

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

14 January 2009

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee
43rd Meeting - 22 October 2008

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Summary Records and Draft Conclusions of the previous Committee meeting

2.1 Draft Summary Records, Committee meeting 3 September 2008

The draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 3 September 2008 were adopted.

2.2 Draft Conclusions, Committee meeting 3 September 2008

The draft Conclusion of the Committee meeting of 3 September 2008 were adopted.

3 Grant applications

3.1 Status of GRD production

As at 21 October 2008, the FMO had received 983 applications (approximately EUR 1,044 million), 704 (EUR 763 million) commitments had been made, 57 applications (EUR 61 million) had been rejected and 24 applications (EUR 21 million) had been withdrawn.

3.2 List of approved/rejected applications since 3 September 2008

The Committee took note of the list of projects approved/rejected since 3 September 2008.

4 Status of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism in the Beneficiary States

4.1 Status of the implementation in the Beneficiary States

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of the implementation in the Beneficiary States.

4.2 Annex C Funds

Annex C Funds were discussed under agenda point 4.1.

4.3 Annual meeting: Cyprus 29 - 30 October 2008

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of implementation in Cyprus. The annual meeting will take place on 30 October 2008 with site visits on 29 October 2008.

4.4 *Annual meeting: Malta 12 November 2008*

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of implementation in Malta. The annual meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2008 and will take place in Brussels.

4.5 *Priority sector review: Human Resource Development and Schengen*

The FMO gave the Committee priority sector reviews on Human Resource Development and Schengen. The Committee welcomed the reviews.

5 Co-operation with the European Commission

The National Expert did not participate at the meeting.

6 Guidelines and policy issues

6.1 *Evaluation manual and evaluation plan*

The FMO presented the draft Evaluation Manual for adoption. The FMO had received and included the donors comments and had also given the Focal Points a possibility to comment the draft manual. The FMO also proposed four reviews (Protection of Environment, Childcare (Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia), Regional Policy and Academic Research (Poland) and one evaluation (Implementing Schengen) to be carried out in 2009.

The Committee adopted the Evaluation Manual and the review/evaluation plan for 2009.

6.2 *Project Completion Reports' donor approval's delegation to the FMO*

The Committee delegated the authority to decide on the approval of PCRs to the FMO.

7 Administrative issues

7.1 *Disbursement schedule*

The Committee took note of the FMO's memo on the disbursement schedule.

7.2 *Budget 2008: 3rd quarter 2008*

The Committee took note of the FMO's presentation of a status report on the budget implementation, 3rd quarter 2008.

8 Other issues

There were no other issues.

9 Next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for 19 November 2008.

FMO

FMO, FMO, *Secretary*

Iceland

Mr Bjarni Vestmann, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ms Lilja Sturludóttir, Icelandic Mission to the European Communities

Liechtenstein

Mr Thomas Bischof, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the European Union

Norway

Mr Anders Erdal, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Chairman*

Ms Hilde Berit Eide, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Steinar Hagen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs