

**Subject: Public consultation of the information submitted by Norway under the Services Directive**

## **Introduction**

The information provided below refers to legal provisions adopted or modified pursuant to the implementation of the Services Directive as well as to legal provisions which Member States have indicated as being applicable to service providers in the areas covered by the directive. The information has been provided by Norway in the context of the implementation of the Directive and of the mutual evaluation process. It does not represent a legal analysis or a position of the EFTA Surveillance Authority in respect of compliance with EU law in general or with the Services Directive in particular.

Below a summary of the legislation that was notified by Norway is provided. For references to the relevant legislative acts in specific sectors, please contact the Authority at [services@eftasurv.int](mailto:services@eftasurv.int).

In Norway, requirements covered by the Directive are laid down in legislation adopted at national level. In some cases decisions under such legislation are taken on the local and regional levels. Such decision include licenses to sell and serve alcohol and food; licenses to provide tattoo and piercing services; and authorisations to assume responsibility and administer building projects.

## **The main changes to Norwegian legislation**

Norway has adopted a horizontal law (Act of 19 June 2009 No 103 relating to services (Services Act)) and a regulation (Regulation of 18 December 2009 No 1644 concerning services and administrative co-operation between public authorities) in order to implement the Directive in Norway.

In a number of areas, sectoral changes have been made in order to fulfil the requirements under the Directive. These changes include the abolishment of a requirement that real estate agents must have a specific legal form in order to provide services; the lifting of the obligation for debt collectors providing cross-border services to have a Norwegian authorisation and to be registered in Norway; the clarification of the conditions for granting authorisations for the trade in used goods; and the setting of time limits for the processing of several types of application for authorisations.

**Examples of authorisation schemes imposed on service providers established in Norway**

Authorisations must be obtained in order to serve or sell food and alcohol. Furthermore, service providers which assumes responsibility and administer building projects must be authorised, as well as real estate agents, accountants, auditors and electricians. Finally auto repair shops, driving schools and providers of tattoo and piercing services need to be authorised.

**Examples of other types of requirements imposed on service providers established in Norway**

Only persons with a substantial ownership in the undertaking can be authorised to carry out debt collecting services or real estate agency services. In order to own shares in a law firm or be seated on the board of a law firm, a person must perform substantial professional activity in that law firm.

**Examples of requirements on multidisciplinary activities of the regulated professions or in the area of certification, accreditation, technical monitoring and testing services**

Persons supervising electrical installations or equipment may normally not perform other tasks within the electric power sector than those connected to the function as a local supervisory body

Law firms may, in addition to legal practice, only engage in activities that are connected with legal practice.

A debt collection undertaking may not be involved in both recovery of pecuniary claims for others and the purchase of and recovery of its own due pecuniary claims. The activity must be limited to one of these.

Real estate agencies may only engage in activities which are connected with real estate services, and which do not undermine the reliance of the undertaking's integrity and independency.

External accountants may not engage in other services activities than accounting.

**Examples of requirements which apply to service providers established in other Member States and providing services in Norway**

Authorisations must be obtained in order to serve or sell food and alcohol. Furthermore, a person or undertaking which assumes responsibility and administers construction products must be authorised, as well as electricians and traders in used or cast-off goods.