

JOINT STATEMENT

between the Foreign Ministers of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

on

“Strengthening EEA Foreign and Security Policy Cooperation” (Brussels, 21 May 2025)

1. The European Economic Area (EEA) serves as a robust and dynamic framework for the partnership between the European Union (EU) and the EEA EFTA States Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. In 2024, we marked the 30th anniversary of the EEA Agreement’s entry into force; a milestone that allowed us to reflect on our shared achievements as closest like-minded partners. Together, we uphold the common values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law while promoting a rules-based international order.
2. The 1994 “Declaration by the Governments of the Member States of the EC and the EFTA States on Political Dialogue” has served as the foundation of foreign policy cooperation between the EU and its sovereign partners Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the past decades. This cooperation includes regular exchanges at ministerial and working level and is complemented by bilateral engagement with each of the three countries, taking into account their interests and policy priorities.
3. Over the past 30 years, our foreign and security policy cooperation has demonstrated its significance by strengthening cross-continent European unity in addressing global challenges, aligning on common positions and actions and standing firm together in difficult times, including in moments when we face war on the European continent. Today, amid a challenging geopolitical landscape, and most notably in the context of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, it is imperative to strengthen our foreign and security policy engagement.
4. Building on our common experience of the past decades, we are determined to upgrade the EEA political dialogue and cooperation in the areas of foreign policy, security and defence in the following formats:

Political dialogue at ministerial level

- i. regular informal EEA political dialogue at ministerial level in the margins of the EEA Council; joint statements on topical issues in the areas of foreign and security policy could be adopted on the occasion of these meetings;

Political dialogue at senior officials' and working level

- ii. regular informal EEA political dialogue at senior officials' and working level organised by the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the diplomatic services of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway on thematic or geographic topics of common interest in the areas of foreign and security policy;

Alignment with EU foreign policy

- iii. alignment of EEA-EFTA States with EU statements, declarations and restrictive measures;

Cooperation with EU Special Representatives and Envoys

- iv. strengthened cooperation between EU Special Representatives and EU Special Envoys and counterparts from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway;

Security and defence cooperation

- v. strengthened cooperation between the EU and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in the areas of peace, security and defence, including FIMI, while taking into account the interests and policy priorities of each partner;

Promotion of human rights, gender balance and equality

- vi. reinforced cooperation in advancing human rights, gender balance and equality

Collaboration with EU agencies

- vii. strengthened cooperation between EU agencies and other instruments operating in the areas of foreign policy, security and defence, in accordance with applicable legal and institutional frameworks;

Participation in the EU's Foreign Affairs Council

- viii. subject to the Rules of Procedures and working methods of the Council of the EU, representatives of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway may be invited on an ad hoc basis to attend meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and its relevant preparatory bodies (Political and Security Committee, other Committees and Working Parties) for an exchange of views on topics of mutual interest;

Cooperation in third countries

- ix. reinforced cooperation between the EU delegations and offices and the diplomatic representations of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in third countries and at international organisations, as well as at international conferences;

Joint diplomatic initiatives

- x. the EEAS and EU delegations may invite diplomatic representations of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway in third countries and at international organisations to participate in joint demarches, along with EU Member States.

5. As like-minded partners, the EU and EEA EFTA States could develop new cooperation formats in foreign policy, security and defence, ensuring they are complementary to and without prejudice to the EU's engagement in bilateral cooperation with Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Signed,

For the European Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Håge Henriksen', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

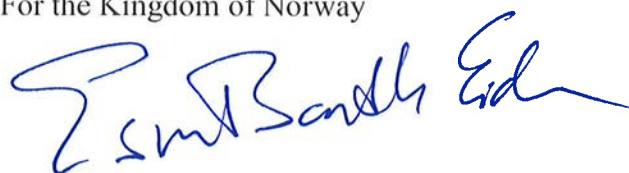
For the Principality of Liechtenstein

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Moller', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

For Iceland

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Þorgeir Katrinn Gunnarsson', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

For the Kingdom of Norway

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Einar Børre Eide', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.