

Switching from EU/ Single Market to EFTA/Single Market membership – action/implementation suggestions

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Switching from EU/Single Market to EFTA/Single Market membership



– action/implementation suggestions

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Britain upgrading to:
Running AGRICULTURE
Running FISHERIES
Running HOME AFFAIRS
Running JUSTICE
60% REDUCTION IN REGULATIONS
£3bn saving on net EU contributions
Rejoining WORLD ORGANISATIONS, having a voice
Ability to make FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS with any country



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Introduction

There are easy ways to move from EU membership to EFTA membership, in weeks and months, rather than years. In implementing changes there can be a choice between doing things the 'easy way' or the 'struggle way'. This paper will look at moving to EFTA membership the easy way.

The European Economic Area allows for free movement of: goods, services, people and capital. The aim is to move to an alternative which is: likely to have most public support, fast and easy to implement, likely to have most business support, also easier for other countries to win a referendum. This option is what Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein have – EFTA/EEA, or European Free Trade Association and Single Market membership. This is an off-the-shelf alternative, which includes benefits of the UK running:

- Agriculture
- Fisheries
- Home Affairs
- Justice
- Spending the £9bn that goes to the EU and comes back, according to UK priorities
- Contributing around £3bn a year, to the EU, saving around £3bn a year
- New regulations falling from around 1000 a year, to 350 a year
- Reviewing the need for the 100,000 EU regulations and assessing the current 5,000 EEA regulations
- Regulations which used to affect 100% of the economy, only affecting the 9% that are involved with EU exports
- Ability to negotiate and agree Free Trade Agreements with any other country
- Re-join world bodies and speak for British interests directly, instead of the current EU representatives, i.e. currently having 1/28th voice
- Ability to veto implementation of new EEA/Single market regulations which are not in British interests, and also current regulations which may be harmful and duplications of existing British regulations

The process of implementation is:

- Project approach
- By sector/Ministerial department, e.g. agriculture, Justice
- Having a 1 page overview
- Project calendar
- Action log of actions

Britain was a founding member of EFTA in 1960, and left in 1972 to join the EC (European Community), which went on to become the EU. After having an annual trade deficit of £40bn, which is equivalent to exporting 1 million jobs, and a cumulative trade deficit, since joining, of over £400bn, adding in a cumulative contribution to Brussels of over £130bn, it is time to switch from membership of the EU, that is complicated and exports jobs to a win-win agreement that is simpler and creates jobs – EFTA/EEA/ Single Market. The fastest way to create 1 million new jobs.



Benefits

Before looking at the transition options, actions and implementation, it is worth having an idea of the potential benefits, helping in guiding changes, and prioritising and questions. There are a large number of benefits to be gained from switching from EU/Single market to EFTA/Single Market, both directly and indirectly, some of which are in the introduction, some of which are obvious and also not so obvious.

Direct and Obvious benefits:

- Switching from the EU, with average unemployment rate 12%, to EFTA average unemployment rate 4%
- Using as much of existing EEA/Single market paperwork, forms, signs, e.g. at airports, there are sign which say 'EU, EEA and Swiss passports', which can stay the same, maybe with added sticker saying 'UK'
- UK running of Agriculture
- UK running of Fisheries
- UK running of Home Affairs
- UK running of Justice
- Spending the £9bn that goes to the EU and comes back, according to UK priorities
- Contributing around £3bn a year, to the EU, saving around £3bn a year
- New regulations falling from around 1000 a year, to 350 a year
- Reviewing the need for the 15,000 EU regulations and assessing the current 4,500 EEA regulations
- Regulations which used to affect 100% of the economy, only affecting the 9% that are involved with EU exports
- Ability to negotiate and agree Free Trade Agreements with any other country
- Re-join world bodies and speak for British interests directly, instead of the current EU representatives, i.e. currently having 1/28th voice
- Ability to veto implementation of new EEA/Single market regulations which are not in British interests, and also current regulations which may be harmful and duplications of existing British regulations
- Easier to create jobs, so more government revenue from, income tax, corporation tax, VAT, council tax, petrol duty and less benefits payments, so lowering government borrowing and more funds available for business to borrow instead, to expand
- An agreement that is supported by the majority of people, for example, currently opinion polls, show around 30% want Out of the EU, 40% something simpler, and 30% want In the EU. A recent Survation poll showed EFTA/Single Market 53%, EU/Single Market 22%, Don't Know 23%. Taking out the Don't Knows, around 71% EFTA and 29% EU.



Indirect and not obvious benefits

- Less regulations being a ‘tax cut’ for business, with less time wasted on duplicate, unnecessary regulations, so helping business in being competitive and also for exports
- Removal of the disorganised, corrupt, political favouritism EU ‘role model’ , for example, the decision making process of having an EU Brussels Parliament, firstly duplicating the British Parliament, and then having another Parliament in Strasbourg, with also a Council of Ministers, unelected EU Commission, in effect the EU government, people from other countries making decisions about the UK, of which they know nothing, EU accounts not signed off, for over 15 years, qualified majority voting, so making the UK voice irrelevant, since the UK can be out voted, promotion on political basis, big wasteful projects, influence by big business on regulations, raising barriers for new competitors, arsonists. Now have a look at frontline people working in government and the frustrations they experience by badly managed departments, often mirroring the EU problems, i.e. endless meetings, which seem unproductive, decisions taking a long time, ignoring frontline opinions, wrong decisions, corruption, huge projects, which fail e.g. IT, promotion on political connections, senior people have little experience or idea of departments/service work, communication problems, low morale, ideas for prevention is better than cure are sidelined.
- A referendum alternative that other countries people, could also win, e.g. Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Ireland, and the Netherlands.
- Less money going to other countries in the EU, so less distortion of their economies, less distortion for the public in seeing which politicians and which policies are really working. The money passing from EU countries, through the EU, and then on to projects in other EU countries has likely given politicians the ability to ‘buy’ elections, since they could claim credit for something that was actually from taxpayers in other countries – so distorting other EU countries democracy and elections. This has meant that voters in the poorer countries are not learning which politicians have: good policies, integrity, competence.
- EFTA has it’s accounts signed off every year, whereas the EU has not had them signed off for over 15 years. So by switching to EFTA, Parliament is being a better ‘role model’ for the country, in having financial integrity
- MPs are better role models for personal responsibility, since as a member of EFTA, they can take more responsibility for laws being made, globally and in the EEA, with a veto over EEA regulations
- British civil servants and Ministers, no longer being involved in making laws, which affect other EU countries, of which they no nothing about their economy, culture, history, local conditions, priorities and more
- Centralising of power, leading to centralising of wealth in the country – switch to more even distribution of wealth, so reducing need for benefits payments
- Replicating of the unelected EU Commission in the form of ‘Quangos’, quasi-autonomous non-government organisations – of which there are around 1,200 un-elected bodies.

