









Coverphoto: Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (left) and President of the European Commission José Manuel Barroso (right), Brussels, 12 November 2008, European Communities/2008 - Lofoten, Marta B. Haga, MFA Norway/2006 - Norway is providing funding for a cooperation centre in the Carpathian region, Poland, Carpathian Foundation, Poland Page 5, 8: Colourbox 2008, page 23: The Mission of Norway to the EU, Rune Bjåstad, page 24: Stortinget, Oslo, Parliament, and Windmills, Vågsøy, Nordfjord, Petter Foss, MFA Norway/2006

Contents

1	Norway and the European Union	2
2	A historical overview of Norway-EU relations	6
3	The EEA Agreement	8
4	Norway's participation in EU programmes and agencies	11
5	Justice and home affairs and the Schengen Agreement	13
6	Norway and the EU foreign and security policy	15
7	Norway-EU cooperation at political level	16
8	The EEA and Norway Grants	18
9	Other areas of cooperation	21
10	Mission of Norway to the EU	23
	More information about Norway	24

1 Norway and the European Union

Norway is not a member of the European Union. Norway has held two referendums on the issue of EU membership, in 1972 and 1994. On both occasions, a narrow majority of the Norwegian population rejected membership. Nevertheless, Norway and the EU enjoy good and close relations.

Norway's culture and values are firmly rooted in the European tradition. Norway's political history, geographical position and international trade, along with Europeans' travel patterns, create innumerable bonds that link Norwegians to the EU member states and their people.

But Norway's close ties to the EU are also a result of political cooperation, primarily through the EEA and Schengen Agreements. Developments in EU cooperation are affecting more and more aspects of Norwegian society. Along with Iceland and Liechtenstein, Norway and the EU are partners in the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA Agreement is the most far-reaching economic agreement Norway has ever entered into, and by far the single most important agreement regulating the relationship between Norway and the European Union. The purpose of the Agreement is to enlarge the EU internal market so that it also includes the EEA EFTA states. It does this by creating a common European Economic Area (EEA) uniting the 27 EU member states and the three EEA EFTA states Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

FACTS ABOUT NORWAY

- Official name:
 Kingdom of Norway
- System of government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy
- Population:
 4 787 000 inhabitants as of
 1 October 2008
- Capital:
 Oslo (560 500 inhabitants in 2008)
- Total land area: 384 802 km²
- Currency:
 Norwegian krone, NOK
 € 1 = NOK 8.63
 as of 15 October 2008
- Gross Domestic Product: NOK 2 277 111 million in 2007
- GDP per capita: NOK 483 725 in 2007

Source: Statistics Norway



Norway also cooperates closely with the EU in areas such as justice and home affairs, foreign policy, climate change, energy policy and research.

This brochure will show you to what extent and within what areas Norway and the EU cooperate. The scope and depth of Norway's relations with the EU may surprise you.



Fisherman at Oslo harbour. Photo: Marta B. Haga, MFA Norway/2006



Statfjord A platform. Photo: Statoil/2006

- Norway is the fifth largest oil exporter and the third largest gas exporter in the world.
- 24% of EU natural gas imports come from Norway.
- 95% of Norwegian electricity comes from renewable energy (hydropower).
- Norway is the world's second largest exporter of seafood.
- Norway has the world's fifth largest merchant fleet.
- Norway has the lowest population density in Europe after Iceland, with 15 inhabitants per km².
- In 2008 Norway had 109 foreign service missions.

Did you know that...

- In 2009 Norway allocates 1% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to international development cooperation.
- In 2008 Norway contributed € 188 million to the EU programme budget.
- From 2004 to 2009, Norway is providing almost € 1.3 billion to efforts to reduce social and economic disparities within the EEA.



