

norway

norway and the eu

- partners for europe



NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Cover: *Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg (left) and President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy, 16 June 2010.* Photo: The Council of the European Union.

- *Moskenes, Lofoten.* Photo: Kai Jensen/ Scanpix - *Norway is providing funding for a cooperation centre in the Carpathian region, Poland,* Photo: Carpathian Foundation, Poland

Page 5: *Colourbox 2008. Voss, Norway.* Photo: Nils-Erik Bjørholt/ Innovation Norway, 2009

Page 23: *The Mission of Norway to the EU.* Photo: Rune Bjåstad

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1 Norway and the European Union

Norway and the EU enjoy good and close relations, although 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. Norway has been a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) since its establishment in 1960.

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.

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 Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

FACTS ABOUT NORWAY

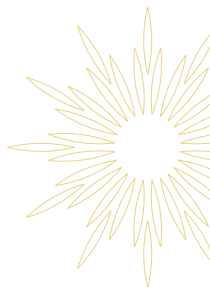
- **Official name:**
Kingdom of Norway
- **System of government:**
Constitutional monarchy,
parliamentary democracy
- **Population:**
4 920 300 inhabitants as of
1 January 2011
- **Capital:**
Oslo (600 000 inhabitants in 2011)
- **Total land area:**
384 802 km²
- **Currency:**
Norwegian krone, NOK
€ 1 = NOK 7.81
(April 2011)
- **Gross Domestic Product:**
NOK 2 505 076 million in 2010
- **GDP per capita:**
NOK 512 364 in 2010

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.



Sleipner Offshore platform.
Photo: Statoil, 2006.





The Opera House in Oslo. Photo: Erik Berg/
The Norwegian National Opera & Ballet, 2009.

- Norway is the sixth largest oil exporter and the second largest gas exporter in the world.
- 24% of EU natural gas imports come from Norway.
- 95% of Norwegian electricity comes from renewable energy (hydro and wind power).
- Norway is the world's second largest exporter of seafood.
- Norway has the world's fifth largest merchant fleet.
- The Norwegian Pension Fund Global owns 1% of the value of the world's equity markets.
- In 2011 Norway had 110 diplomatic and consular missions.

Did you know that...

- In 2011 Norway allocates 1% of its Gross National Income (GNI) to international development cooperation.
- In 2010 Norway contributed € 230 million to the EU programme budget.
- From 2009 to 2014, Norway is providing almost € 1.79 billion to efforts to reduce social and economic disparities within the EEA.



Norway's foreign trade, by region and country, 2010

	IMPORT		EXPORT	
	NOK million	%	NOK million	%
Total	464 653	100.0	794 425	100.0
Nordic countries	107 986	23.2	93 260	11.7
EU	294 565	63.4	641 335	80.7
Europe	318 050	68.4	661 507	83.3
Denmark	29 053	6.3	25 184	3.2
France	16 581	3.6	51 069	6.4
Germany	57 510	12.4	90 501	11.4
Sweden	65 480	14.1	55 734	7.0
UK	27 330	5.9	212 213	26.7
Africa	7 892	1.7	8 016	1.0
Asia	84 976	18.3	59 422	7.5
North America	42 639	9.2	57 073	7.2
South America	10 257	2.2	6 775	0.9
Oceania	839	0.2	1 633	0.2

Source: Statistics Norway

2 A historical overview of Norway–EU relations

De Gaulle resigns and the four countries' membership applications are reactivated. Negotiations start in 1970.

The UK, Denmark and Ireland join the EC.

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is established by Norway, Austria, Denmark, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK.

A majority of Norwegians (53.5%) vote against European Community (EC) accession in a referendum.

1960

1961–67

1969

1972

1973

1992

Norway, Ireland, the UK and Denmark apply twice to join the European Economic Community (EEC), but the accession negotiations are suspended both times when French President Charles de Gaulle vetoes the UK's membership application.

The EEA Agreement is signed between the EFTA States and the EC.

Norway, Sweden, Finland and Austria apply for membership of the EU.

Switzerland votes no in a referendum on the EEA, but remains a member of EFTA.

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.

The Schengen Convention enters into force for Norway and the other Nordic countries. All passport control between Norway and the Schengen countries is abolished.

Romania and Bulgaria join the EU. The EEA is now made up of 30 European countries.

1994

1995

2001

2004

2007

Sweden, Finland and Austria become members of the EU.

Liechtenstein joins the EEA Agreement.

The EU is enlarged with 10 new member states. The EEA Enlargement Agreement establishes a European Economic Area consisting of 25 EU member states and the 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.

The European Economic Area

The European Economic Area unites the 27 EU member states and the three EEA EFTA states (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) in an internal market governed by the same basic rules. The aim of the EEA Agreement is to promote trade and economic relations between the 30 EEA states. It guarantees free movement of goods, persons, services and capital, as well as non-discrimination and equal competition rules throughout the European Economic Area.

Free movement of goods shall ensure that products originating in an EEA state may circulate freely within the internal market. Customs duties and quantitative restrictions

on trade in such products are prohibited within the EEA.

Through **free movement of persons**, all EEA nationals have the right to work in any other EEA state. Students, pensioners and non-working persons also have the right to reside in another EEA state.

The EEA Agreement gives individuals and companies the **freedom of establishment** and the right to **provide services** across the EEA on equal terms. Information and authorisation procedures are available through the Point of Single Contact for service providers at www.altinn.no.

The **free movement of capital** enables cross-border investment by residents and companies in the EEA, without discrimination based on nationality, place of residence or place of establishment. Citizens and companies have the right to transfer money between EEA states, open bank accounts,





invest in shares and funds or borrow money in other EEA states.

A central principle 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 internal market legislation is implemented in national legislation of the EEA EFTA states.

The EEA Agreement provides for cooperation on “flanking and horizontal issues” such as research and development, education, social policy, environment, consumer protection, tourism and culture, and provides for participation in various EU programmes.

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. Common bodies, such as the EEA Council and the EEA Joint Committee have been established to administer the EEA Agreement.