EFTA in Europe and the World

It is also useful to see a map of EFTA and also EFTA Free Trade Agreements and talks

EFTA map:



Showing, in green, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

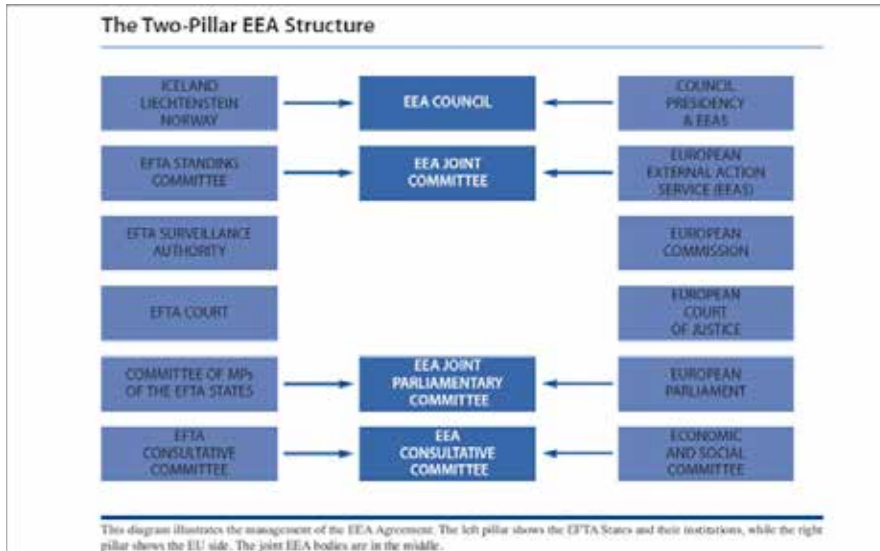
EFTA World Free Trade Agreement and talks, map:



European Free Trade Association	EU (European Economic Area)	Free Trade Agreement
Joint Declaration on Cooperation	Ongoing FTA negotiations	FTA relations of individual EFTA States

How EFTA works with the EU

There is a structure for EFTA/EEA and EU/EEA countries to work together on a regular basis, with a rotating chair, every 6 months, either EFTA chairing or EU chairing the meetings.



This is the working framework, for good relations between the EU and EFTA states, and regular meetings.

There are also EFTA Standing Committees, which work to 'Shape' policies in the EU discussions, prior to any regulation being voted on. As successful countries, EFTA states get listen to:



And of course the EFTA Logo includes the flags of each country in EFTA:



And used to include Britain, as Britain was a founding member of EFTA:





Actions and Implementation of EFTA/Single Market

The below looks at the implementation, following a referendum, where the public have had a free and fair opportunity to express a view – with current opinion polls showing around 30% in the EU, 40% simpler arrangement, 30% out the EU – and the MPs have repealed the European Communities ACT 1972, kept the European Economic Area agreement, and voted for asking EFTA, under article 56, to join.


- Starting with a list:
- Areas of change
- Areas that are not changing
- Ministerial departments
- Resources/teams
- Timeframes
- Outside help/expertise, e.g. EFTA countries
- Communications
- Involvement of people, business, charities, public sector, local and national government
- Countries for contacting

All the above could be organised through project teams, with an overall ‘EFTA project team’ managing the specific project teams, and having a weekly Steering Meeting.

The below show how each Project Team could prepare and implement actions, using:

- Charter/Business Case approach
- Project timeframe
- Action Log
- Opportunity/benefits
- Process changes
- Organisation structure changes
- Meeting agendas and times
- People/teams
- Training
- Resources
- Systems
- Communications

The expectation is that the Government/MPs will implement the switch to EFTA membership. However, since they have been unable to organise a simple referendum, or in fact ask questions like, ‘What did we change? What did we use to do? What do other countries do? What off-the-shelf alternatives are



there?’ it is also worthwhile to have a multi-implementation approach, for simplifying regulations, new processes and new structure, including:


The Government

MPs

- Opposition/alternative parties
- Former MPs also developing a parallel list of ideas and made public
- Former civil servants also developing a parallel list of ideas and made public
- Businesses, small , medium and large developing a parallel list of ideas and made public
- Trade unions also developing a parallel list of ideas and made public
- Associations and groups developing a list of ideas and made public
- Charities developing a list of ideas and made public
- Members of the public developing a list of ideas and made public
- Running competitions for simplest ideas, e.g. X-prize style

And this needs to be looked at through the various Government departments, some of which will be more affected than others.

- Prime Minister’s Office
- Deputy Prime Minister’s Office
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Home Office
- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
- Department for Business, Innovation & Skills
- Department for Communities and Local Government
- HM Treasury
- Cabinet Office
- Attorney General’s office
- Department for International development
- Department of Health
- Department for Transport
- Department for Education
- Department for Culture, Media & Sport
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Department of Energy & Climate Change
- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Justice

- 
- Northern Ireland Office
 - Office of the Advocate General for Scotland
 - Office of the Leader of the House of Commons
 - Office of the Leader of the House of Lords
 - Scotland Office
 - UK Export Finance
 - Wales Office

Please also see the Resources for useful links.



Checking which regulations are EU or EEA/Single market and repealing

The EU has a website with all the regulations in force, and for any regulation that is only for the EEA/Single market is a phrase 'text with EEA relevance'. There are 15,000 EU regulations and around 4,500 EEA regulations – not all of which have been implemented by EFTA countries, sometimes around 600 are outstanding, as well as any vetoed.

The regulations are numbered and called 'Celex'.

For EY legal Acts, there is an explanation on the EFTA website, which says:

3yyyy*nnnn

Yyyy = year

*= could be L = directive, R = regulation, D = Decisions, H or X for recommendations

Nnnn = four-digit number

This is where you can see EU and EEA regulations and the span of control and removal from national Parliaments the freedom to make, amend and repeal laws:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/RECH_repertoire.do?ihmlang=en

and to search by regulation: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/RECH_naturel.do?ihmlang=en

and where you can see if the regulation is for EFTA/EEA countries:

<http://www.efta.int/eea-lex>

When EU and EEA regulations come into the UK, they officially go through Committees in the House of Commons and the House of Lords, in Parliament. What in actual fact happens is that they pass through with barely any delay. The regulations themselves can change to have UK number and description. Simple ways to track the EU and EEA regulations into Britain and who is affected by them, are not readily available, however, each government department is responsible for implementing the regulations and will have this information.

There is a website with government legislation: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/>

It could be beneficial if people in agriculture, fisheries, business, organisations have a look at what regulations have come through and make a listing of potential 'EU suspect regulation' and also potential EEA regulations which could be duplicating UK regulations.

Decision Making Structure and who makes UK Laws

	Area of Decision making	EFTA Before 1972	EU Currently	EFTA Suggested
UK	British Parliamentary Democracy	Yes	No	Yes
UK	Head of State (Monarchy)	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	Prime Minister	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	Parliament with 650 MPs	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	House of Lords and final Court of Appeal	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	County Council	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	Local Mayor	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	Local Councillors	Yes	Yes	Yes
UK	UK sitting on all international institutions	Yes	No	Yes
EU	Lisbon Treaty – EU Political		Yes	No
EU	EU President		Yes	No
EU	EU Commission (from 28 EU countries)		Yes	No
EU	Council of Ministers (from 28 EU countries)		Yes	No
EU	European Parliament (from 28 countries)		Yes	No
EU	EU Court, reviewing and rulings on EU and EEA implementation		Yes	No
EU	UK representatives sitting in EU meetings		Yes	No
EU	UK can be outvoted with qualified majority voting		Yes	No
EU	EU Directives, regulations and Court rulings, override UK laws		Yes	No
EU	EU External Action Services		Yes	No
EFTA	Member of EFTA	Yes	No	Yes
EFTA	Agreement is only by all EFTA countries agreeing	Yes	Yes	
EEA	EEA Agreement – economic	Yes		Yes
EEA	UK representatives sitting in EEA meetings	Yes	Yes	
EEA	EEA Joint Committee (EFTA and EU)		Yes	Yes
EEA	EEA Consultative Committee		Yes	Yes
EEA	UK has right to veto EEA regulations		No	Yes
EEA	EFTA Surveillance Authority reviewing EEA implementation			Yes
EEA	EFTA Court, rulings on EEA implementation			Yes



Actions/Implementation

Below are Charters/Opportunities and Action Logs, where applicable for the major government departments involved in the transition plan from EU to EFTA membership.

A Charter/Opportunity looks at the benefits case for switching and answers some questions, in helping ensure success, with a good start to the projects. The Action Log is another example, for listing actions that would ensure success. There is some similarity in approach by each department, and also specific actions relevant to each government department.

Prime Minister Actions

Current

Huge loss of self-government and inability to make, amend and repeal laws

Member of the EEA, free movement of:

Goods

Services

People

Capital

Member of NATO

Member of the EU, http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

covering also:

EU Customs Union

Common Fisheries Policy

Common Agricultural Policy

EU Regional Policy

Common Trade Policy

Economic and Monetary Union

Justice

Home Affairs

Common Foreign Policy

Common Security and Defence Policy

European Parliament

House of Commons: European Scrutiny Committee

House of Lords: EU Select Committee, EU Sub-Committee A – Economic and Financial Affairs, EU Sub-Committee B – Internal Market, Infrastructure and Employment, EU Sub-Committee C – External Affairs, EU Sub-Committee D – Agriculture, Fisheries, Environment and Energy, EU Sub-Committee E – Justice, Institutions and Consumer Protection, EU Sub-Committee F – Home Affairs, Health and Education



Suggested

Re-implement self-government and pro-democracy

Continue with EEA membership

Continue with NATO membership

Apply to join EFTA, European Free Trade Association www.efta.int

Committee of MPs of the EFTA states

EFTA Consultative Committee

House of Commons – EFTA/EEA/Single Market Committee

House of Lords – EFTA/EEA/Single Market Committee

Actions

Include developing an Action log below, for implementing

Example: Action log		Department : Prime Mimister	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due Date
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda, with Ministers:		
	Each person 1 good news item		
	Review previous Action Log		
	Review project plan and progress		
	Progress last week		
	Plans for this week and actions		
	Any potential issues needing action		
	Review Action Log		
	Legislation for repealing the European Communities Act 1972 is organised and actioned		
	Legislation for enacting joining EFTA is actioned		
	Any additional measures are assessed and actioned		
	Assess current EU Parliamentary committees and change to EFTA committees		
	For each Ministry:		
	Project team leader and deputy leader		
	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g. EFTA, EU, legislation, WTO, training, communications, international organisations		
	Visit/call Norway Prime Minister		
	Visit/call Iceland Prime Minister		
	Visit/call Liechtenstein Prime Minister		
	Visit/call Swiss Prime Minister		
	Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
	Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
	Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
	Develop any training plans, with cabinet office staff		
	Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
	Transitional arrangements with EU countries		
	Visit/call to WTO		
	Visits to other international organisations		
	Official request to join other international organisations as a sovereign nation		
	UK staff apply for jobs in EFTA offices		
	UK looks at other Free Trade Agreement opportunities		
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
	Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		



Foreign Secretary Actions

Current

The Lisbon Treaty and European Economic Area (EEA) are legal agreements between Britain and the EU

Suggested

Repeal the European Communities Act 1972, repeal the Lisbon Treaty

Keep the European Economic Area (EEA) agreement

Re-deploy the people and funds currently spent on EU work, for re-joining world organisations/bodies and influencing decisions at a global level.

Repeal anything that is not 'text with EEA relevance':

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Review.do?rep=18>

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market

to EFTA/EEA/Single market

Suggested by: the British public

Sponsored by: voters

Project Manager: Foreign Secretary

Proposal date: Estimated

duration: 3 to 12 months

Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes,
increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/

Single Market member

Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/

Single Market member

UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries,

Home Affairs, Justice

Reduce new EU/EEA regulations,
by around 60%,

No more EU regulations

Repeal European Communities Act 1972

Replace with EFTA Convention

Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU

Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn

Cumulative net transfers to EU, over £130bn

Unemployment rate in UK over 7%

Average EFTA unemployment rate, 4%

Less regulations and duplicate regulations, help

in reducing business costs, also public services

Increasing taxes from: income tax,

corporation tax VAT, council tax,

petrol duty and more, so helping

Reduce government borrowing

and interest payments

Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments

EFTA countries

Commonwealth countries

Overseas diplomatic embassies

EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

Overseas treaties, world bodies, NATO

Lisbon Treaty, EU

EEA Agreement

EFTA, EEA Council

Foreign Office staff, IT systems

EU Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons

House of Lords EU committees

WTO

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA

Mercusor

ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues

Big business, cartels

EU countries wanting free money

Threats from EU countries politicians

Delays by special interest groups

MPs and civil servants

9) Assumptions:

UK civil servants can learn from EFTA countries

10) Schedule

Key / = to be worked on, X = done

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Month2	Traffic Lights
Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department : Foreign Office	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
	– Plans for this week and actions		
	– Any potential issues needing action		
	– Review Action Log		
	Daily Review Meetings		
	– Each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review previous days plan vs actual		
	– Plans for the day		
	– Any potential issues needing actions		
	– Review Action Log		
	Project team leader and deputy leader		
	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	– EFTA, EU, legislation, WTO, training, communications		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		



