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### Judgment in Case E-8/11 *EFTA Surveillance Authority v Iceland*

#### **BY FAILING TO CREATE STRATEGIC NOISE MAPS AND ACTION PLANS FOR MAJOR ROADS WITHIN THE TIME-LIMITS PRESCRIBED, ICELAND HAS FAILED TO FULFIL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER DIRECTIVE 2002/49/EC**

In a judgment delivered today, the EFTA Court held that by failing to ensure that its competent authorities made, and where relevant, approved strategic noise maps and drew up action plans for all major roads on its territory which have more than six million vehicle passages a year, and to ensure that the information from strategic noise maps and summaries of the action plans were sent to the EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) within the time-limits prescribed, Iceland has failed to fulfil its obligations arising from Articles 7(1), 8(1) and 10 of Directive 2002/49/EC.

Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 concerns the assessment and management of environmental noise and is adapted to the EEA Agreement by way of Protocol 1 thereto. It obliges EEA States to ensure that, by 30 June 2007, noise maps are drawn up for *inter alia* major roads with more than six million vehicle passages a year. Similarly, action plans to manage noise issues and effects for *inter alia* major roads with more than six million vehicle passages a year had to be approved by 18 July 2008. EFTA States were required to send the information from the strategic noise maps and summaries of the action plans to ESA.

It was undisputed that by the expiry of the time-limit given in ESA's reasoned opinion, there were six major roads which had more than six million vehicle passages a year within the territory of Iceland and that the Icelandic authorities had neither made strategic noise maps nor drawn up action plans for these roads. However, Iceland contended that since those six major roads are within the Greater Reykjavik Area, the strategic noise maps and the action plans for these roads are only due by 30 June 2012 and 18 July 2013 respectively, together with the strategic noise map and the action plan for the Reykjavik agglomeration. The Court rejected this argument and, having regard to the wording and the purpose of the Directive, upheld the application.

The full text of the judgment may be found on the Internet at: [www.eftacourt.int](http://www.eftacourt.int).

This press release is not an official document. Please note that the Court may not comment on the case.