



ROYAL NORWEGIAN MINISTRY OF
TRADE, INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

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Your ref

Our ref

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Review of the Commission Communication on projects of common European interest (IPCEI)

Norway welcomes the Commission draft Communication on Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI). We support the draft and would emphasize the importance of ensuring inclusiveness and openness in the design of IPCEIs and to enhance the participation of SMEs.

It is important to ensure timely access to information on IPCEIs for all EEA States, to ensure that all EEA states have the necessary time to assess and prepare for participation. We note that, at this stage, there is no central information point on IPCEIs. Norway is concerned that the EEA EFTA States may not have equal access to relevant fora for information and exchange of views as the Member States, such as Working Parties under the EU Council. We would ask the Commission to ensure an information system that allows for equal access to information for all EEA States.

The EFTA Surveillance Authority is the competent authority for the control of State aid for the EEA EFTA States. Close coordination and cooperation between the Commission and the Surveillance Authority will be required for IPCEIs where both Member States and EEA EFTA States participate in an IPCEI.

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Norway has not yet gained practical experience with IPCEI projects. As such, we see the merits of quantifying further, for instance by using examples, terms such as "significant", "significant co-financing", "claw-back mechanism" and "counterfactual scenario".

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Director General

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