Visit Norway Prime Minister and Foreign Minister		
Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Foreign Minister		
Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Foreign Minister		
Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Foreign Minister		
Visit EFTA offices in Brussels		
Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
Official request to join EFTA		
Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
Transitional arrangements with EU countries in regard		
Replace EU committees in Parliament with EFTA/EEA committees		
Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		
Example actions for Britain rejoining world bodies/organisations		
Learn from other countries who have joined the organisation		
Look for an article in the organisation agreement that allows for new members		
Look at website to see what is helpful		
See where the address is of the organisation		
See who is Head of the organisation, for contacting		
Have your own contact level person briefed		
Have your own staff briefed		
Assess office requirements		
Talk with allies and see if they can offer advice		
Request relevant meetings		
Formal request for joining the organisation		
Ask if there is any fast-track joining option		
Check UK responsibilities, expectations, obligations and actions needed		
Joining and being a member		
Re-deploying UK staff from EU jobs into world organisations		
Have your own staff briefed		
Assess office requirements		
Talk with allies and see if they can offer advice		
Request relevant meetings		
Formal request for joining the organisation		
Ask if there is any fast-track joining option		
Check UK responsibilities, expectations, obligations and actions needed		
Joining and being a member		
Re-deploying UK staff from EU jobs into world organisations		



Chancellor of the Exchequer

Current

Send £15bn a year to the EU, £9bn comes back, spent according to EU guidelines, £6bn spent by the EU, in other EU countries

Centralising of power, leading to centralising of wealth in the country

EU not had its accounts signed off for over 15 years

EU taxing and spending information: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/221513/eu_finances_2012.pdf

Suggested

Send only £3bn to other EU countries, directly through EEA grants, not through the EU bureaucracy

EFTA has had its accounts signed off every year

Review of these directives, to see which are not EEA related and can be repealed: <http://www.fca.org.uk/firms/markets/international-markets/eu>
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Review.do?rep=09>

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

Example: Charter/Opportunity

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market to EFTA/EEA/Single market

Suggested by: the British public

Sponsored by: voters

Project Manager: Foreign Secretary

Proposal date: Estimated duration: 3 to 12 months

Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes, increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/Single Market member

Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/Single Market member

UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries, Home Affairs, Justice

Reduce new EU/EEA regulations, by around 60%, No more EU regulations

Repeal European Communities Act 1972

Replace with EFTA Convention

Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU

Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn

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Unemployment rate in UK over 7%

Average EFTA unemployment rate, 4%

Less regulations and duplicate regulations, help in reducing business costs, also public services

Increasing taxes from: income tax, corporation tax VAT, council tax, petrol duty and more, so helping

Reduce government borrowing and interest payments

Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

Department: HM Treasury

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments

EFTA countries

Commonwealth countries

Overseas diplomatic embassies

EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

All businesses, financial sector, government

IT Systems, HM Revenue

EU Scrutiny Committee, House of Commons

House of Lords EU committees

EFTA

International world bodies

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA

Mercusor

ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues

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Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG			Department:	HM Treasury	
No.	Action			Responsibility	Due date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings				
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:				
	– each person 1 good news item				
	– Review previous Action Log				
	– Review project plan and progress				
	– Progress last week				
	– Plans for this week and actions				
	– Any potential issues needing action				
	– Review Action Log				
	Daily Review Meetings				
	– each person 1 good news item				
	– Review previous Action Log				
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	Areas of responsibility and delegation				
	Project team members selection				
	Project team training				
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.				
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	– international organisations				
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:				
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description				
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description				
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description				

	Visit Norway Prime Minister and Finance Minister			
	Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Finance Minister			
	Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Finance Minister			
	Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Finance Minister			
	Visit EFTA office in Brussels			
	Visit EFTA office in Geneva			
	Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg			
	Develop any training plans			
	Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states			
	Transitional arrangements with EU countries			
	Visit to WTO			
	Visits to international organisations			
	Official request to join other international organisations as a sovereign nation			
	UK staff apply for jobs in EFTA offices			
	UK looks at other Free Trade Agreement opportunities			
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed			
	Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites			



Minister for Business and Innovation

Current

EU/EEA regulations affect 100% of economy

EU Court in Strasbourg monitors and passes judgements on EEA cases

Suggested

EFTA Court in Strasbourg with EFTA Surveillance Authority monitors and passes judgements on EEA cases

Britain have a seat at the UN Economic Commission for Europe

International Standards Organisation

Repeal of regulations that are not 'text with EEA relevance':

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Review.do?rep=13>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Review.do?rep=07>

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Result.do?RechType=RECH_repertoire&rep=06202010*&repihm=Insurance

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

Example: Charter/Opportunity Department: Business and Innovation

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market
to EFTA/EEA/Single market
Suggested by: the British public
Sponsored by: voters
Project Manager: Foreign Secretary
Proposal date: Estimated
duration: 3 to 12 months
Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes,
increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/
Single Market member
Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/
Single Market member
UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries,
Home Affairs, Justice
Reduce new EU/EEA regulations,
by around 60%,
No more EU regulations
Repeal European Communities Act 1972
Replace with EFTA Convention
Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU
Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn
Cumulative net transfers to EU, over £130bn
Unemployment rate in UK over 7%
Average EFTA unemployment rate, 4%
Less regulations and duplicate regulations, help
in reducing business costs, also public services
Increasing taxes from: income tax,
corporation tax VAT, council tax,
petrol duty and more, so helping
Reduce government borrowing
and interest payments
Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments
EFTA countries
Commonwealth countries
Overseas diplomatic embassies
EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

All industries,
Small, medium, large businesses
Trading with EU and EEA countries, Swiss

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA
Mercusor
ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues:

Government trying to do it all in 1 go,
Instead of releasing lists of unnecessary
Regulations, as and when – using 20/80
Rule, 20% of regulations occupy 80%
Of time
Big business, cartels
Slow actions from politicians
Slow actions from civil servants
Delays by special interest groups
MPs out of their depth

9) Assumptions:

UK civil servants can learn from EFTA countries

10) Schedule

Key / = to be worked on, X = done

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Month2	Traffic Lights
Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department: Minister for Business Innovation	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due Date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
	– Plans for this week and actions		
	– Any potential issues needing action		
	– Review Action Log		
	Daily Review Meetings		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review previous days plan vs actual		
	– Plans for the day		
	– Any potential issues needing actions		
	– Review Action Log		
	Project team leader and deputy leader		
	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	– manufacturing, retail, services, financial, hospitality		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		

Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
Visit Norway Prime Minister and Business Minister		
Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Business Minister		
Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Business Minister		
Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Business Minister		
Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
Develop any training plans		
Civil servants develop list of EU, EEA and UK regulation numbers		
Review EU regulations that are relevant and not relevant		
Remove any 'gold plating' from EEA regulations		
Listing of EEA regulations that are duplicating UK regulations, for veto		
Listing of EEA regulations that harm UK business, for veto		
Look at 20/80 rule, to see which 20% of regulations repealed give 80% of benefit		
Sending out lists of regulations no longer needed		
Finalise lists of regulations no longer needed		
Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		



Home Office Minister

Current

EU passport

European Arrest Warrant

Prisoners can vote

Suggested

Repeal the European Arrest Warrant, use previous extradition process, needing proof

