

29th Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 meeting

17th September 2013

Conclusions

Adopted on 24 October 2013

1 Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous Committee meeting

2.1 Draft Minutes and Conclusions

The draft Minutes and the draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 26 June 2013 were adopted.

3 Director's assessment

3.1 Progress report including: status of programme decisions, commitments, disbursements and forecasts, DoRIS implementation

The Director briefed the Committee on (i) status of programme decisions and commitments, (ii) disbursements and forecast and (iii) DoRIS implementation. 144 programmes had been sent to the Donors and 132 programmes had been approved as at 9 September 2013. The total commitments were EUR 1.4 billion or 84% of the total available funds. The disbursement forecast has been reviewed and lowered 19% compared to the June forecast. 55.5% of the FMO's administrative budget had been spent as at 9 September 2013.

3.2 Priorities for autumn 2013

The Director briefed the Committee on the list of priorities for the autumn 2013. The FMO's main priorities in the autumn 2013 will be related to programme implementation, risk and result based management, reporting on progress and communication. As for the project portal, the FMO will follow-up the first project descriptions submitted by the small beneficiary states in detail. The aim is to use these descriptions as best practice examples. Additionally, the FMO will organise extensive training to support the Programme Operators in their efforts of providing project level information.

4 Progress report on implementation

4.1 Annual meetings

The Committee discussed in detail the countries (Bulgaria and Greece) for which an annual meeting is scheduled to take place prior to the next Committee meeting.

4.2 Progress reports

The Committee discussed the status of implementation and the progress of programmes in the Beneficiary States.

5 Issues for adoption

5.1 Format of progress reports

The Committee welcomed the new format of the country and program progress reports based on the assessment in the FMO on progress according to objectives.

5.2 Transparency International country reports

The Transparency International (TI) had submitted the first country reports to the FMO. The remaining reports are expected to be ready by the end of 2013 or early 2014. The reports will be shared with the relevant beneficiary states and used to collaboratively address good governance and corruption risk.

5.3 Planning wheel

The FMO presented a planning wheel for 09/2013 – 08/2014 and 2014. The planning wheel includes the main milestones and meetings on the FMC level.

The Committee will revert to the detailed planning of 2014 at a later stage.

5.4 Council of Europe budget 2014

Decision 27

The Committee approved the CoE's DPP work plan and budget proposal for 2014, for the amount of EUR 870,225.

6 Issues for information

6.1 Events' calendar

The Committee took note of the updated list of events.

7 Other issues

The Committee requested the FMO to present an evaluation plan for 2014 at the October Committee meeting.

Next meeting

24 October 2013

Meeting participants:

Iceland

Kristján Andri Stefánsson, Icelandic Ministry of Foreign

Liechtenstein

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

Norway

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

Pia Gjesme Holm, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Signe Astrid Engli, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tom Tjomsland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FMO

Decision 27

The Committee approved the CoE's DPP work plan and budget proposal for 2014, for the amount of EUR 870,225.

