



The Royal Ministry of Agriculture

EFTA Surveillance Authority Rue de Treves 74 B-1040 Brussels Belgia

Your ref

Our ref 200303353-/IAA Date 12.12.2003

Subject: Restrictions on acquisition of real property in Norway - the new concession act.

We refer to your follow-up letter from the package meeting in Oslo 23 and 24 September 2003, to your letter dated the 28th of October concerning a complaint about acquisiton of land in Norway and to correspondence by e-mail between Ms. Dejmek and Ms. Aasen.

The new concession Act, The Act of 28 November 2003 no. 98 relating to Concessionn in the Acquisition of Real Property", hereinafter "the Act", was passed the said date. The Act will enter into force 1 January in 2004. The Act, at present only available in Norwegian language, is, enclosed (1). We will forward an English version as soon as the official version is ready.

New regulations, guidelines and application forms is <u>enclosed (2 and 3)</u>. The regulations are dated 8 December 2003, the guidelines are given in Circular M-5/2003 and M-6/2003.

In former discussions with you we have compared the new act with the existing one, describing the changes. The changes, in short, are summarized in Ot.prp.nr. 79 (2002-2003) chapter 2. The proposition was handed over to you in our last meeting.

The Standing Committee on Business and Industry's views on the then proposed act, Innst. O. no. 11 (2003-2004) is enclosed (4). The Minister of Agriculture's information to the Storting on the Act and the Ospelt case is a part of this paper, and must be regarded as one of the official documents of preparation for the new act.

We would also like to inform you that one of the members of the committee has proposed to the Storting that the government should make investigations in order to show what kind of influence the habitation regulations have on habitation in rural areas and to other activities

Org. no.:

972 417 874

+47 22 24 90 90

influence the habitation regulations have on habitation in rural areas and to other activities and development in the districts. The Storting decided to pass the proposition further to the government. See <u>enclosure (5)</u>.

We hope this information will be to your satisfaction. We are aware that many of the topics still may need explanations or more thorough examination. When you have looked into the information following this letter, we therefore suggest that we prepare for at trip to Brussels in order to have the necessary dialogue. Please give us suggestions on when such at trip would be appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

nger Grette

Deputy director general

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