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32002F0584:en:NOT>

Passports are issued with a British design, not a the EU design

Prisoners can no longer vote

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market to EFTA/EEA/Single market
Suggested by: the British public
Sponsored by: voters
Project Manager: Foreign Secretary
Proposal date: Estimated duration: 3 to 12 months
Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes, increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/Single Market member
Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/Single Market member
UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries, Home Affairs, Justice
Reduce new EU/EEA regulations, by around 60%,
No more EU regulations
Repeal European Communities Act 1972
Replace with EFTA Convention
Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU
Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn
Cumulative net transfers to EU, over £130bn
Unemployment rate in UK over 7%
Average EFTA unemployment rate, 4%
Less regulations and duplicate regulations, help in reducing business costs, also public services
Increasing taxes from: income tax, corporation tax VAT, council tax, petrol duty and more, so helping
Reduce government borrowing and interest payments
Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments
EFTA countries
Commonwealth countries
Overseas diplomatic embassies
EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process) pe

Home Office
IT Systems
Police

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA
Mercusor
ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues:

Government trying to do it all in 1 go,
Instead of releasing lists of unnecessary Regulations, as and when – using 20/80 Rule, 20% of regulations occupy 80%
Of time EFTA meetings
MPs out of their depth
Slow actions from politicians
Slow actions from civil servants
Delays by special interest groups

9) Assumptions:

UK civil servants can learn from EFTA countries

10) Schedule

Key / = to be worked on, X = done

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Month2	Traffic Lights
Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department: Home Office	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due Date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– Each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
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	– Any potential issues needing action		
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	– Each person 1 good news item		
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	– Plans for the day		
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	– Review Action Log		
	Project team leader and deputy leader		
	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	– EFTA, EU, legislation, international organisations, training,		
	– communications		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		

	Visit Norway Prime Minister and Home Office Minister		
	Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Home Office Minister		
	Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Home Office Minister		
	Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Home Office Minister		
	Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
	Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
	Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
	Develop any training plans		
	Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
	Transitional arrangements with EU countries		
	Visits to international organisations		
	Official request to join other international organisations as a		
	– sovereign nation		
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
	Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		



Justice Minister

Current

European Court of Justice, in Strasbourg, passes rulings on the UK, using the European Human Rights Act, overruling UK courts

<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=home>

Suggested

UK House of Lords are the final Court of Appeal

Repeal UK Supreme Court, re-implement previous system

<http://www.judiciary.gov.uk/>

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

Example: Charter/Opportunity Department: Ministry of Justice

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market to EFTA/EEA/Single market
Suggested by: the British public
Sponsored by: voters
Project Manager: Foreign Secretary
Proposal date: Estimated
duration: 3 to 12 months
Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes, increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/Single Market member
Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/Single Market member
UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries, Home Affairs, Justice
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No more EU regulations
Repeal European Communities Act 1972
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Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

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Reduce government borrowing and interest payments
Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments
EFTA countries
Commonwealth countries
Overseas diplomatic embassies
EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

Legal system
Police
Home Affairs
Justice
IT System

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA
Mercusor
ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues:

Government trying to do it all in 1 go,
Instead of releasing lists of unnecessary Regulations, as and when – using 20/80 Rule, 20% of regulations occupy 80%
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Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department: Ministry of Justice	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
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	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
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	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		



Visit Norway Prime Minister and Justice Minister		
Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Justice Minister		
Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Justice Minister		
Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Justice Minister		
Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
Develop any training plans		
Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
Transitional arrangements with EU countries		
Visit to EFTA Surveillance Court in Luxembourg		
Visits to international organisations		
Listing of directives and regulations no longer needed		
Listing of European Court judgements and which are no longer relevant		
UK staff apply for jobs in EFTA offices		
Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		



Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Current

CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and CFP (Common Fisheries Policy)

CAP Payments: [http://www.farmersguardian.com/home/hot-topics/the-common-agricultural-policy-\(cap\)/31971.article](http://www.farmersguardian.com/home/hot-topics/the-common-agricultural-policy-(cap)/31971.article)

Suggested

Look to have a similar fishing quota as Norway http://www.fisheries.no/resource_management/setting_quotas/quota_negotiations/#.UxZYa43ivIU

Have own farming policy

Britain could regain their seat at the:

Food and agricultural Organisation

UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

World Meteorological Organisation

UN Environment Programme

International Maritime Organisation

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

Example: Charter/Opportunity

Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market
to EFTA/EEA/Single market

Suggested by: the British public

Sponsored by: voters

Project Manager: Foreign Secretary

Proposal date: Estimated

duration: 3 to 12 months

Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes,
increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/
Single Market member

Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/
Single Market member

UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries,
Home Affairs, Justice

Reduce new EU/EEA regulations,
by around 60%,

No more EU regulations

Repeal European Communities Act 1972

Replace with EFTA Convention

Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU

Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn

Cumulative net transfers to EU, over £130bn

Unemployment rate in UK over 7%

Average EFTA unemployment rate, 4%

Less regulations and duplicate regulations, help
in reducing business costs, also public services

Increasing taxes from: income tax,
corporation tax VAT, council tax,

petrol duty and more, so helping

Reduce government borrowing
and interest payments

Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments

EFTA countries

Commonwealth countries

Overseas diplomatic embassies

EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

Agriculture

Fisheries

IT Systems

EFTA

WTO

International world bodies

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA

Mercusor

ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues:

Government trying to do it all in 1 go,

Instead of releasing lists of unnecessary

Regulations, as and when – using 20/80

Rule, 20% of regulations occupy 80%

Of time EFTA meetings Green

MPs out of their depth

Slow actions from politicians

Slow actions from civil servants

Delays by special interest groups

9) Assumptions:

UK civil servants can learn from EFTA countries

10) Schedule

Key / = to be worked on, X = done

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Month2	Traffic Lights
Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department: Ministry for Environment, Food, Rural Affairs	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
	– Plans for this week and actions		
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	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
	Project team members selection		
	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	– EFTA, EU, legislation, WTO, training, communications		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Visit Norway Prime Minister and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries Minister		

	Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries Minister		
	Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries Minister		
	Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Food, Agriculture, Fisheries Minister		
	Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
	Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
	Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
	Develop any training plans		
	Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
	Transitional arrangements with EU countries		
	Visit to WTO		
	Visits to other international organisations		
	Official request to join other international organisations as a		
	— sovereign nation		
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
	Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		



Minister for Communities and Local Government

Current

The EU has created 'regions' for redistributing UK taxpayers money, as if it was EU money .

Suggested

These regions are no longer necessary for this money, which can be allocated according to normal UK boundaries, e.g. local constituencies, boroughs and counties.

Remove from buildings and anywhere the EU flag which is linked to any spending.

