

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14
17th meeting 25 January 2012

1. Meeting agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes and conclusions of the previous FMC meeting

The Committee decided that all FMC meeting minutes will start with follow up issues. Draft minutes and conclusions should be sent to the donors within 3 working days following the meeting.

The FMO informed the Committee that the EFTA Standing Committee, on 18 January 2012, confirmed the amendments to the Regulations adopted by the Committee in the last FMC meeting.

The draft minutes and conclusions from the previous FMC meeting were adopted with the following amendments to the minutes in 5.1 Status of implementation – additional text for Poland regarding the NGO fund, and in 9.4 Event dates where specific dates were added.

2.1 Follow-up issues

A new agenda item on follow-up issues from previous meetings were included in the minutes.

3 MoU update

3.1 Update from MoU-coordinator and MoU follow up issues

Norway distributed an overview of MoU preparations in the meeting. Portugal and Romania are the two remaining countries where MoU signature is pending. The Committee discussed the outstanding issues for these two countries.

4 Director's report

4.1 Follow-up issues and 4.2 Director's assessment of urgent matters and risk issues of special importance

The Director briefed the Committee of follow-up issues and urgent matters.

4.3 Bilateral issues

The Director informed the Committee that Draft bilateral guidelines are work in progress at FMO. The guidelines will be sent for hearing in the Beneficiary States.

The Committee took note of the information.

5 Implementation in the Beneficiary States

5.1 Status on implementation– follow up needed - per country

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of implementation in the Beneficiary States.

The Committee took note of the information.

5.2 Preparation of AMs Cyprus (23.2.), Slovenia (29.2.) and Malta (7.3.)

The FMO briefed the Committee of the planned dates for the Annual Meetings in Cyprus, Slovenia and Malta.

5.3 Financial forecast for 2012 - 2017

FMO presented a general overview of the forecast on estimated payments as well as specific details per Beneficiary State.

The committee took note of the information.

6 Programmes and Fund operators

6.1 Overview of programme appraisals

The FMO informed the Committee that an overview of proposals in house is prepared and will be included as a regular meeting item.

The FMO also gave a short update on the status on the NGO programmes.

The Committee took note of the information.

6.2 Update on cooperation with Council of Europe

Norway briefed the Committee about the last meeting held with CoE in Strasbourg.

The Committee took note of the information.

7 Guidelines and policy issues

7.1 Exceptional co-financing at programme level

The Committee discussed the working procedure for handling of exceptional co-financing at programme level, presented by the FMO, and underlined the importance of keeping to the rule of 85% for the contributions from the EEA FM.

7.2 Risk management

The Committee discussed consultant recommendations on how to improve risk management for the EEA and Norway Grants 2009-14.

The Committee agreed to FMO starting to write a draft risk management strategy.

7.3 Bilateral relations including draft Bilateral Guidelines

The Committee provided input to the draft bilateral guidelines. The guidelines will be further developed before a final version can be adopted.

8. Administrative issues

8.1 Calendar FMC and Annual Meetings 2012

The Committee discussed and agreed to the dates proposed for FMC and Annual Meetings 2012 with minor adjustments.

8.2 Semi-annual activity plan spring 2012

The Semi-Annual activity plan was discussed in the FMC meeting for FMs 2004-09 where the Committee took note of the information.

8.3 Annual Meeting routines

The FMO presented draft routines and a timeline for Annual Meeting preparations. In addition, a special timeline was proposed for Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia.

The Committee took note of the draft routines for Annual Meeting preparations and adopted the suggested deviating routines for Cyprus, Malta and Slovenia.

9. Communication and events

9.1 Communications workshop for Embassies and Focal Points 1 March 2012

The FMO distributed a draft agenda for the planned communications workshop for embassies and Focal Points scheduled for 1 March 2012.

The Committee agreed that FMO will cover costs for countries where Technical Assistance is not yet in place, as attendance from all Focal Points is important.

The Committee took note of the information.

9.2 Risk Management and Good Governance seminar in Sofia

The FMO distributed a memorandum and a draft agenda for the Risk Management and Good Governance seminar in Sofia, September 2012.

The Committee took note of the information.

9.3 Gender workshop end May 2012

An internal workshop for the Focal Points is planned for 23 May 2012 in Brussels.

The Committee took note of the plans.

10. Other issues

10.1 Delegation of FMC tasks to FMO

The Committee reviewed the memo on delegation of FMC tasks to FMO that was discussed in the previous Committee meeting. A final document will be prepared for FMC.

11. Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is planned for 14 March 2012.

Participants:

Anders Erdal, Chairman, NMFA

Vibeke Rysst-Jensen, NMFA

Steinar Hagen, NMFA

Ingrid Schulerud, NMFA

Mette Jøranli, NMFA

Tom Tjomsland, NMFA

Pascal Schafhauser, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the EU (Until item 6.1)

Kristjan Andri Stefansson, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Eythor Benediktsson, Icelandic Mission to the EU

FMO

FMO Coordinator