

<p>Conclusions Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 13th meeting 20 June 2011, in Oslo</p>
--

1. Meeting agenda

A revised meeting agenda was adopted with the following amendments: Agenda item 6.2 on preliminary feedback from the consultations on Guidelines for Evaluation and Scholarships was taken out and replaced by an update on the Transparency International Agreement. Two agenda items were added for information: 6.3 Good Governance conference in Prague 6 September 2011 and 7.3 Focal Point workshop in Brussels 30 June 2011.

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. The FMO then briefed the Committee on the status country by country.

The Committee took note of the information and made a remark about practical challenges ahead with the already signed MoUs.

4. Communication update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the work in process for the Communication and Design Manual and presented the visual layout for selected templates.

Norway informed the Committee that in respect of the Polish presidency in the EU this autumn, the Polish EU Delegation plans an event in Brussels, for the general increase of knowledge on the Financial Mechanisms in the EU.

The Committee took note of the information.

5. Administrative issues

5.1 Detailed analysis of the payment forecast for 2012

The FMO presented a comprehensive document and briefed the Committee on the details and underlying assumptions and constraints in the detailed analysis of the payment forecast.

The Committee took note of the briefing.

5.2 National expert to DG Regio

The FMO informed the Committee that a technical meeting was held with DG Regio in May 2011. The Committee then discussed the issue of engaging a national expert, and decided that Norway, on behalf of the donors, will hire an individual for this task.

6. Guidelines and policy issues

6.1 Template for the Technical Assistance Agreement (Regulation Art. 7.12.5.)

The FMO presented a drafted Agreement to be entered into between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States concerning the use of Technical Assistance funds and the Funds for Bilateral Relations at National Level.

The Committee adopted the draft Agreement concerning the use of Technical Assistance funds and the Funds for Bilateral Relations at National Level with suggested amendments.

6.2 Update on Transparency International Agreement

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

6.3 Good Governance seminar in Prague 6 September 2011

The FMO informed the Committee that a conference in Prague on Good Governance has been agreed with the Czech Focal Point. The Committee took note of the information.

7. Other issues

Norway informed the Committee that the Norwegian Auditor General is doing a pre-study for a potential system audit of both FMs 2004-09 and FMs 2009-14.

Liechtenstein raised the legal basis for auditing the EEA Financial Mechanisms without involving EBOA.

7.1 Development of IRS – status update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the current status following the approval of the service provider for the new IT system. The Committee took note of the information.

7.2 Donor Programme Partner Framework Agreement status update

A document was handed out in the meeting for this agenda item, and the FMO briefed the Committee on the status of the Donor Programme Partner Framework Agreement. The Committee took note of the information.

7.3 Workshop with Focal Points 30 June 2011

The FMO informed the Committee of the planned event for the Focal Points to be held in Brussels 30 June 2011 on both FMs 2004-09 and 2009-14. The Committee took note of the information.

8. Calendar issues for the autumn and next meeting

The FMO was asked to include in its calendar of events important dates for the autumn.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 15 September 2011. Two other tentative meeting dates were also set: 20 October and 8 December.

List of participants:

Norway

Anders Erdal, NMFA, Chairman

Steinar Hagen, NMFA

Ingrid Schulerud, NMFA

Vibeke Rysst-Jensen, NMFA

Tom Tjomslund, NMFA

Liechtenstein

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

Iceland

Kristján Andri Stefansson, Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FMO

FMO Secretary