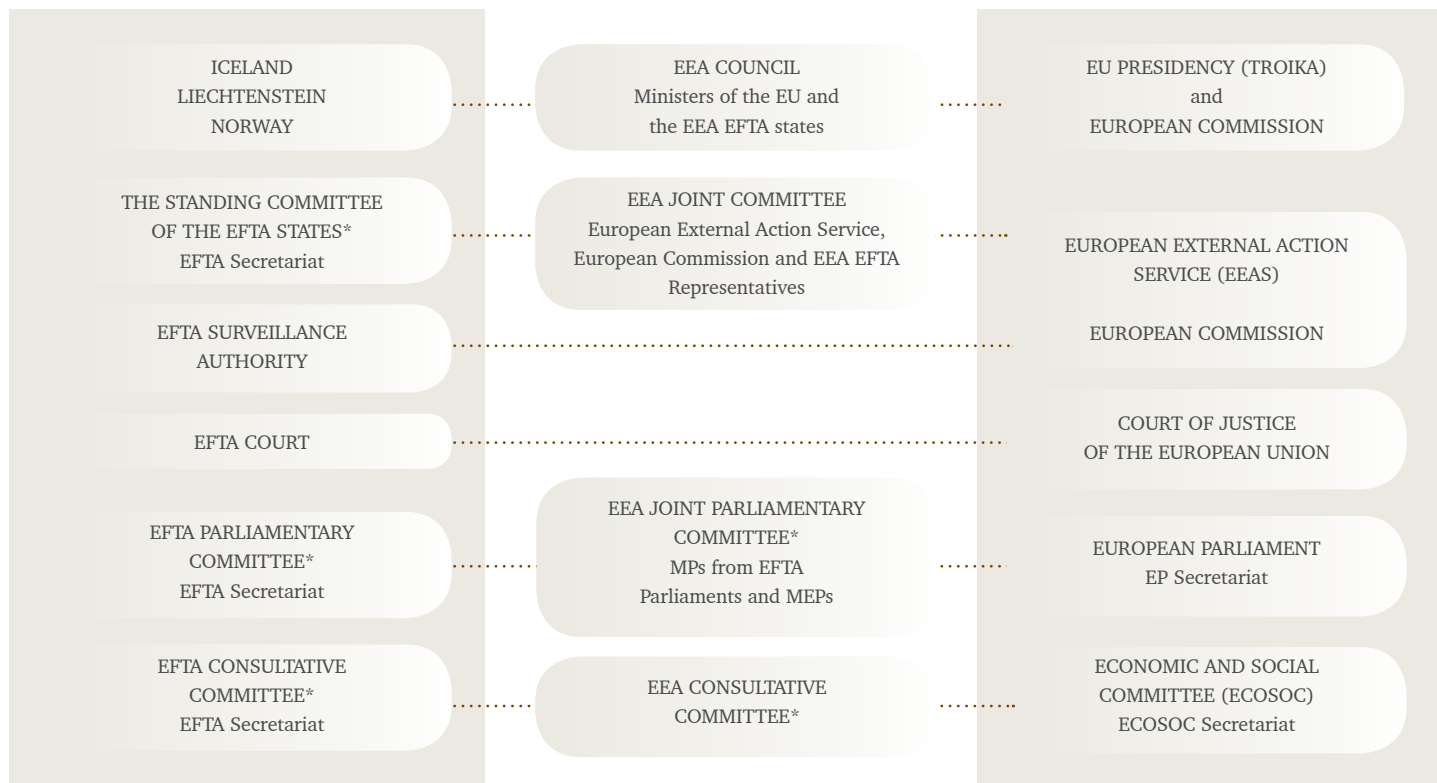
Because the EEA EFTA states are not members of the EU, they are constitutionally not able to accept direct decisions by the European Commission or the Court of Justice of the European Union. Separate EEA EFTA bodies have therefore been set up to parallel these EU bodies. This is called the two-pillar 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 companies in these countries abide by the common competition rules. 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 Union in matters relating to the EEA EFTA states. The EFTA Court deals with infringement actions brought by the EFTA Surveillance Authority against an EEA EFTA state and handles 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 send 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 2010 Norway's contribution was



€ 210 million. This constitutes 97 % 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 2010

- Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)
- Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP)
- The Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP)
- The Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity – PROGRESS
- Daphne III - Combating Violence
- Drug prevention and information
- Health 2008–2013
- The Consumer Programme 2007–2013
- Youth in Action
- Culture 2007
- MEDIA 2007
- Safer Internet Plus 2009–2013
- Interoperability Solutions for EU Public Administrations (ISA)
- Interreg
- Marco Polo II – Transport
- EU Statistical Programme
- The Civil Protection Financial Mechanism 2007–2013
- Erasmus Mundus II
- Galileo Satellite Navigation System Programme



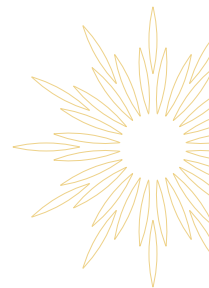
EU AGENCIES WITH NORWEGIAN PARTICIPATION IN 2010

- Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)***
- 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 Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFUND)
- European GNSS Supervisory Authority
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA)
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)*
- European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA)
- European Police College*
- European Police Office (EUROPOL)*
- European Railway Agency (ERA)
- European Research Council Executive Agency (ERC)***
- European Union Satellite Centre (EUSC)*
- European Union's Judicial Cooperation Unit (EUROJUST)*
- Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)***
- Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC)***
- Research Executive Agency (REA)***

* Bilateral agreement between the EU and Norway

** Norway participates through Schengen membership

*** Norway participates through related programmes



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;
- The European Migration Network, which contributes to policy development on migration and asylum through exchange of information, experience and best practice;
- 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;



Storskog border station, Norwegian-Russian border. Photo: Thomas Nilsen/BarentsObserver.com

- 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)*;
- An agreement on the Prüm Treaty on enhanced police cooperation in order to combat terrorism and international crime*.

