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EFTA SURVEILLANCE
AUTHORITY

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Dear Mr Madero

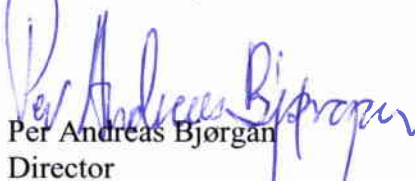
Subject: Revision of the Communication from the Commission on the application of State aid rules to public service broadcasting
- Reply of the EFTA Surveillance Authority -

Reference is made to your letter dated 1 November 2008 and the draft Communication on the application of State aid rules to public service broadcasting (hereinafter referred to as the Broadcasting Communication).

Thank you for consulting the EFTA Surveillance Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority) in the revision process of the Broadcasting Communication. The Authority welcomes modernisation of the rules and fully supports proposals of the Competition Directorate-General put forward in the presented draft.

In view of changing legal and technological environment in the broadcasting and related sectors, it seems necessary to provide market players and public authorities with legal certainty as regards the rules governing granting of compensation in favour of public service broadcasters. In this context, the draft reflects the most recent developments in the decision-making practice of the European Commission and could perhaps include references to the latest case law of the European Court of Justice.

Yours sincerely



Per Andreas Bjørgan
Director
Competition and State Aid Directorate