

52nd Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 meeting

9 February 2017

Conclusions

Adopted 27.04.2017

1 Meeting agenda

Meeting agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous meeting

Draft minutes and conclusions from the previous meeting were adopted.

3 Director's assessment

3.1 Progress report including status of programme implementation, disbursements and absorption, country and bilateral engagement, communication and FMO main priorities 2017

The Acting Director briefed the Committee on the overall state of play. The Committee took note of the Director's briefing.

4 Issues for decision

4.1 Evaluation plan

The Committee adopted the evaluation plan for 2017.

4.2 Cost sharing key – adjustment

The decision of the EFTA Standing Committee No 3/2010/SC of 1 July 2010 established how the EEA Financial Mechanism allocation should be split between the donors. The FMO has discovered that the determination of the keys has not been done in a fully correct and consistent way. The Committee agreed on the need of a correction and took note of the two options presented.

4.3 Collusion in public procurement in Slovakia – Level of financial corrections

Three Committee discussed the three irregularity cases concerning collusion in public procurement. The Committee decided notify the NFP as of its intention regarding financial corrections.

5 Issues for discussion

5.1 Irregularity case, national level Spain

During the systems audit of the national structure in Spain for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009 – 2014 a systemic deficiency was revealed. It is not possible in

this case to identify the actual irregular expenditure. The Committee decided that no financial correction is applied at this stage.

5.2 Irregularity case, national level Poland

During the systems audit of the national structure in Poland for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2009 – 2014 a systemic deficiency was revealed. It is not possible in this case to identify the actual irregular expenditure. The Committee decided that no financial correction is applied.

5.3 Communication strategy

The Committee took note of the Communication strategy 2017 presented by the FMO.

6 Issues for information

6.1 Administrative budget, actual expenditure as at 30 September 2016

The Committee took note of the FMO's report on the actual expenditure as at 30 September 2016.

6.2 Mid-term review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014

The Committee took note of the FMO's presentation on the Mid-term review of the EEA and Norway Grants 2009 – 2014.

7 Beneficiary States

The annual meeting preparations and the dates were discussed in the Donor meeting on 10 February 2017. The annual meeting dates are coordinated with the MoU negotiation dates.

8 Other issues

There were no other issues.

9 Next meeting

The next Committee meeting will take place on 27 – 28 April 2017.

List of participants

Chair – Niels Engelschiøn, Director General, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Iceland

Ms Thóra Magnúsdóttir, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Andri Júlíusson, First Secretary, Embassy of Iceland

Mr Sveinn Kjartan Einarsson, Specialist, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

Mr Stefan Barriga, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU

Ms Helen Lorez, Second Secretary, Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU

Norway

Mr Sjur Larsen, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Torill Johansen, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tønnes Svanes, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Turi Bakke, First Secretary, Mission of Norway to the EU

FMO - Secretary