

Conclusions  
Financial Mechanism Committee 2009 – 14  
26<sup>th</sup> meeting 10 April 2013

*Adopted on 23 May 2013*

## **1. Meeting agenda**

The meeting agenda was adopted.

## **2. Information from DG Regional Policy**

The National Expert informed the Committee about the status of the screening process and about the DG Regional Policy's work on issues that are relevant for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms

## **3. Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the last Committee meeting**

The Draft Conclusions from the previous meeting were adopted with the following change: 6.4 Status report EEA Grants from the FMC to the Standing Committee should read: "The FMO presented the Annual Status Report on the EEA Grants. It was agreed that the Donors submit their comments in writing. A final report will be presented for adoption by written procedure." The Draft Minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with a corresponding change.

## **4. Director's assessment**

The Director briefed the Committee on (i) the status of programming and (ii) the FMO's work on key issues.

## **5. Status of implementation in the Beneficiary States**

### 5.1. GRD production

The FMO briefed the Committee on the GRD production.

#### ***Decision No 25***

The Committee decided to allow the FMO to send GRDs to the Donors even if the audited management and control systems would not be in place in a Beneficiary State. The Donor approvals would in these cases be conditional upon an audited management and control system being submitted. The Grant Agreement would take effect only when the pre-eligibility condition has been fulfilled.

### 5.2. Country status

The Committee discussed (i) the status of implementation in the Beneficiary States and (ii) the upcoming annual meetings.

### 5.3. Management of the EEA Grants in Greece – concept note

The FMO presented a concept note on the management of EEA Grants in Greece. The Committee concluded that a letter will be sent to the Greek authorities.

### 5.4. Commitments and disbursements

The actual disbursements in 2013 amounted to EUR 23.5 million on 19 March 2013.

### 5.5. Disbursement forecast per 5 March 2013

The FMO presented the disbursement forecast as at 5 March 2013.

## **6. Issues for discussion**

### 6.1. Updated programme risk analysis

The FMO presented an updated risk analysis followed by an explanation of the adjusted methodology. The Committee requested the FMO to provide an update of the risk assessment for the May Committee meeting.

The Committee also requested a draft programme for the risk seminar taking place in Oslo in September 2013.

### 6.2. Extension of programme eligibility period

The Committee discussed the FMO's background memo on "Extension of programme eligibility period". The Committee concluded that a general extension cannot be justified. As for Research programmes the Committee will revert to the matter by written procedure

### 6.3. Roma issues

The FMO is currently working on a Roma strategy and the first outline is already ready.

### 6.4. Evaluation of capacity in the Focal Points

The Committee took note of the FMO's analysis of the capacity in National Focal Points.

### 6.5. Photo project - concept note on promotion of EEA Grants

The FMO presented a concept note on the photo project about young people affected by the crisis.

## **7. Issues for information**

### 7.1. Status of work plans for Bilateral funds at national level

The Committee took note of the status of progress in approval and implementation of work plans.

## 7.2. Summary of Annual Reports from Donor Programme Partners

The FMO presented a summary of annual reports from the 26 national donor programme partners. The Committee took note of the information

## 7.3. Communication: List of events 2013

The list of events for 2013 was briefly discussed.

## 7.4. Update on preparations for the Adaptation conference in Lisbon 7-8 October 2013

The FMO briefed the Committee on the preparations for the Adaptation conference taking place in Lisbon in October 2013.

## 7.5. Actual expenses FMO 2012

[The actual expenses FMO 2012 was discussed at the FMC 2004 – 2009 meeting.]  
The Committee took note of the FMO's report on actual expenses 2012.

## **8. Other issues**

There were no other issues.

## **9. Next meeting**

Planned for 23 May 2013.

List of participants

Iceland

Kristján Andri Stefánsson, Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

Dominik Marxer, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the EU

Norway

Anders Erdal, Chairman, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Steinar Hagen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tom Tjomsland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Observer: Aud Hellstrøm, Norwegian Mission to the EU

Agenda item 2: Per Mannes, National Expert, DG Regional Policy

FMO