*Upon entry into force

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 – primarily with the European External Action Service (EEAS) 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 foreign policy statements by the EU, or with EU interventions in international organisations.

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



has participated 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.

Norway fighting pirates with frigate KNM Fridtjof Nansen, as part of the EU naval operation ATALANTA outside Somalia. Photo: EU NAVFOR

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.

The EEA Agreement introduced the EEA Council to establish political priorities for implementing and developing the Agreement. The EEA Council meets twice a year at ministerial level to assess the overall functioning of the EEA Agreement and to discuss matters of common concern such as climate and energy, the Europe 2020 strategy, maritime policy and the Arctic. Its Presidency alternates between the EU and the EEA EFTA chair.

In connection with each EEA Council meeting, a separate political dialogue meeting is held to discuss foreign and security policy issues.

The Schengen association agreement gives Norway the right to participate in the work of the Council at political, senior official and expert levels, although without the right to vote when formal decisions are taken. Through the Mixed Committee the Norwegian Minister for Justice and the Police takes part in the discussions when matters relevant to Schengen are on the agenda.

In addition to the established structure provided for by the EEA Agreement, various bilateral high-level meetings take place. The Prime Minister meets with the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission



Top: Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg meets with Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, in Oslo, March 2011. Photo: Prime Minister's Office.

Below: Norwegian Minister of the Environment and International Development, Erik Solheim with European Commissioner for Climate Action, Connie Hedegaard. Photo: European Union.



Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jonas Gahr Støre and Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Photo: European Union

and the EU Presidency. The Minister of Foreign Affairs meets regularly with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The members of the Government meet with members of the Commission to discuss issues of common interest.

Based on a long-standing tradition between the EFTA states and the EU Presidency, various Norwegian ministers are invited to informal ministerial meetings and conferences arranged by the EU Presidency.



The European Parliament in Brussels. Photo: Knut Øistad

The Norwegian Minister of Defence is invited to a political dialogue with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy together with ministers from the other European NATO members that are not EU members and countries that are candidates for EU membership.

Norway is also invited to the European Parliament to present Norwegian views on topical issues, such as Norwegian involvement in the Middle East, the Arctic and

the High North, Norway's energy policy or gender equality. 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 almost € 1.79 billion to reduce social and economic disparities within the EEA from 2009 to 2014. Priority areas include environmental protection and climate change, conservation of cultural heritage, decent work, justice and home affairs and strengthening civil society. The EEA and Norway Grants provide a unique opportunity to promote cooperation and partnerships between Norway and the fifteen beneficiary states¹.

EEA members Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein established the EEA and Norway Grants in conjunction with the enlargement of the European Union and the EEA in 2004. Norway has been providing funding to reduce social and economic disparities through various mechanisms since the EEA was first established in 1994.

A total of € 1.79 billion is being made available over this current five-year period 2009-2014, in addition to the € 1.30 billion already provided under the 2004-2009 mechanism. Norway contributes around 97% of the pledged amount.

A wide range of public authorities and institutions, organisations and businesses can apply for funding. Support is granted to applicants through programmes managed at country level and is mainly made available through open calls in the beneficiary states. Negotiations on priorities and programmes in the beneficiary states for the period 2009-2014 are ongoing. In this period a programmatic approach has been favoured to secure more strategic cooperation between relevant institutions in Norway and the beneficiary countries.

¹ Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.

Annual Contributions 2009–2014 (million €)

Beneficiary state	Amount
Poland	115.6
Hungary	30.7
Czech Republic	26.4
Romania	61.2
Slovakia	16.2
Lithuania	16.2
Latvia	14.6
Spain*	9.2
Bulgaria	25.3
Greece	12.7
Estonia	9.7
Portugal	11.6
Slovenia	5.4
Cyprus	7.9
Malta	0.9
Total	357.7

Norway's share of the annual contribution is 97%, i.e. € 347 million a year.