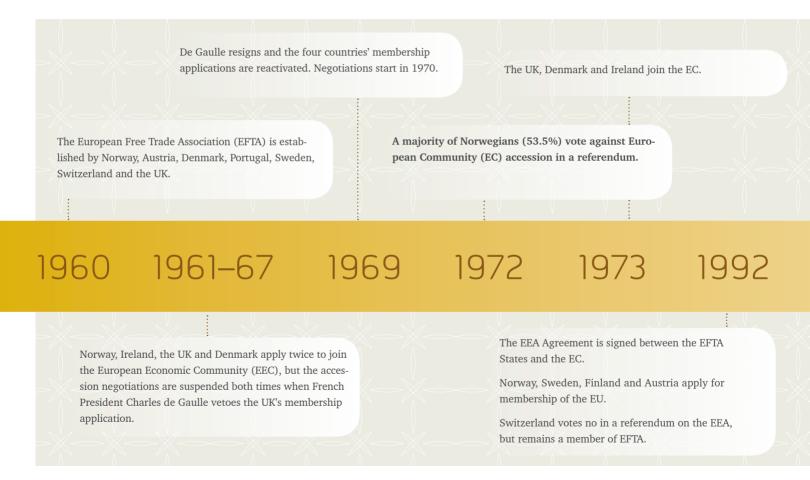


Norway's foreign trade, by region and country, 2007

	IMPORT		EXPORT	
	NOK million	%	NOK million	%
Total	468 663	100.0	813 600	100.0
Nordic countries	117 462	25.1	93 172	11.5
EFTA	5 385	1.1	4 462	0.5
EU	321 911	68.7	642 825	79.0
France	17 008	3.6	69 248	8.5
UK	32 076	6.8	211 504	26.0
Germany	63 571	13.6	103 401	12.7
Africa	6 913	1.5	5 899	0.7
Asia	60 032	12.8	44 193	5.4
North America	45 230	9.7	77 830	9.6
South America	9 757	2.1	4 047	0.5
Oceania	1 139	0.2	2 368	0.3

Source: Statistics Norway

2 A historical overview of Norway-EU relations



The Schengen Convention enters into force for Norway and the other Nordic countries. All passport control between Norway and the fourteen Schengen countries is abolished. The EEA Agreement enters into force on 1 January 1994. A majority of Norwegians (52.2%) rejects membership of the European Union (EU) in a referendum. Romania and Bulgaria join the EU. The EEA is now made up of 30 European countries. 1994 1995 2001 2004 The EU is enlarged with 10 new member states. The EEA Sweden, Finland and Austria become members of Enlargement Agreement establishes a European Ecothe EU. nomic Area consisting of 25 EU member states and the Liechtenstein joins the EEA Agreement. EEA EFTA states Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

3 The EEA Agreement



The Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) is the cornerstone of relations between Norway and the European Union. The EEA extends the internal market, with its four freedoms, to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. In addition the agreement establishes a system that ensures equal conditions of competition.

EEA, without discrimination based on nationality or place of residence. EEA citizens should therefore be able to transfer money between EEA member states, to open bank accounts, invest funds or borrow money in other EEA member states.

The European Economic Area

The European Economic Area unites the 27 EU member states and the three EEA EFTA states (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) in an Internal Market governed by the same basic rules. The aim of the EEA Agreement is to guarantee the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital, as well as equal conditions of competition and non-discrimination in all 30 EEA states.

Free movement of goods shall ensure that products originating in an EEA member state may be marketed freely within the EEA. This means that customs duties as

well as quantitative restrictions on trade in such products are prohibited within the EEA.

Through free movement of persons, all EEA nationals have the right to enter any other EEA member state to work. Students, pensioners and non-working persons also have the right to reside in another EEA state. Individual citizens and companies have the right to establish themselves, offer and provide services in other EEA member states on the same terms as the country's own citizens and companies.

The **free movement of capital** enables cross-border investment by residents in the







A central concept of the EEA Agreement is homogeneity, which means that the same rules and conditions of competition shall apply for all economic operators within the EEA. To maintain homogeneity, the EEA Agreement is continuously updated and amended to ensure that EU legislation on the internal market is integrated into the national legislation of the EEA EFTA states. So far, approximately 6200 legal acts have been incorporated into the EEA Agreement.

The EEA Agreement does not cover the EU common agriculture and fisheries policies, the customs union, the common trade policy, the common foreign and security policy, justice and home affairs or the monetary union.

The EEA institutions

Substantive decisions relating to the EEA Agreement are a joint venture between the EEA EFTA states and the EU, thus common bodies such as the EEA Council and the EEA Joint Committee have been established to administer the EEA Agreement.

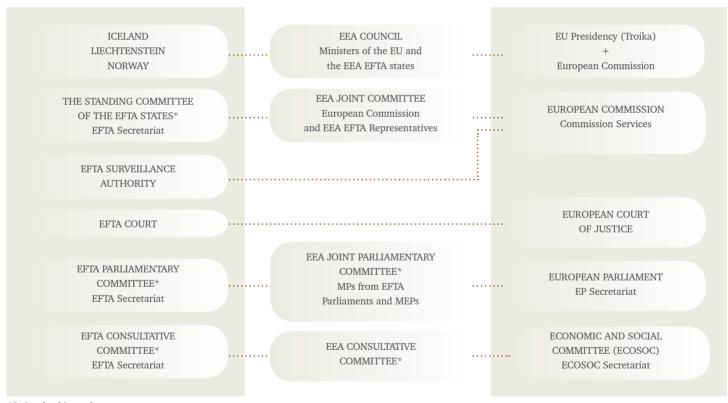
Because the EEA EFTA states are not fully members of the EU, they are constitutionally incapable of accepting direct decisions by the Commission or the European Court of Justice. To cater for this situation, the EEA Agreement set up EEA EFTA bodies to match those on the EU side. This is called the two-pillar structure.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) corresponds to the surveillance function of the Commission and ensures

that Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway respect their obligations under the EEA Agreement. It also ensures that enterprises in these countries abide by the rules relating to effective competition. The Authority can investigate possible infringements of EEA provisions, either on its own initiative, or on the basis of complaints. There is close contact and cooperation between the Commission and the Authority.

The EFTA Court corresponds to the Court of Justice of the European Communities in matters relating to the EEA EFTA states. The Court deals with infringement actions brought by the EFTA Surveillance Authority against an EEA EFTA state or handles the settlement of disputes between two or more EEA EFTA states.

The Two-Pillar EEA Structure



^{*}Switzerland is an observer

This figure illustrates the management of the EEA Agreement. The left pillar shows the EFTA states and their institutions, while the right pillar shows the EU side. The joint EEA bodies are in the middle.

4 Norway's participation in EU programmes and agencies

The European Union has established programmes and activities to strengthen cooperation outside the internal market and the four freedoms. The programmes cover areas such as research, education, social policy and culture. Through the EEA Agreement a wide range of these programmes and activities are extended to Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

The EU has also set up several decentralised agencies to carry out technical, scientific or administrative tasks related to the internal market and the EU programmes. Norway participates in a number of these agencies through provisions in the EEA Agreement or on the basis of bilateral agreements with the EU.

When the EEA Joint Committee agrees to incorporate programmes and agencies into the EEA Agreement, Norway commits to making a yearly financial contribution to the relevant EU budget. EEA EFTA states

fund their participation in programmes and agencies by an amount corresponding to the relative size of their gross domestic product (GDP) compared to the GDP of the whole EEA. The EEA EFTA participation is hence on an equal footing with EU member states. In addition the EEA EFTA states second several national experts to posts in the European Commission. These posts are 100% financed by the EEA EFTA states.

The total EEA EFTA commitment amounts to 2,4% of the overall EU programme budget. In 2008 Norway's contribution was





€ 188 million. This constitutes 94% of the total EEA EFTA contribution. Throughout the programme period 2007-2013, the Norwegian contribution will increase substantially in parallel with the development of the EU programme budget, from € 130 million in 2007 to € 290 million in 2013.





EU PROGRAMMES WITH NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN 2008

- Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
- Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)
- The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)
- The Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS
- Daphne Combating Violence
- Health 2008-2013
- The Consumer Programme 2007–2013
- Youth in Action
- Culture 2007
- MEDIA 2007
- Safer Internet Plus 2005–2008
- Data Interchange IDABC
- Marco Polo Transport
- · EU Statistical Programme
- The Civil Protection Financial Mechanism 2007–2013

EU AGENCIES WITH NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN 2008

- European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (Frontex)**
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)
- European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)
- European Defence Agency (EDA)*
- European Environment Agency (EEA)
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound)
- European Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)*
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- European Medicines Agency (EMEA)
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)*
- European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
- European Police Office (Europol)*
- European Railway Agency (ERA)
- The European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC)*
- The European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust)*
- * Bilateral agreement between the EU and Norway
- ** Norway participates through Schengen membership



5 Justice and home affairs and the Schengen Agreement

Norway and the EU cooperate extensively in the field of justice and home affairs, both through the Schengen Agreement and through agreements in various areas that are not included in the Schengen cooperation.

