

46th Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 meeting

28 January 2016

Conclusions

Adopted on 15.03.2016

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

Agenda item 5.2 Review of Decent Work and Tripartite Dialogue – recommendations, follow-up and publication and agenda item 6.3 Annual meeting dates 1st half of 2016 were deleted. A new agenda item “Development Bank of European Council” was added under agenda item 7. “Other issues”.

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous meeting

The draft minutes and conclusions from the previous meeting were adopted.

3 Director’s assessment

3.1 Progress report

The Acting Director outlined the FMO’s main priorities and main tasks for 2016 and briefed the Committee on the overall state of play. The Committee took note of the Director’s assessment.

4 Issues for decision

4.1 Regulation amendment, Final Programme Report template, and updated Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations

The Committee approved the amendments to Article 2.2.5 and 12.2.5 of the Regulation, the final programme report template (Attachment 3 to Annex 9 of the Regulation – Programme Operator’s Manual) and the updated Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations. The FMO will seek the confirmation of the Regulation amendments and the final programme report template from the Standing Committee of the EFTA States¹.

4.2 Further extensions to project eligibility

The structured process whereby the Beneficiary States could apply for extensions to individually identified, contracted projects by 30 September 2015, has been completed.

The Committee concluded on the procedure for FMO’s handling of any further extension requests.

¹ The updated Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations does not require a confirmation by the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.

4.3 Monitoring plan

The Committee adopted the monitoring plan.

4.4 Audit plan

The Committee adopted the audit plan for 2016.

4.5 Communication plan

The Committee took note of the Communication plan for 2016. The FMO and the Committee will revert to the details of the plan.

5 Issues for discussion

5.1 Annual report 2015 – 16 – content outline and timeline

The Committee took note of the draft content outline and a timeline for the annual report 2015 – 2016. The work on the annual report will continue in a working group in which the three Donors and the FMO would be represented.

6 Beneficiary States

6.1 Critical issues

The FMO informed the Committee of the critical issues in the Beneficiary States.

6.2 Annual meetings

The Committee discussed the beneficiary states for which the annual meeting is scheduled to take place before in February – March 2015 (Slovenia and Croatia).

7 Other issues

7.1 Development Bank of European Council

The Committee took note of the FMO's memo on the contribution to Migrant and Refugee FUND (MRF) run by Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB). The Committee will revert to this matter.

8 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 15 March 2016.

ANNEX I

List of participants

Iceland

Ms Unnúr Orradóttir Rametter, Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Thóra Magnúsdóttir, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Andri Júlíusson, First Secretary, Embassy of Iceland

Liechtenstein

Mr Dominik Marxer, Counsellor, Liechtenstein Mission to the EU

Norway

Mr Anders Erdal, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chairman)

Ms Pia Gjesme Holm, Deputy Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tønnes Svanes, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Tom Tjomsland, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Aud Hellstrøm, Minister Counsellor, Norway's Mission to the EU

FMO - Secretary