*Spain will receive transitional support in the period 1 May 2009-31 December 2013

Focus areas

Protection of the environment and sustainable development are among the priority sectors that receive most funding. Thirty per cent of the funding in each country – a total of around € 450 million – will be devoted to the sectors of environmental protection and management, climate change and renewable energy, carbon capture and storage and green industry innovation.

Strengthening civil society and improving the capacity of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are given special attention under the EEA and Norway Grants. A minimum of 10% of the funding in each country will be devoted to areas such as democracy-building, protection of human rights and promotion of social inclusion.

Protection of the European cultural heritage is a priority sector. 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

A new fund for decent work and social dialogue will be established with a view to promoting cooperation on labour policies between workers, employers and government organisations. Strategies to achieve decent working standards and initiatives to promote work-life balance at the work place, as well as better health, safety and environment standards are prioritised. Gender equality is often seen as a key to economic development and will be a horizontal concern for all programmes.

Research, scholarships and human and social development are other focus areas

under the grants. Social inclusion programmes involve measures to enhance public health services and tackle issues such as poverty, lack of equal opportunities, discrimination or exclusion from the labour market.

Upgrading border controls and enhanced police cooperation are among projects supported under the priority sector implementation of Schengen acquis and strengthening 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 programmes and as a partner in the development of European marine policies.

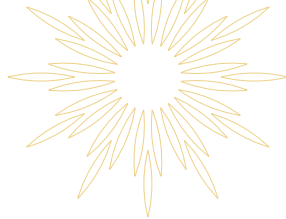
Energy

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.

Approximately 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 may further increase. As almost all Norwegian natural gas is exported to EU member states, the European imports from Norway will increase correspondingly.

Norway is also one of the world's largest producers of hydro-power. 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 once a year the Energy Commissioner and the Norwegian Minister of Petroleum and Energy have a bilateral energy dialogue meeting.



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 two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels.

Norway is fully integrated into the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. Moreover, 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 wholly supports EU efforts on carbon capture and storage (CCS). Norway has been successfully storing CO₂ in a geological formation under the Sleipner gas field on the Norwegian continental shelf for more than 14 years. A test centre and a full-scale CO₂ capture facility are being planned at the gas-fired power plant at Mongstad on the west coast of Norway. Furthermore, as part of Norway's contribution to the EEA Financial Mechanisms, Norway has earmarked € 160 million over five years for CCS projects in selected EU member states.



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 launched in December 2007. Norway cooperates closely with the EU in this field. 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 of the European Union, the European Council, the European Parliament and the European External Action Service (EEAS) 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, the EEAS 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 Common 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.



All Norwegian ministries are represented at the Mission, illustrating the broad scope of Norway's relations with the EU. The Mission has a staff of around 60, of which two thirds are diplomats.

The Mission's website in English, **www.eu-norway.org**, provides general news and background information about Norway's relations with the EU and fact sheets on a range of policy areas. Annually the Mission receives around 6 500 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

