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EFTA SURVEILLANCE
AUTHORITY

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries
Department of Competition Policy
PO Box 8090 Dep
NO-0032 Oslo
Norway

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Compatibility with provisions of the EEA Agreement

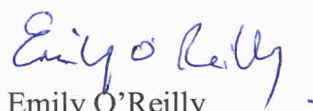
The Competition and State Aid Directorate of the EFTA Surveillance Authority (“the Authority”) is currently assessing whether the exemption regulation regarding cooperation within the agricultural and fishing sector (“the Regulation”)¹, complies with Part IV of the Agreement on the European Economic Area (“the EEA Agreement”). The aforementioned Regulation is based on Article 3 of the Norwegian Competition Act.² The Norwegian authorities are invited to respond to the following question:

1. Please elaborate on whether the provisions of the Regulation, regarding the production and distribution of agricultural products, are compatible with the competition provisions of the EEA Agreement. The Authority notes that agricultural products falling under heading No 0403 of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System fall within the scope of the EEA Agreement, according to Article 8 and Protocol 3 to that Agreement.

The Norwegian authorities are invited to submit the above information, as well as any other information it deems relevant to the case, so that it reaches the Authority by **6 June 2016**. Please enclose copies of relevant national legislation, including English translations if available.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Guðmundur Guðmundsson (Email: ggu@eftasurv.int – Tel: (+32)(0)2 286 1 865) in that regard.

Yours faithfully,



Emily O'Reilly
Acting Director
Competition and State aid Directorate

¹ In Norwegian: Forskrift om unntak for samarbeid mv. innen landbruk og fiske, FOR-2004-04-23-651.

² LOV-1993-06-11-65.