COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2016/784

of 12 May 2016

on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, within the EEA Joint Committee concerning an amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms (Budget Line 04 03 01 03)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Articles 46 and 48 in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 of 28 November 1994 concerning arrangements for implementing the Agreement on the European Economic Area ([1]), and in particular Article 1(3) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) The Agreement on the European Economic Area ([2]) ('the EEA Agreement') entered into force on 1 January 1994.

(2) Pursuant to Article 98 of the EEA Agreement, the EEA Joint Committee may decide to amend, inter alia, Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement ('Protocol 31').

(3) Protocol 31 contains specific provisions on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms.

(4) It is appropriate to continue the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to include cooperation concerning free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries.

(5) Protocol 31 should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to continue beyond 31 December 2015.

(6) The position of the Union in the EEA Joint Committee should therefore be based on the attached draft Decision,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The position to be adopted, on the Union's behalf, within the EEA Joint Committee on the proposed amendment to Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms, shall be based on the draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee attached to this Decision.

([1]) OJ L 305, 30.11.1994, p. 6.
([2]) OJ L 1, 3.1.1994, p. 3.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 12 May 2016.

For the Council
The President
F. MOGHERINI

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DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE No …/2016

amending Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, on cooperation in specific fields outside the four freedoms

THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE,

Having regard to the Agreement on the European Economic Area ('the EEA Agreement'), and in particular Articles 86 and 98 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) It is appropriate to extend the cooperation of the Contracting Parties to the EEA Agreement to include cooperation concerning free movement of workers, coordination of social security systems and measures for migrants, including migrants from third countries.

(2) Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement should therefore be amended in order to allow for this extended cooperation to take place from 1 January 2016,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

In paragraphs 5 and 13 of Article 5 of Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement, the words 'and 2015' are replaced by the words ', 2015 and 2016'.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following the last notification under Article 103(1) of the EEA Agreement (*).

It shall apply from 1 January 2016.

Article 3

This Decision shall be published in the EEA Section of, and in the EEA Supplement to, the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

Done at Brussels,

For the EEA Joint Committee
The President

The Secretaries
to the EEA Joint Committee

(*) [No constitutional requirements indicated.] [Constitutional requirements indicated.]