Norway joined the Schengen cooperation in 2001, and applies the Schengen acquis (the common set of Schengen rules) in full. This means that Norway applies the harmonised policies on visas and external border control. Internal border control between Norway and the other Schengen states has been abolished. To compensate for this, the Schengen cooperation includes parts of EU police cooperation, in which Norway participates actively. Norway is involved in the development of the Schengen acquis at all levels of the EU Council decision-making system and has the right

to speak, but not to vote. Those parts of the EU's Justice and Home Affairs Council meetings in which Norway and other non-EU states participate are described as meetings of the Mixed Committee.

Norway participates in the European Borders Agency, Frontex, which aims to coordinate the management of the common external borders. Norway is represented in the Management Board of Frontex. In addition to the Schengen cooperation, Norway and the EU have entered into agreements on cooperation in various areas, including the following:

- The Dublin cooperation, which establishes the criteria and mechanisms for determining which state is responsible for examining an asylum application;
- Europol, the European Law Enforcement Organisation, which aims at improving cooperation between the competent authorities in EU member states, and their effectiveness in preventing and combating terrorism, unlawful drug trafficking and other serious forms of international organised crime. Two Norwegian liaison officers are posted to the organisation's headquarters in The Hague;



The Storskog Border Crossing Point at the Norwegian-Russian border. Photo: Jaro Hollan

- Eurojust, a cooperation network set up to stimulate and help coordinate the investigation and prosecution of serious cross-border crime. A Norwegian public prosecutor is currently working for Eurojust in The Hague;
- A surrender agreement based on the principles of the European Arrest Warrant;

 An agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance (exchange of information between law-enforcement and prosecution services).

Furthermore, Norway and the EU have initialled an agreement on the Prüm Treaty on enhanced police cooperation in order to combat terrorism and international crime.

The conclusion of this agreement will en-

able Norway to cooperate fully in the part of the treaty that is integrated into the framework of the EU.

6 Norway and the EU foreign and security policy

Norway's foreign policy is largely based on the same values and priorities as that of the EU and its member states – thus our positions are usually very similar. Norway cooperates closely with the EU on a wide range of foreign policy issues.

On a daily basis Norway consults and interacts with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) in order to safeguard common positions and make a difference in international affairs. Norway is engaged in a substantial policy dialogue with the EU on foreign policy issues – with the Council Secretariat, the Commission and the member states.

As part of the EEA Agreement, there are foreign policy consultations twice a year in the margins of EEA Council meetings. Together with the EFTA partners, Norway

is invited to consultations with the Council working groups on topics of common concern such as the Middle East, the Balkans, Russia, the OSCE and the Council of Europe. In addition, Norway is frequently invited to align itself with EU foreign policy statements by the EU, or with EU interventions in international organisations.

Within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) Norway has entered into a separate agreement with the EU for participating in EU civilian and military operations. Norway has partici-





pated in several EU-led operations in the Balkans, in Asia and in the Middle-East. Norway is also part of the Nordic Battle Group under EU auspices. Furthermore, Norway has signed an agreement which permits Norwegian participation in the activities of the European Defence Agency.

Top: A Norwegian police officer receives his service medal from the Head of the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan, Mr. Kai Vittrup. Kabul, November 2008.

Photo: Michael Boyer

Below: Photo: European Communities 2008

7 Norway-EU cooperation at political level

The EEA and Schengen Agreements provide platforms for close cooperation at political level between Norway and the EU system.

The EEA Agreement established the EEA Council to provide the political impetus for implementing the Agreement and guidelines for the EEA Joint Committee. The EEA Council meets twice a year at ministerial level and discusses matters of common concern such as for example climate and energy, the Lisbon Strategy, maritime policy and the Arctic. Its Presidency alternates between the EU (represented by the EU Presidency) and the EEA EFTA states. In connection with each EEA Council meeting, a separate political dialogue meeting is held at which foreign and security policy issues are discussed.

