

31st Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 meeting

4 December 2013

Conclusions

Adopted on 22.1.2014

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

Agenda points 5.1 Audit plan 2014 & 6.3 Audit strategy FMs 2009 – 2014; 5.2 Evaluation plan 2014 & 6.4 Evaluation plan FMs 2009 – 2014; 5.6 Planning wheel 2014 & 7.1 Events calendar and 5.7 Risk seminar 2013 – conclusions and recommendations & 6.1 Risk mitigation were merged.

Item "Croatia" was added to the agenda item 4.3 "Progress reports" and item "Support for project partners from Donor States" to the agenda item 8¹ "Other issues".

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous Committee meeting

2.1 Draft Minutes and Conclusions

The draft conclusions were adopted.

The draft minutes were adopted with the amendments to the sections on 5.2 Administrative budget 2014 and with corrections of clerical errors in sections 6.1 Events calendar and 6.3 Risk seminar – conclusions and recommendations.

3 Director's assessment

3.1 Progress report including: status of programme decisions, commitments, disbursements and forecasts, DoRIS implementation

The Director briefed the Committee on (i) status of programme decisions and programme implementation; (ii) commitments, disbursements and forecasts, (iii) DoRIS implementation and (iv) inter institutional co-operation. As at 4 December 2013 147 programmes had been sent to the Donors. 142 had been approved and three rejected/withdrawn. 123 programme agreements had been signed. The total commitments were EUR 1.5 billion or 91% of the total available funds. It is expected that the current disbursement forecast of EUR 168.2 million for 2013 will be reached. The overall programme progress appears good.

As for inter-institutional co-operation, the Director informed the Committee of (i) the semi-annual meeting with the Council of Europe taking place on 4 December 2013 and (ii) the upcoming proposal for a letter of intent with the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA).

¹ Section 7 of the minutes.

4 Progress report on implementation

4.1 Annual meetings

The Committee discussed in detail Portugal for which an annual meeting is scheduled for 11 December 2013

4.2 Feedback from Annual meetings

The Committee discussed in detail the countries for which annual meetings had taken place since the last Committee meeting: the Czech Republic (annual meeting 31 October), Slovakia (annual meeting 13 November 2013) and Spain (annual meeting 20 November 2013).

4.3 Progress reports

The Committee discussed the status of implementation and the progress of programmes in the Beneficiary States.

4.4 Red and yellow programmes

The FMO gave the Committee an overview of the programmes flagged red and yellow in the Beneficiary States.

5/6 Issues for adoption and discussion

5.1 Audit plan 2014 and 6.3 Audit strategy FMs 2009 – 2014

The Committee approved the audit plan 2014 and took note of the audit strategy 2009 - 2014.

5.2 Evaluation plan 2014 and 6.4 Evaluation plan FMs 2009 – 2014

The decision on the evaluation plan 2014 and the discussion on the evaluation plan FMs 2009 – 2014 was postponed until the January Committee meeting.

5.3 Monitoring plan 2014

The Committee will revert to the monitoring plan 2014 in its January meeting.

5.4 DPP budget 2014

The Committee approved the overall DPP budget of EUR 7,160,000 for 2014.

5.5 Administrative budget 2014

The decision on the administrative budget was postponed.

5.6 Planning wheel 2014 and 7.1 Events calendar

The Committee took note of (i) the planning wheel and the indicative dates for different meetings, events and milestones in 2014 and (ii) the indicative events calendar for 2014.

5.7 Risk seminar 2013 – conclusions and recommendations and Risk mitigation

The Committee took note of the conclusions and recommendations from the 2013 risk seminar.

The Committee will revert to the Risk mitigation in its January meeting.

6 Issues for discussion

6.2 National Roma concept papers

The five most concerned beneficiary states (BG, CZ, HU, RO and SK) have come up with national Roma concept papers. The Committee took note of the FMO's memo and asked the FMO to send replies to individual countries as suggested.

7 Other issues

Norway stressed the importance of assisting the project partners from Donor states when they face problems.

8 Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 22 January 2013.

List of participants

Iceland

Kristján Andri Stefánsson, Icelandic Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Angantýr Einarsson, Icelandic Mission to the European Union

Liechtenstein

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

Norway

Anders Erdal, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman

Signe Astrid Engli, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Tom Tjomsland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (part of the meeting)

FMO - Secretary