Repeal any regulations that are not 'text with EA relevance' <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Repview.do?rep=14>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/supporting-economic-growth-through-managing-the-european-regional-development-fund>

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/funding-debt/european-regional-development-funding>

Actions

Include developing a Charter/Opportunity below and an Action log, for implementing

Example: Charter/Opportunity

Department: Communities and Local Government

1) Proposal Summary:

Switch from EU/EEA/Single market
to EFTA/EEA/Single market

Suggested by: the British public

Sponsored by: voters

Project Manager: Foreign Secretary

Proposal date: Estimated

duration: 3 to 12 months

Project type: Create jobs, reduce taxes,
increase exports, lower crime

2) Project Description and opportunity statement

Current: EU member and EEA/

Single Market member

Suggested: EFTA member and EEA/

Single Market member

UK runs: Agriculture, Fisheries,

Home Affairs, Justice

Reduce new EU/EEA regulations,

by around 60%,

No more EU regulations

Repeal European Communities Act 1972

Replace with EFTA Convention

Keep European Economic Area agreement

3) Business case

Currently running £40bn trade deficit with EU

Cumulative trade deficit, since 1972, £400bn

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Unemployment rate in UK over 7%

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in reducing business costs, also public services

Increasing taxes from: income tax,

corporation tax VAT, council tax,

petrol duty and more, so helping

Reduce government borrowing

and interest payments

Less money, approx £3bn, sent to the EU net

4) Links to other projects/initiatives

All other government departments

EFTA countries

Commonwealth countries

Overseas diplomatic embassies

EFTA offices, Brussels, Geneva, Luxembourg

5) In Scope (People, process)

Local government

IT systems

Local Regulations

County Council regulations

6) Out of Scope

NAFTA

Mercusor

ASEAN

7) Number of people benefiting:

60 million

8) Risks, Issues:

Government trying to do it all in 1 go,

Instead of releasing lists of unnecessary

Regulations, as and when – using 20/80

Rule, 20% of regulations occupy 80%

Of time EFTA meetings Green

MPs out of their depth

Slow actions from politicians

Slow actions from civil servants

Delays by special interest groups

9) Assumptions:

UK civil servants can learn from EFTA countries

10) Schedule

Key / = to be worked on, X = done

	Wk1	Wk2	Wk3	Wk4	Month2	Traffic Lights
Weekly meeting						Green
Project team						Green
Legislation						Green
EFTA meetings						Green
Training						Green
Implementation						Green
Follow up						Green

Green = on plan, Orange = some/potential delays, Red = behind

Example: ACTION LOG		Department: Ministry for Communities and Local Government	
No.	Action	Responsibility	date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
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	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
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	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	– EFTA, EU, legislation, WTO, training, communications		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Visit Norway Prime Minister and Local Government Minister		

	Visit Iceland Prime Minister and Local Government Minister		
	Visit Liechtenstein Prime Minister and Local Government Minister		
	Visit Swiss Prime Minister and Local Government Minister		
	Visit EFTA office in Brussels		
	Visit EFTA office in Geneva		
	Visit EFTA office in Luxembourg		
	Develop any training plans		
	Arrange transition teams with EFTA member states		
	Transitional arrangements with EU countries		
	Visits to international organisations		
	Official request to join other international organisations as a		
	– sovereign nation		
	UK looks at other Free Trade Agreement opportunities		
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
	Assess any changes to websites and/or new websites		

Other Ministries

Other Ministries will be affected to a lesser extent, with some rejoining world organisations again, and giving Britain a voice, for example the Health Minister will be able to ask for Britain to rejoin the World Health Organisation as a member country.

The other Ministries can also do some very simple things, including a simple Action Log:

Example: ACTION LOG		Department:	
No.	Action	Responsibility	Due date
	Start Daily and Weekly Meetings		
	Weekly Steering Meeting agenda:		
	– each person 1 good news item		
	– Review previous Action Log		
	– Review project plan and progress		
	– Progress last week		
	– Plans for this week and actions		
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	Project team leader and deputy leader		
	Areas of responsibility and delegation		
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	Project team training		
	Roles of each project team member, e.g.		
	Tracking of EU and EEA influence in UK and where/how to find:		
	Listing of regulations, with Celex, that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of Directives that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Listing of European Court rulings that are EU and EEA, and UK code/description		
	Develop any training plans		
	Civil servants develop list of EU, EEA and UK regulation numbers		
	Review EU regulations that are relevant and not relevant		
	Remove any 'gold plating' from EEA regulations		
	Listing of EEA regulations that are duplicating UK regulations, for veto		
	Listing of EEA regulations that harm UK business, for veto		
	Look at 20/80 rule, to see which 20% of regulations repealed give 80% of benefit		
	Sending out lists of regulations no longer needed		
	Finalise lists of regulations no longer needed		
	Assess departmental organisation structure and changes needed		
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What is the process through Parliament for changing from EU to EFTA membership?

How easy is it for Parliament to repeal the European Communities Act 1972 and Lisbon Treaty and replace it with EFTA Convention? Very easy. After an Advisory referendum, Parliament usually accepts the result and swiftly passes the legislation.

There are 2 options. For starting a Bill which comes into law as an Act, after royal assent. Firstly, a Bill can start in the House of Commons, where MPs are, or secondly a Bill can start in the House of Lords, where Lords sit.

An example starting in the House of Commons would be:

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee Stage

Report Stage

Third Reading

Then moving to the **House of Lords**

First reading

Second reading

Committee stage

Report Stage

Third reading

Consideration of Amendments.

Royal assent

The Bill becomes an Act, and is implemented.

Since the change is repealing and also making a new treaty, it is likely there will be 2 bills going through Parliament – one of which is the repeal of the European Communities Act 1972, and Lisbon Treaty and the other Bill is for joining EFTA, European Free Trade Association Convention.

Q & A

Q. What could the reactions be from other EFTA countries, to Britain asking to join EFTA?

A. There could be a range of reactions. Since many of the EFTA countries politicians would like their countries to join the EU, they could be surprised or even uncomfortable. Or the governments could welcome Britain joining EFTA in helping 'shape' regulations in the EU, with a substantial member, who also contributes a lot financially to EU countries, and so expects to be listened to in the consultation stages. It is the public in each country, which is important, and they have repeatedly been pro-democracy in referendums, and saying no to EU membership, and could be pleased to see Britain re-join EFTA.

Q. Where are there likely to be delays?

A. In a number of areas, for example MPs trying to delay the passing of the repeal of the European Communities Act, also the passing of the EFTA Convention Bill, and also in reducing existing regulations, since some MPs are friends with big business, who were instrumental in lobbying for regulations. There is one area where it is difficult to delay, and that is with new regulations. When/if Britain switches from EU to EFTA, a whole group of legislation, around 60% from the EU, no longer become relevant, so they flow of new regulations drops automatically.

Q. What is the fastest time for a Bill to go through Parliament and become an Act?

A. An Emergency Bill can be passed in a matter of days,

Q. What is the article number in the EFTA Convention, that allows for new members?

A. Article 56

Q. Could Britain still be a member of the EEA, if it changes from EU to EFTA membership?

A. Yes, it is a legally signed agreement, separate from the EU treaties

Q. What would happen to the Free Trade Agreements that Britain has negotiated as a member of the EU? Are they still valid?