The Schengen association agreement gives Norway the right to participate in decision shaping in the Council at political, senior official and expert levels, but not when formal decisions are taken. Through the Mixed Committee the Norwegian Minister for Justice and the Police and/or the Minister for Labour and Social Inclusion covering migration issues take part in the discussions when matters relevant to Schengen are on the agenda. The Mixed Committee is described as those parts of the EU's Justice and Home Affairs Council meetings in which Norway and other non-EU states participate.





Top: Norwegian Cabinet Ministers meet with the European Commission 12 November 2008. Photo: European Communities/2008

Below: Parts of the Council Secretariat building, Justus Lipsius, reflecting the Commision building, Berlaymont. Photo: Rune Bjåstad, MFA Norway/2008



The European Parliament in Brussels. Photo: Knut Øistad

Bilateral meetings take place also at the highest level. In November 2008 the Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg and six of his cabinet ministers met with the European Commission in Brussels.

Various Norwegian ministers are regulary invited to informal ministerial meetings or conferences arranged by the EU Presidency. Together with ministers from the other European NATO members that are not EU members, the Norwegian Minister of Defence is invited to troika meetings with the EU Presidency after both formal and informal Council meetings of EU defence ministers.

Norway is also from time to time invited to the European Parliament to present Norwegian views on topical issues, such as the Middle East, the Arctic or Norway's energy policy. Both the Foreign Minister and other ministers have been invited.

Norway also takes part in the Space Council as a member of the European Space Agency. The Norwegian Minister of Trade and Industry is present when the Competitiveness Council discusses matters relating to the Agency.

8 The EEA and Norway Grants

Norway has committed to providing almost € 1.3 billion to reduce social and economic disparities within the European Economic Area from 2004 to 2009. Several priority sectors are receiving support, including protection of the environment, conservation of European cultural heritage, health and childcare, research, and strengthening civil society.

Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein established the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms – the EEA and Norway Grants – in conjunction with the enlargement of the European Union and the EEA in 2004. The mechanisms were expanded in 2007 when Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU and the EEA. Norway has been providing funding towards the reduction of social and economic disparities through various mechanisms since the EEA was first established in 1994.

Opportunity to promote cooperation

The EEA and Norway Grants provide a unique opportunity to strengthen the ties

between Norway and the beneficiary states by promoting cooperation and partnerships.

A total of € 1.3 billion is being made available over the five-year period to support individual projects, programmes and funds in 15 beneficiary states. Norway contributes around 97% of this amount. A wide range of public authorities and institutions, organisations and businesses can apply for funding to carry out projects that are in the public interest.

Protection of the environment and sustainable development are among the priority

Contributions 2004–2009 (million €)

Beneficiary state	Amount
Poland	558.63
Hungary	135.06
Czech Republic	110.91
Romania*	98.50
Slovakia	70.33
Lithuania	67.26
Latvia	53.76
Spain	45.84
Bulgaria*	41.50
Greece	34.26
Estonia	32.76
Portugal	31.32
Slovenia	18.59
Cyprus	4.66
Malta	3.62
Total	1 307.00

*For the period January 2007 - April 2009

sectors that receive most funding. Support is provided in important areas such as energy efficiency, use of renewable energy sources, waste water treatment and protection of biodiversity. Norway also provides substantial funding for the conservation of the European cultural heritage. Important rehabilitation and conservation works are now being supported by the EEA and Norway Grants in the beneficiary states to supplement EU efforts.

Special focus on civil society

Strengthening civil society and improving the capacity of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are given special attention under the EEA and Norway Grants. NGO funds have been established in almost

Protection of the European cultural heritage is the largest priority sector in terms of funding. Projects include the restoration of historic buildings, religious monuments and castles. Photo: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs





The NGO funds support projects in areas such as the environment, human rights and social integration. One project in the eastern part of the Czech Republic is promoting tolerance between minority groups and the rest of the population. Photo: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

all beneficiary states, supporting projects within the focus areas of environment, human rights and democracy, social integration and capacity building. In total, around € 85 million will be allocated to projects through the NGO funds.

