

45th Financial Mechanism Committee 2009-14 meeting

9 December 2015

Conclusions

Adopted on 28.1.2016

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous meeting

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

3 Director's assessment

3.1 Progress report

The Director briefed the Committee on the overall state of play. The Committee took note of the Director's report.

4 Issues for decision

4.1 FMO Administrative budget 2016

The Committee adopted the administrative budget for 2016.

4.2 Evaluation plan 2016

The Committee adopted the evaluation plan for 2016 (finalisation of three assignments commenced in 2015 and five rapid assessments).

4.3 Regulation amendment, and extension of deadlines in the Regulation and the TA Agreement

Regulation amendments

The Committee approved the amendments to (i) the Article 2.2.5 of the Regulation on the submission of the final strategic report and (ii) to the Article 12.2.5 of the Regulation on the reallocation of financial contributions cancelled as a result of irregularities within and between programmes.

In accordance with Article 13.4 the FMO will consult the Beneficiary States on the amendment and then revert to the Committee prior to seeking adoption of the amendments from the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.

Deadlines

The Committee decided to set the submission of the final strategic report to 30 June 2018, the final date of eligibility of the bilateral funds at national level to 30 April 2018 and the final date of eligibility of TA funds to 31 August 2018, and as a result agrees that the final date for submission of the final TA report shall be set to 15 November 2018 in case of Beneficiary States with extended programmes. Consequently the Committee agreed that the final date for submission of the closure declaration shall be set to 31 December 2018, and the final date for issuing audit opinions and audit reports to 31 December 2018.

4.4 Final programme report template

The Committee approved the consultation with the Beneficiary States on the final programme report template and updated Guideline for strengthened bilateral relations.

4.5 Hungary – lifting of suspension

The Committee concluded that the three conditions set for the lifting of the general suspension of payments had been met. The Committee approved the lifting of the general suspension of payments to Hungary.

5 Issues for discussion

5.1 Visual profiling of the Grants – new logos

The Committee discussed the visual profiling of the Grants.

6 Issues for information

6.1 FMO administrative budget 2015, actual expenses as at 30 September 2015

The Committee took note of the FMO's report on the actual expenditure as at 30 September 2015.

7 Beneficiary States

7.1 Critical issues

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

7.2 Annual meeting dates 1st half of 2016

The annual meeting dates until the end of March were confirmed tentatively.

8 Other issues

There were no other issues.

9 Next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 28 January 2016.

ANNEX I

List of participants

Iceland

Ms Thóra Magnúsdóttir, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Angantýr Einarsson, Counsellor for Finance and Economic Affairs, Embassy of Iceland

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 Tom Tjomsland, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

FMO - Secretary