A. Yes, each agreement negotiated by the EU, is signed separately by each individual country. Those countries would still like to continue the benefits from the agreements.

Q. How soon could benefits be realised from switching to EFTA membership?

A. Almost immediately, as the decision making structure simplifies to having Parliament, once more making most of the UK laws and a 60% fall in new regulations from the EU. Other benefits will come through as each government department starts releasing lists of regulations which are no longer needed, or are simplified. Money sent to Brussels and which comes back to the UK with EU guidelines, will be free to be spent on UK priorities, approximately £9bn a year – some of which could continue as currently, whereas others could be lower or prioritised elsewhere.

Q. Are there any similarities between the economies of Norway and Switzerland and the UK?

A. Yes, many similarities, in fact the economy of Norway has more in common with the UK economy, than the Swiss economy, and the Swiss economy has more in common with the UK economy than the Norwegian economy.

Area	UK	Norway	Switzerland
Agriculture	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fisheries	Yes	Yes	
Oil & Gas	Yes	Yes	
Engineering	Yes		Yes
Finance	Yes		Yes
Pharmaceuticals	Yes		Yes
Chemicals	Yes	Yes	Yes
Agreement Unemployment	EU/EEA 7%	EFTA/EEA 4%	EFTA/bi-lateral 4%

If you look at the economies of London, West Midlands and Scotland, you can see that there are big differences in the sectors in each very different economy e.g. London with financial services, West Midlands, with engineering, and Scotland with Oil and Gas, however they all have two things in common – unemployment over 7% and membership of the EU.

Q. Is there a simple comparison for seeing differences between the EU, EFTA options and WTO?

A. Yes, the table below helps show how things could be simplified:

Comparison information	EU/EEA	EFTA/EEA	EFTA/ bi-lateral	UK/ bi-lateral	UK/WTO
New regulations per year	1000	350	0	0	0
Approximate financial contributions to the EU pa	£6bn	£3.9bn	£2bn	£0bn	£0bn
Accounts signed off by auditors	Not for 15 years	Every year	Every year	N/A	N/A
Employees	10,000+	90	90	0	0
Control over fisheries	EU	UK	UK	UK	UK
Control over agriculture	EU	UK	UK	UK	UK
Responsibility for Home Affairs	EU	UK	UK	UK	UK
Responsibility for Justice	EU	UK	UK	UK	UK
Free movement of Goods in EU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	tarrif
Free movement of Services in EU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	tarrif
Free movement of Capital in EU	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Free movement of People in EU	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Member of EEA	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
EU taxes apply	Yes	No	No	No	No
Approximate total EU and EEA regulations	19,500	4,500	0	0	0
Estimated cost of EU & EEA regulations % GDP	5%	1.5%	0%	0%	0%
Office in Brussels	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Website	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Member of NATO security alliance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Ability to make bi-lateral free trade agreements	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Countries currently	UK	Norway	Switzerland		
Approximate current unemployment rate	7.8%	3.5%	3.5%		
Time to switch from EU/EEA to alternative	N/A	weeks	years	years	years



Q. What are the figures for the UK in regard to food export and import?

A. The UK imports and exports food. It currently imports around 38% of it's food, so free from the EU, it can source food at the best price from around the world, so lowering family shopping bills. Free from any restrictions, Britain could import food from anywhere at best price. Also reducing unnecessary EU regulations would help reduce costs of British farmers produce and help make them more competitive – currently 62% is produced here, in 1991 it was 75%, so also helping create jobs in Britain and the rural economy.

Q. What could benefits be for Britain no longer part of the Common Fisheries policy?

A. Firstly, EU countries, including EU countries which are landlocked, would no longer have any say on UK fishing policy. It would no longer be necessary for UK fishermen to throw away fish, if it wasn't in their quota, they could land their catch and sell it to another fisherman, at cost, if they were under their quota.

Q. How could switching to EFTA impact the financial service sector and trust in financial services?

A. The EU is a poor role model for financial honesty, with its accounts not signed off for over 15 years. Also it does not want to hear news that the EU is failing, it also does not stick to signed agreements, in allowing countries in the Euro area to have budget deficits larger than 3% and still not be fined. Also countries which fiddle their books and are corrupt, receive money and get rewarded with financial write offs of debt. Also the big banks have been able to get the rules written to suit them and also make it difficult set up new competition. In addition, in the EU, the wrong people get promoted – those that promote more central planning and ignore problems, or are just plain arsonists. In plain English, it is financially toxic as a role model.

By removing this role model from the UK banking sector, it can restore to normal balance and be there to benefit the economy.

The Direct threats to the UK financial sector are many, however switching to EFTA eliminates this threat. The EFTA has recently produced a new web search facility for seeing which new EU laws are for EU countries and which affect only EEA (European Economic Area) countries, which also include EFTA countries. The new threats of undermining personal responsibility in each country looking after their own financial sector - and clearing up any mess they create – are:


- The EBA (European Banking Authority) Celex 32010R1093
- European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority 32010R1094
- European Systemic Risk Board 32010R1092
- European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) 32010R1095
- Community Programme for Financial Reporting and auditing 32009D0716

Q. When was the original EEA agreement signed?

A. The original EEA agreement, 1992, was also signed by 7 EFTA countries, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Sweden, Austria and Finland. With Britain rejoining EFTA and being a member of the EEA, the EFTA/EEA states will increase from the current 3 (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) to 4, with possible other countries choosing this option.

Q. How do you calculate the savings from switching from EU to EFTA membership?

A. Using the amount that Norway pays to the EEA Grants which is around Euro 72 per person per year. The UK GDP per person is roughly 70% of Norway's, so that would be



about Euro 50 per person on the UK, or £42 per person per year. Multiplying this figure by 63 million in the UK, we get £2.6bn per year. Currently, the UK net contribution to the EU is around £6bn a year, so the saving is around £3bn a year. With rest going as EEA grants, directly to projects, monitored by Britain, not via the EU bureaucracy.

Q. Does EFTA membership still mean Britain is part of the EU Common Foreign Policy, whether Britain agrees or disagrees with other EU countries?

A. No. The EEA does not cover foreign policy. Britain is free to follow its own foreign policy, which it feels makes sense, and not get drawn into mistakes by other EU countries, for example trying to get the Ukraine to move to joining the EU, and having to offer financial support for something that was not of its creation. Britain may decide in European matters, that rather than reward corrupt, irresponsible and poorly run economies, it may decide to reward countries/voters which have chosen politicians that: have good economic policies, are competent and have integrity with public funds.

