1. Meeting agenda

A revised meeting agenda was adopted.

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

FMO handed out an updated status overview of the MoU process. Three MoUs are signed so far (Slovak Republic, Lithuania and Slovenia).

An overview of the signatures in the Beneficiary States was distributed in the meeting. Information on status of signatures will be part of the regular update on the MoU process in the Committee meetings. The Committee took note of the overviews.

The MoU Coordinator briefed the Committee on status country by country.

The Committee took note of the information.

4. Administrative issues

4.1 Statement of actual expenses FMO 2010

The FMO briefed the Committee on the actual expenses for 2010 for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms. The Committee took note of the briefing.

4.2 Statement of actual expenses FMO Jan – April 2011

The FMO briefed the Committee on the actual expenses from January to April this year for the EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanisms. The Committee took note of the information.

4.3 Updated disbursement forecast for 2011 and 2012

The FMO presented an updated disbursement forecast for 2011 and 2012. The Committee took note of the presentation.

5. Guidelines and policy issues

5.1 EEA and Norway Grants logo
The FMO presented the revised logos for the EEA and Norway Grants. The new logos are technically more user friendly and the Grant schemes and the Donor States become more visible.

The Committee adopted the new logo.

5.2 Draft Guidelines for Scholarship Programmes

The FMO presented the draft Guidelines for Scholarship Programmes. The aim has been to streamline the Programmes for Donor State institutions while retaining flexibility for the Beneficiary States. The Committee agreed that the Committee receives a final version for adoption by Written Procedure after the consultation period.

5.3 Extension of eligibility date for Scholarship Programmes

The FMO proposed that the final date of eligibility of expenditure in projects under Scholarship Programmes is set to 31 July 2016. As concerns the transitional support to Spain, the final date of eligibility of expenditure in projects under a Spanish Scholarship programme is not extended and remains 31 December 2015. The extension may also apply to Scholarship components under other programmes, provided the extension is included in the programme proposal and approved by the Donors.

The Committee agreed to the proposed recommendations.

6. Other issues

6.1 Development of IRS – status update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the development status of the new IT system. The FMO recommended a decision on the supplier be approved by the Donors on Written Procedure in June.

The Committee took note of the briefing and agreed to the recommendation by FMO.

6.2 DPP Budget beyond 2011

The FMO informed the Committee that certain Donor Programme Partners demand certainty with regard to funding beyond 2011. The FMO asked the Committee to authorize the FMO to issue assurances with regard to minimum funding of DPPs for year 2012 in order for certain institutions to hire staff to fulfill their role as DPPs. The prerequisite for the giving of such an assurance should be that the institution is confirmed as DPP in at least one MoU that has already entered into force, and will be DPP in a sufficient number of programmes to justify a full person year.
The Committee agreed to the proposal.

6.3 TI Agreement and Anti-corruption seminar in Prague 6 September 2011

The FMO briefed the Committee on the development of the Framework Agreement/Partnership Agreement with Transparency International. The Committee took note of the information.

6.4 NGO stakeholders’ seminar in 7-8 June 2011

The FMO briefed the Committee about the seminar program for NGO stakeholders to be held in Oslo. The Committee took note of the information.

6.5 Staff seminar in Oslo 20-22 June 2011

The FMO informed the Committee about the preliminary program for the FMO staff seminar to be held in Oslo. The Committee took note of the information.

6.6 Communication plan – priorities before summer 2011

The FMO distributed a memo on FMO communication priorities from May to August 2011. The Committee took note of the information and asked for communication to be on the agenda in the future Committee meetings.

8. Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 29 June 2011.

List of participants:

Norway
Anders Erdal, NMFA, Chairman
Ingrid Schulerud, NMFA
Vibeke Rysst-Jensen, NMFA
Steinar Hagen, 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
Kristján Andri Stefansson, Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FMO
FMO Secretary