

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA  
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE 2004-2009

23 September 2011

Conclusions  
Financial Mechanism Committee 2004-2009  
68th Meeting - 29 June 2011

**1 Meeting agenda**

The meeting agenda was adopted with the following two issues to be discussed under Item 6 Other issues:

- Briefing on the upcoming audit of the Financial Mechanisms by the Norwegian delegation.
- Information from the FMO on delayed financial settlement for physically completed projects

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

*2.1 Draft Summary Records from the previous Committee meeting*

The Draft Summary Records from the previous meeting were adopted.

*2.2 Draft Conclusions from the previous Committee meeting*

The Conclusions from the previous meeting were adopted.

**3 Status of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism in the Beneficiary States**

*3.1 Greece - suspension of payments*

Disbursements to Greece were suspended 19 May 2011. Required information for lifting the suspension is not yet complete. The Committee agreed to maintain the suspension of payment of funds to Greece.

*3.2 Slovakia - audit follow-up*

The FMO briefed the Committee on the main findings of the audit of project SK0123, and adopted the recommendation to await conclusions from the Slovak investigation before any further steps are made.

*3.3 Exceptional extension requests*

Three revised extension requests were presented to the Committee for financing from the 10 % reserve of the Financial Mechanisms 2009-2014.

The Committee agreed to extend RO0032 and RO0060 with financing from the 10% reserve of the Financial Mechanisms 2009-14. ES0016 was agreed for extension but should be finalised by Spanish own funds.

*3.4 Status of implementation*

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

took note of the briefing.

### **3.5 Status of disbursement**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of disbursement, and the Committee took note of the information.

### **3.6 Detailed analysis of the payment forecast 2012**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the analysis of payment forecast. The Committee took note of the information.

### **3.7 Audit report of directly contracted NGO funds in BG, HU and RO**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the audit report on directly contracted NGO funds in BG, HU and RO.

The Committee noted the need to do country specific analysis in light of the forthcoming work with NGO funds in the FM 2009-14.

## **4 Communication**

### **4.1 Update on Status Report 2011**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the state-of-play and the process ahead for the Status Report 2011, and the Committee took note of the plan and the deadlines.

### **4.2 Workshop for Focal Points 30 June 2011**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the plan and status for the workshop with the Focal Points and the Certifying Authorities to be held in Brussels. The agenda covers both Financial Mechanisms.

The Committee took note of the agenda.

## **5 Administrative issues**

### **5.1 Standard Operational Procedures (draft version)**

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the FMO staff. The Committee took note of the briefing.

## **6 Other issues**

### **6.1 Audit of the Financial Mechanisms**

Norway informed the Committee about the upcoming audit of the Financial Mechanisms by the Norwegian Auditor General (NAG). The Committee highlighted the importance of well documented processes, decisions and procedures.

### **6.2 Projects that are physically completed, but where the financial settlement is delayed**

The FMO informed the Committee about a newly identified issue regarding projects that are physically completed, but where the financial settlement is delayed. The Committee accepted to receive recommendations on a case by case basis from the FMO.

## **7 Next meeting**

The next Committee meeting is planned for 15 September 2011 in Brussels.

*FMO*

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Mr Sølve Fauskevåg, FMO, *Secretary*

*Iceland*

Erna S Hallgrímsdóttir, Icelandic Mission to the European Communities

*Liechtenstein*

Mr Pascal Schafhauser, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the European Union

Ms Emilia Breuss, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the European Union

*Norway*

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

Ms Vibeke Rysst-Jensen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tom Tjomsland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs