

However, it must be recognized that one way of avoiding problems has simply been not at all to extend a disputed piece of legislation across the EEA. Nor is it the case that the particular situation of a small and beautiful EFTA/EEA state may not be put forward – and that with no uncertain persistency! – for instance, as regards its labour market or its position as a financial centre. But here, it may be that any non-, or even a delayed extension of the *acquis*, or one with derogations, could well have negative effects for the operators and that, in particular, on the EFTA/EEA side.

Success

But, even if we take the statistics with a pinch of salt, the results certainly are «impressive»: it seems that over 4000 Community acts now apply throughout the EEA: last year, the Joint Committee held 8 meetings and took 181 decisions involving 309 legal acts. On a somewhat less positive note, the EFTA Surveillance Authority, in its annual report for last year, pointed out that Liechtenstein had dropped from 4th to 14th place as regards implementing legislation.

However, in summary, I think we can safely say that the automatic and manual in our gearbox are in harmony so that the two «sides» of the EEA not only speak with a single voice – per side, but can almost be said to speak with a single voice – «punkt»! So, what I said five years ago – «a couple at peace» – still applies.

4. Viagra?

But, as in the best of relationships, a certain routine tends to set in. Is it, therefore, the moment for a dose of «Viagra»? As to this, our second point, we need to look at it from different perspectives: in the «blue corner», the «Viagrists» will want to «*maximize the inventive factor*»: in the «red corner», «the leave-me-aloneists» will want to «*minimize the irritation factor*».

What sort of things, then, do the «maximisers» want? Basically, even more involvement, even more of a say in what is going on.