322

EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE EEA EFTA FORUM

Brussels
6 December 2018, 12:00-17:30
7 December 2018, 9:00-13:00

AGENDA

Day 1 – Thursday 6 December

10:00 Pre-meetings

12:00 Opening of meeting

1. Approval of draft agenda

2. Approval of minutes from the seventeenth meeting of the Forum, Reykjavík, Iceland, 28-29 June 2018

3. Election of Vice-Chair

4. Cooperation with the Committee of the Regions

   Report by acting-President Mr Jon Askeland

5. Preparation for working lunch with members of the European Committee of Regions

13:00 Working lunch with members of the European Committee of Regions

   Venue: EFTA Secretariat, rue Joseph II 12-16

14:30 Meeting resumes

6. Brexit update and future british cooperation with the Committee of the Regions

   Presentation by Mr David Simmonds, Brexit Task-Group of the Local Government Association of England and Wales

   Comments by Mr Tony Buchanan, Leader of Scottish Contingent to the Committee of the Regions

   Viewpoints from members

15:15-15:30 Coffee break
7. **Proposal for a Directive on the protection of persons reporting on breaches of Union law (‘Whistleblower protection’)***

Presentation of the European Commission’s proposal on Whistleblower Protection from April 2018 by Ms Ewa Biernat, DG Justice

Presentation by Mr Jens Christian Gjesing (DK/PES), Committee of the Regions Rapporteur

*Viewpoints from members*

*Presentation by the rapporteur and adoption of opinion*

8. **Letter from the Chair of the Standing Committee responding to the request from the Forum to explore ways to bring the work of the Forum forward**

17:30  *End of Day 1*

20:00  *Dinner*

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**Day 2 – Friday 7 December**

9:00  *Meeting resumes*

9. **Municipalities and regions of the EFTA States’ participation in EU programmes 2021-2027***

Presentation by Mr Egill Eyjólfsson, EFTA Secretariat

Presentation by Anne Burrill, European Commission, DG Environment, Life Programme Unit

*Viewpoints from members*

*Presentation by the rapporteur and adoption of opinion*

10:15-10:30 *Coffee break*

10. **EU on the agenda at local and regional level***

Presentation by Marthe Indset, Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR), OsloMet University

11. **Recent developments in the EEA***

Mr Hege Marie Hoff, Deputy Secretary-General, EFTA Secretariat
12. Roundtable on current affairs

   Current local/regional affairs in Iceland, Norway and Switzerland

13. Developments regarding topics discussed by the Forum

14. Next meeting

15. Any other business

13:00 Closing of meeting and lunch