The donor and beneficiary states cooperate closely on the implementation of the grant schemes. There is great interest in the grants, and support is being provided for a number of groups and projects that are traditionally perceived as too small to automatically qualify for financial support from EU funds. A number of the ongoing

projects have a Norwegian partner.

Funding is made available through open calls in the beneficiary states. The final deadline for commitment by the donors is 30 April 2009, while projects that receive funding may run until the end of April 2011. Funding for a new five year period from 2009 is negotiated with the European Commission.

Upgrading border controls and enhanced police cooperation are among projects supported under the priority sector implemention of Schengen acquis and strenghtening the judiciary. Photo: Emanuela and Dawid Tatarkiewiczowie/Odonata



9 Other areas of cooperation



Fisheries

Norway is one of the world's largest fish exporters. Almost 65% of total Norwegian export of seafood goes to the EU. Trade between Norway and the EU in fish and seafood is regulated in a protocol to the EEA agreement.

Management of living marine resources is not included in the EEA agreement itself but Norwegian and EU fishing vessels harvest fish and seafood from the same oceans. Based on a separate framework agreement Norway and the EU negotiate annual quota agreements on joint stocks in the North Sea, as well as quota swaps for stocks in other sea areas. In general Norway and the EU are cooperating closely on management of marine resources, including control and enforcement of regulations. Common efforts to combat the problem of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) have produced encouraging results.

Furthermore, Norway cooperates closely with the EU in the area of resource management and marine environment through the participation in EU programs and as a partner in the development of European marine policies.

Energy

Norway is fully integrated into the internal energy market as a party to the EEA Agreement. As one of the world's largest exporters of oil and gas, Norway plays a significant role in European energy security.

One fourth of the natural gas imported to the EU originates from the Norwegian continental shelf, second in volume only to Russian gas. In some European countries Norwegian gas accounts for more than 30% of gas consumption. Norwegian gas production is increasing. As almost all Norwegian natural gas is exported to EU member states, the European imports from Norway are increasing correspondingly.

Norway is also one of the world's largest producers of hydropower. There is extensive power trade between Norway and the neighbouring Nordic countries, as well as continental Europe.

There is a well established political dialogue on energy matters between Norway and the European Commission. At least twice a year, the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy meets with the Commissioner on Energy.



Climate change

Norway and the EU are working together in the battle against global warming and share the ambition of limiting the increase in global average temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Norway participates in working groups on the development of climate change policy instruments in the European Commission. There are also meetings at political level on a regular basis. Norway has linked its scheme for emissions trading to the EU Emissions Trading Scheme.

Norway fully supports EU efforts on carbon capture and storage (CCS). Norway has been successfully storing CO_2 in a geological formation under the Sleipner gas field on the Norwegian continental shelf for more than 12 years. One of the world's first CO_2 capture facilities is being planned at the gas-fired power plant at Mongstad on the west coast of Norway. Full-scale CO_2 capture will be effective from 2014.

Maritime Affairs

Norway is a seafaring nation, with much of its population living along the coast and depending on the sea (fisheries and petroleum as well as shipping). Norway and the European Union therefore share the ambition of maintaining the world-leading position and competitiveness of European maritime industries. An integrated approach to ocean management and maritime affairs, as represented by the EU Maritime Policy, is in line with Norwegian thinking and policy.

The European Union's Integrated Maritime Policy was approved by the European Council on 14 December 2007. Norway contributed to the process leading up to the Integrated Maritime Policy by providing written input to the Commission. New EU legislation in this area may apply to Norway through the EEA Agreement.

10 Mission of Norway to the EU

The Mission of Norway to the European Union plays an essential role in the development and implementation of Norway's policy on Europe. The Mission is also an important centre of expertise on EU and EEA affairs for the Norwegian public administration.



