

Single Co-ordinated Communication from the EFTA States

These comments originate from Norway, but have the support of Iceland. Liechtenstein did not submit any observations on the Norwegian comments.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in the *Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society Services*,¹ Finland notified on 14 December 2016 a piece of draft national legislation, which amends its Alcohol Act.²

In the notification, Finland describes the proposed measure as follows:³

“As a general rule, the production, wholesale, retail and serving of alcoholic substances would be subject to authorisation. The retail sales monopoly for alcoholic beverages would be maintained. Alcoholic beverages containing a maximum of 4.7 % by volume of ethyl alcohol may currently be sold in authorised retail stores. This provision would be widened to allow the retail sale of alcoholic beverages containing up to 5.5 % by volume of ethyl alcohol. The current right to retail wine and sahti containing up to 13 % by volume of ethyl alcohol is also granted to small and independent brewers in order to sell artisan beers containing up to 12 % by volume of alcohol directly to consumers directly from the place of production, in contrast to the retail monopoly. [...]”

Norway refers to the Swedish comments on the abovementioned notification of 14 March 2017. Norway supports the main lines of the Swedish comments.

Similarly, Iceland supports the main lines of the abovementioned Swedish comments.

¹ The Act referred to at point 1 of Chapter XIX of Annex II to the EEA Agreement, *Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations*.

² Notification 2016/653/FIN.

³ See point 8 concerning «main content» of the notification, accessible under the following hyperlink: <http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/tris/en/search/?trisaction=search.detail&year=2016&num=653>