



DET KONGELIGE
SAMFERDSELSDEPARTEMENT

Ministry of Transport and Communications

EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA)
Rue Belliard 35
B-1040 Brussels
Belgium

Your ref

Our ref
04/1622- KKO

Date
15.09.2006

Complaint regarding methods of toll collection at the E39 – Norwegian comments

With reference to letter dated 20 July 2006 from the ESA (Case No: 3092; Event No: 380428). The Norwegian authorities are invited to comment the content of the letter.

We will not argue the observations made in the letter¹, but the Norwegian authorities still do not share the opinion of the ESA in this matter. We have argued that from the Norwegian point of view there is a good relation between benefit and toll payment in this project. Based on the fact that only 5 % of those who pay road toll on the ferry do not use the new tunnel and the fact that there is an alternative route without tolls, the Ministry can not see that the project E39 *Teigen - Bogen* is in conflict with the Directive.

Nevertheless, the Norwegian authorities will improve the information about the toll payment and the alternative route. However, we keep the payment at the ferry since this kind of toll collection is effective, reduces hindrance to the free flow of traffic and maintains normal road-safety standards.

Yours sincerely,


Tore Raasok


Ola Brattgard

¹ With one exception: the alternative route does not necessarily imply an extra ferry connection.