Some of the Mission's main tasks are:

- To gather information from the Commission, the Council and the European
 Parliament on the development of EU policy in areas that are important to Norway,
 particularly areas that are relevant to the internal market, at the earliest stage
 possible.
- To promote policies and positions of the Norwegian Government vis-à-vis the EU.
- To work closely with the EFTA Secretariat and the EFTA Surveillance Authority on the administration and implementation of the EEA Agreement.
- To identify issues relating to the EEA and Schengen cooperation that are of political or economic importance to Norway.
- To safeguard Norwegian interests in negotiations with the Commission and the Council in areas covered by the EEA and Schengen Agreements.
- To work closely with the EU institutions on the further development of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the European Security and Defence Policy.
- To improve knowledge and awareness about EU/EEA issues through an open and transparent approach towards the media, visitors to Brussels and others.

Nearly all the Norwegian ministries are represented at the Mission, illustrating the broad scope of Norway's relations with the EU. The Mission currently has a staff of almost 60, of whom 35 are diplomats.

The Mission's website in English, www.eu-norway.org, provides general background information about Norway's relations with the EU and fact sheets on a wide range of policy areas. Every year the Mission receives more than 5000 visitors, ranging from school classes and student groups to business delegations and parliamentary committees.





More information about Norway

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: www.mfa.no

Information from the Government and the Ministries: www.government.no

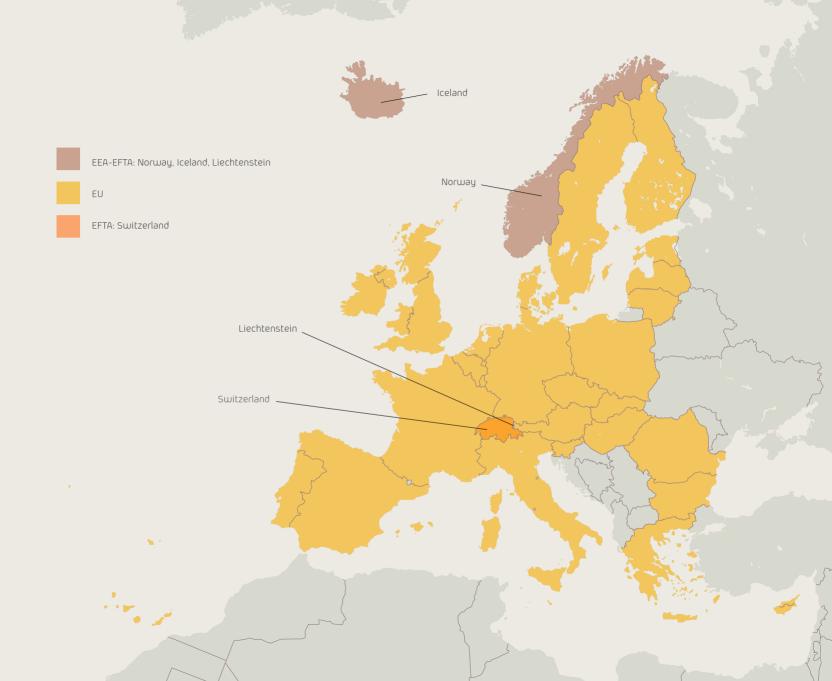
The Mission of Norway to the EU: www.eu-norway.org

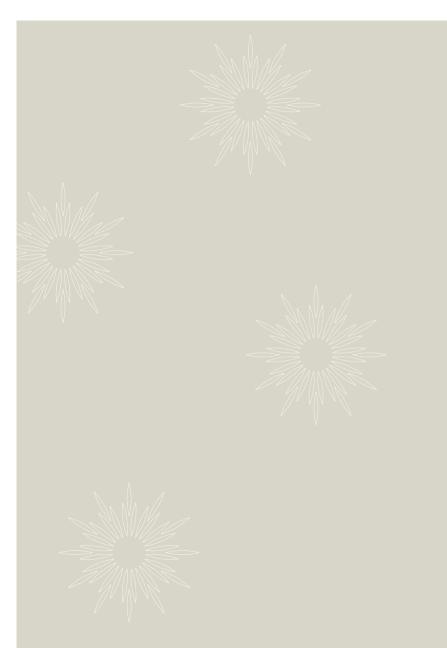
Norway – the official site: www.norway.info

The official travel guide to Norway: www.visitnorway.com

Gateway to the public sector in Norway: www.norway.no

Statistics Norway: www.ssb.no/english







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