Q. Would EU taxes be applicable to the UK, for Britain as a member of EFTA and the EEA/Single Market?

A. No. No EU taxes would apply to the UK.

Q. As an EFTA member, would Britain be liable for any bailouts of other EU countries?

A. No. EFTA members are liable for bailing out other EU countries.

Q. How often does the EU have its accounts signed off by auditors and also how often does EFTA have its accounts signed off?

A. The EU has not had its accounts signed off for over 15 years in a row. **EFTA has its accounts signed off every year.**

Q. Will the UK still be blamed for problems caused by the EU having an agreement for EU boats to fish in the waters off Mauritania?

A. No. This agreement giving EU fishing vessels the freedom to fish in Mauritania waters has led to a loss of fish and income for local fishermen and loss of local employment. This has also led to people looking to move to the EU looking for jobs. As an EFTA member, Britain can freely voice objections to EU agreements which benefit large fishing corporations, but cause local unemployment in low income countries, causing people to leave their countries looking for work. The money that is paid by the EU, goes to the government and not directly to local people affected. The EU pays Mauritania 67 Million Euros a year, for being able to fish 300,000 tons of fish in Mauritania waters, a year.

Q. What does the EEA/Single Market not cover?

A. A copy of a slide from the EFTA website, for seminars, shows what is not covered.

The EEA does not cover:

- EU third country legislation (except food safety)
- EU Customs Union (towards third countries)
- Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policies
- EU Regional Policy
- Common Trade Policy
- Economic and Monetary Union

- Justice and Home Affairs
- Common Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

Q. Will Britain still be a member of the NATO security alliance.

A. Yes. Britain was a member of NATO before joining the EU and can continue to be a member of the security alliance, as an EFTA member.



Resources

UK Parliament

Weblinks of government departments can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations>

UK Parliament website: <http://www.parliament.uk/>

How a Bill goes through Parliament:

<http://www.parliament.uk/about/how/laws/passage-bill/>

<https://www.gov.uk/legislative-process-taking-a-bill-through-parliament>

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/>

Other weblinks that could be useful:

EU (European Union)

EU website: <http://europa.eu/>

EU Index of control: http://europa.eu/index_en.htm

EU list of legislation search options:

http://europa.eu/eu-law/legislation/index_en.htm

Search EU legislation by topic: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/RECH_repertoire.do?ihmlang=en

Search EU legislation by number: http://eur-lex.europa.eu/RECH_naturel.do?ihmlang=en

EU Institutions and bodies:

http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm

EU delegations around the world and world organisations, that Britain could rejoin as a sovereign nation: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index_en.htm

EU regulations for Agriculture: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Repview.do?rep=03>

EU regulations for Fisheries: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Repview.do?rep=04>

EU laws for external relations: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/Repview.do?rep=11>

EFTA (European Free Trade Association)

EFTA website: www.efta.int

EFTA search facility for regulations: <http://www.efta.int/eea-lex>

EFTA seminars, powerpoints, diagrams: <http://www.efta.int/eea/seminars>

EEA agreement: <http://www.efta.int/media/documents/legal-texts/eea/the-eea-agreement/Main%20Text%20of%20the%20Agreement/EEAagreement.pdf>

EFTA worldwide Free Trade map: <http://www.efta.int/free-trade/fta-map>



EFTA Convention: <http://www.efta.int/sites/default/files/documents/legal-texts/efta-convention/Vaduz%20Convention%20Agreement.pdf>

List of EFTA expertise by sector: <http://www.efta.int/eea/efta-national-experts>

This is EFTA publications: <http://www.efta.int/publications/this-is-efta>

EFTA Free Trade Relations: <http://www.efta.int/legal-texts/free-trade-relations>

EFTA country websites:

Norway government: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en.html?id=4>

Iceland government: <http://www.government.is/>

Liechtenstein: <http://www.liechtenstein.li/index.php?id=21>

Norway EU website: <http://www.eu-norway.org/eu/>

EFTA EEA Grants: <http://eeagrants.org/>

Norway Free Trade Agreements: <http://www.regjeringen.no/nb/dep/nfd/tema/frihandelsavtaler/norways-free-trade-agreements.html?id=457017>

Norway Foreign Ministry: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud.html?id=833>

Norway WTO: <http://www.norway-geneva.org/wto/>

Norway government overseas links: <http://www.norway.info/>

Norway Fisheries site: <http://www.fisheries.no/>

Norway Ministry of Agriculture and Food site: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/lmd.html?id=627>

Norway Ministry of Justice: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/jd.html?id=463>

Norway Ministries: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep.html?id=933>

How Liechtenstein joined EFTA: <http://www1.regierung.li/index.php?id=855>

Information on EFTA member Switzerland, who negotiated bi-lateral agreements, starting in 1992 and implemented in 2002:

<http://www.europa.admin.ch/themen/00500/index.html?lang=en>

Some of the list of EU Delegations around the world:

UN

WTO

African Union

Council of Europe, Strasbourg

UN, Geneva

UN, New, York

UNESCO

IAEA

FAO



Summary

In summary, using an Action Team approach, with a clear idea of the aims and having a team with responsibilities and actions, and using available resources, will help make the switch from EU to EFTA membership easier, in weeks or months.

The ease of moving from a complicated EU/Single market, that exports jobs, to a simpler EFTA/Single Market that creates jobs, could vary across government departments and ability of Ministers, so help from the public and organisations in offering ideas, will help fast-track the transition.

The benefits of a pro-democracy arrangement with EU countries, will help Britain in achieve its potential and give MPs more opportunity to improve the country for the many, not just the few. The direct and indirect benefits, to the UK, in helping reduce the 'tax' of over regulation and also the freeing up of government to run Agriculture, Fisheries, Home Affairs, Justice and 60% reduction in regulations, in the best way for Britain, will help make it easier to create jobs, generate more tax revenue, to help with lowering the tax burden and better self-government.



About the Author

Hugo van Randwyck – has experience as an implementation consultant in a variety of industries. He has been working with the Bruges Group and pro-democracy groups to help Britain have a referendum on simpler links with the EU. He has written a number of papers, available on the Bruges Group website, and also organised opinion polls, showing support for EFTA is greater than the EU.

THE BRUGES GROUP

The Bruges Group is an independent all-party think tank. Set up in February 1989, its aim was to promote the idea of a less centralised European structure than that emerging in Brussels. Its inspiration was Margaret Thatcher's Bruges speech in September 1988, in which she remarked that "We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain, only to see them re-imposed at a European level...". The Bruges Group has had a major effect on public opinion and forged links with Members of Parliament as well as with similarly minded groups in other countries. The Bruges Group spearheads the intellectual battle against the notion of "ever-closer Union" in Europe. Through its ground-breaking publications and wide-ranging discussions it will continue its fight against further integration and, above all, against British involvement in a single European state.

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The Bruges Group holds regular high-profile public meetings, seminars, debates and conferences. These enable influential speakers to contribute to the European debate. Speakers are selected purely by the contribution they can make to enhance the debate.

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