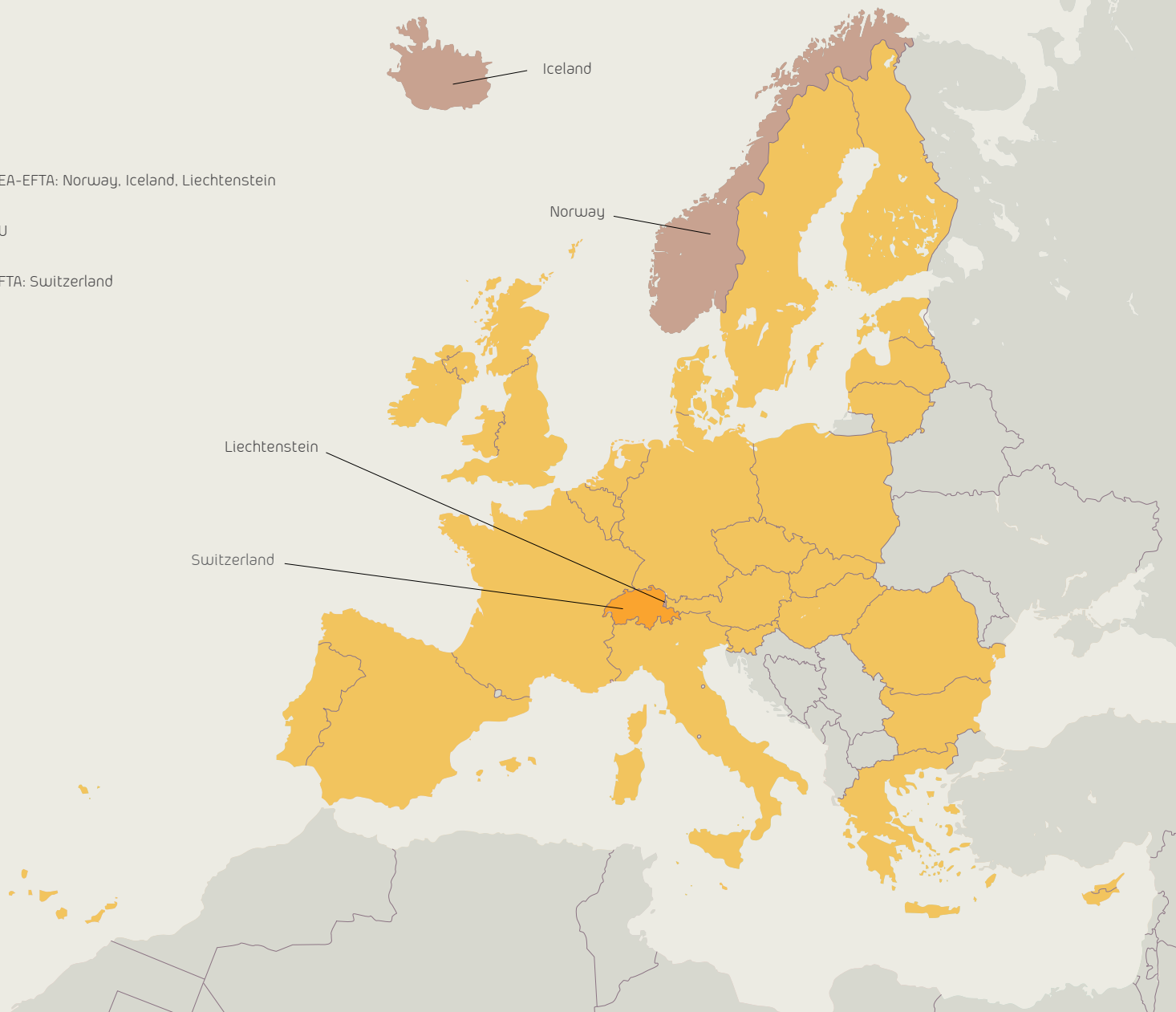
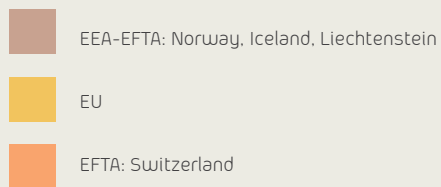
Norway – the official site: www.norway.info

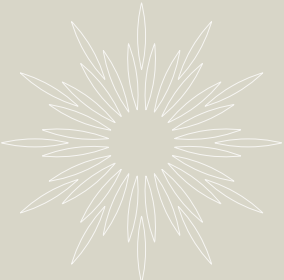
The official travel guide to Norway: www.visitnorway.com

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

Statistics Norway: www.ssb.no/english

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA): www.efta.int





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