



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 07.03.2000
SEC(2000) 400 final

37(20)

Draft

DECISION OF THE EEA JOINT COMMITTEE

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

- Draft common position of the Community -
(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Protocol 31 to the EEA Agreement contains specific provisions on the co-operation between the Community and the EFTA-EEA States outside the four freedoms.
2. The attached draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee aims to modify Protocol 31 to extend co-operation in the field of education, training and youth. It provides for a framework for co-operation and sets out the modalities for full participation of the EFTA-EEA States in the Community programme and actions in this field (second phase of the Community action programme in the field of education 'Socrates' (Decision No 253/2000/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 January 2000)).
3. Article 1.3(b) of Council Regulation (EC) No 2894/94 concerning the arrangements for implementing the EEA Agreement envisages that the Council establishes the Community position for such Decisions on a proposal from the Commission.
4. The draft Decision of the EEA Joint Committee is submitted for the approval of the Council. The Commission would hope to be able to put forward the position of the Community in the EEA Joint Committee in March 2000.

Article 2

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

It shall apply from 1 January 2000.

Article 3

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

Done at Brussels, ... 2000.

For the EEA Joint Committee
The
F. Barbaso

President

The
to the EEA Joint Committee

Secretaries