

Signing ceremony Agreement on an EEA Financial Mechanism 2021-2028 12 September 2024 Liechtenstein national statement

- It is with great pleasure that I sign the Agreement on a sixth Financial Mechanism for the period 2021 to 2028 on behalf of Liechtenstein today.
- Like the EU cohesion funds, this mechanism will contribute to an important goal emphasized both by Jacques Delors and more recently Enrico Letta: The success of the EU Internal Market depends on the successful participation of all of its member states. This thought highlights the close interlinkages between solidarity and prosperity in Europe.
- While solidarity has always been an important part of Liechtenstein's EEA Membership, the multidimensional challenges and perils to Europe from outside and within make it even clearer that without solidarity there can be no stability or prosperity.
- The entire Financial Mechanism serves this goal and the earmarked contribution to projects related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine speaks this language even more clearly.
- Trust and familiarity are conducive to solidarity. How better to achieve this than by bilateral cooperation? The focus on bilateral projects between the Beneficiary and Donor States is therefore of great importance to us and Liechtenstein is determined to increase its bilateral ambition under the new Mechanism.
- As it has taken us longer than hoped to arrive at today's signature, efficient negotiations of MoUs and programme agreements are now of the essence as well

as speedily setting up many promising projects. Our shared ambition to increase the efficiency of the implementation is a good baseline to achieve this goal together.

- In this spirit we look forward to our continued cooperation with the fifteen Beneficiary States and thank the Commission for its excellent work as an at all times constructive negotiator and future facilitator.