

<p>Conclusions Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 14th meeting 15 September 2011</p>
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1. Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted with two additional items:

4.3 NGO Programme for Lithuania Terms of Reference – for adoption and

5.7 Future organisation of FMO.

2. Draft minutes and conclusions of the previous FMC meeting

The draft minutes and conclusions from the previous FMC meeting were adopted.

3. MoU update

3.1 Update from the MoU Coordinator

FMO distributed an updated status overview of the MoU process. Eight MoUs are signed, seven MoU signatures are remaining (Cyprus, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania and Spain).

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status country by country of the Beneficiary States where signing is not yet completed.

The Committee took note of the information.

3.2 FMO update on signed MoUs/programmes

FMO distributed a country by country overview of progress on programming and made country specific remarks. The overview will be a regular item in the Committee meetings as from the next meeting, and the Committee discussed the format of the overview.

4. Guidelines and policy issues

4.1 Proposed amendments to the Regulation

The FMO presented proposed amendments to the Regulation and to the Programme Operators' Manual. The Committee adopted all proposed amendments.

4.2 Rules for procurement of Fund Operators related to Regulation art. 5.13

The FMO presented the new rules on the appointment and contracting of fund operators when the FMO has been entrusted with the operation of the Programme.

The Committee approved the Rules for procurement of Fund Operators related to Regulation art. 5.13.

4.3 NGO programme Lithuania Terms of Reference

The FMO presented the Terms of Reference for the NGO programme in Lithuania. The Committee approved the Terms of Reference for the NGO programme in Lithuania.

5. Administrative issues

5.1 Semi-annual Activity plan autumn 2011

The FMO presented the main activities for the autumn 2011 and the Committee discussed the activities.

5.2 Annual Meeting planning

The FMO proposed an overview of Annual Meetings for the autumn 2011 and spring 2012. The Committee discussed the Annual Meeting plan for the autumn and made some minor adjustments to the proposal.

5.3 Revised administrative budget 2011

This item was discussed under item 5.4 Actual running expenses. No revised administrative budget is needed.

5.4 Actual running expenses FMO per 31 August 2011

The FMO presented the actual running expenses per 31 August 2011. The running expenses are within approved budget for this year. The Committee took note of the information and authorised the FMO to make the necessary transfers between budget headings.

5.5 Audit mandate and audit budget EBOA

The FMO presented the draft decision of the Standing Committee of the EFTA States regarding the audit of programmes and projects under the Financial Mechanism 2009-14.

The Committee adopted the draft decision with minor amendments.

5.6 Payments to Beneficiary States

With reference to the quarterly forecast on estimated payments to the Beneficiary States provided by FMO, the Committee was asked for understanding that it is difficult to carry out a thorough analysis and give precise estimates outside the regular schedule. The Committee took note of this information.

5.7 Future organisation of FMO

The Donors have reviewed the organisational structure of the FMO. The Committee adopted a model for the future organisation and authorized the Director to make the reorganisation operational by 1 November 2011.

6. Communication and events

6.1 Communication and Design Manual

The FMO briefed the Committee on the work in process for the Communication and Design Manual.

The Committee took note of the information.

6.2 Communication priorities autumn 2011

The FMO presented the main priorities on publications and events for the autumn. The Committee took note of the information.

6.3 Conference in cooperation with the Polish presidency in Brussels 20 October

The FMO briefed the Committee on this high level event to be organised by the Norwegian Mission to the EU and presented a draft agenda. The aim of the conference is increased awareness and knowledge about the EEA EFTA States' prioritized programme areas in the Beneficiary States and expected outcomes of the EEA and Norway Grants. The Committee took note of the information.

6.4 Feedback from the anti-corruption seminar in Prague 6 September 2011

The FMO briefed the Committee about the success of the conference. The Committee took note of the information.

6.5 Domestic violence conference in Bratislava 29 November

The FMO briefed the Committee about the planned conference on domestic violence. The Council of Europe (CoE) will, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of the Slovak Republic and the Norway Grants, organise the conference 'Effective ways to prevent and to combat violence against women and domestic violence' in Bratislava on 29 November 2011. Participants from all 15 Beneficiary States will be invited to the conference.

The Committee took note of the information.

7. Other issues

7.1 Risk management

The FMO informed the Committee about the status of the overview of the risk management set up for the Financial Mechanisms 2009-14 at the level of the Beneficiary States and the FMO.

The Committee took note of the briefing.

7.2 Development of DoRIS – status update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of development. The first release including the functionality for reception of programme proposals is planned for 1 November 2011. The Committee took note of the information.

7.3 Baseline study on bilateral relations – status update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of the baseline study on bilateral relations. The Committee took note of the information.

8. Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2011.

List of participants:

Norway

Anders Erdal, NMFA, Chairman

Steinar Hagen, NMFA

Mette Jøranli, NMFA

Tom Tjomsland, NMFA

Liechtenstein

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

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

Iceland

Eythor Benediktsson, Icelandic Mission to the European Union

FMO

FMO Secretary