

Final Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14
22nd meeting 24 October 2012

1. Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted with the addition of one item under 'Other issues': EBOA's budget proposal for the audit of the FMs 2009-14 for Committee recommendation to the EFTA Standing Committee.

2. Information from DG Regio

The new national expert in the European Commission, DG Regio, Mr. Per Mannes, made a presentation on the new organisation and policy work in DG Regio. The national expert will be invited to attend all FMC meetings.

3. Draft minutes and conclusions of the previous FMC meeting

The draft minutes and conclusions from the previous FMC meeting were adopted with the following amendment for the minutes item 4.1.2 Country and sector status, Hungary. The new text reads:

"Outstanding issue:

The Hungarian NGO fund: the FMO was asked to designate a specific person on management level to handle the communication with the Hungarian government representatives.

In respect of the focus on geothermal energy in the Renewable energy programme in Hungary, there are in the programme proposal issues to be discussed on the relationship between activities related to geothermal and other renewable resources. Norway reminded the Committee about the understanding from the MoU negotiation process".

3.1 Follow-up issues – Romania Status on EU funding

The FMO briefed the Committee on the current status of possible suspension of payments under the EU's structural and cohesion funding to Romania.

4 Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

The FMO was asked to prepare a draft for "Rules of procedure for FMC for the 09-14 mechanism" for adoption in the next Committee meeting. Following the adoption of these rules, the election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair will be conducted.

5 Director's assessment

5.1 Overall status and priorities

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of programming and urgent matters.

The approval of the Grant Recommendation Documents (GRDs) is the main activity for the FMO this autumn.

6 Status of Implementation in the Beneficiary States

6.1 GRD production

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status and progress in the GRD production.

6.2 Country status including Annual Meeting preparations for Slovakia, Spain and Bulgaria

The FMO presented the status of implementation report country by country and informed the Committee about urgent matters. The Committee discussed and gave remarks to the recently held and upcoming Annual Meetings.

6.3 Status on commitments and disbursements per country

The Committee was informed about the current commitments and disbursements per country.

6.4 Risk assessment

The FMO presented an updated document on the risk assessment. The Committee was also informed about improvements undertaken in the country risk assessment part of the GRDs.

7 Issues for adoption

7.1 Allocation of reserves before 31 January 2013

The FMO proposed a procedure in those cases where the Memorandum of Understanding has set aside a reserve for unforeseen events.

The Committee adopted the procedure recommended by the FMO with regards to the allocation of reserves before 31 January 2013 and asked the FMO to implement the decision.

7.2 HU03 PA6 Renewable Energy (distribution of small grant scheme between geothermal and non-geothermal activities)

Discussion postponed for internal deliberations to take place before the next FMC meeting.

8 Issues for discussion

8.1 Draft FMO administrative budget for 2013

The FMO presented an overview of the draft administrative budget for 2013. The final budget will be adopted on the next FMC meeting.

8.2 Donor Programme Partner budget medium term 2013-2015

The FMO presented to the Committee a medium term budget forecast for the Donor Programme Partners (DPPs).

8.3 Financial forecast 2013

The FMO presented the financial forecast for 2013-2017. The Committee made comments to the forecasting.

8.4 Amendments to the Regulation

The FMO presented an overview of a number of areas in the Regulation that have posed problems and would benefit from amendment. The amendments to the Regulation will be consulted with the Beneficiary States prior to final adoption in FMC.

8.5 FMC meeting plan for 2013

The Committee took note of the proposed FMC meeting plan for 2013.

9 Issues for information

9.1 Status work plans for bilateral funds at national level

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status in the various countries for the work plans for bilateral funds at national level.

9.2 Updated status on events

The FMO gave a short overview of main events.

9.3 Status Roma seminar, Brussels, 25 October 2012

The NMFA has initiated a Roma seminar to take place in Brussels, 25 October 2012. The aim of the workshop is to share experiences and challenges in the development and implementation of programmes focusing on Roma inclusion, and for the partners in the Grants to reiterate their commitment to promoting Roma inclusion. Four different countries, CoE and OCI representatives participate.

9.4 Status Hate Speech conference, Budapest, 27-28 November 2012

The FMO informed about the details of the programme and the progress in planning of the conference which is a joint project between the Grants and CoE.

9.5 Status Focal Point seminar, Brussels, 6 December 2012

Due to the high work load in both the FMO and the Beneficiary States before Christmas, the FMO will propose a new date in January.

10 Other issues

EBOA's budget proposal for the Audit of the FMs 2009-14

In order for the EFTA Standing Committee to adopt the proposed budget, a recommendation from the Financial Mechanism Committee is required.

11. Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for 5 December 2012.

Participants:

Anders Erdal, Chairman, NMFA

Steinar Hagen, NMFA

Tom Tjomsland, NMFA

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

Kristján A Stefansson, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Observer: Aud Hellstrøm, Minister Counsellor, Mission of Norway

For agenda item 2: Per Mannes, DG Regio

The FMO

