

2nd Financial Mechanism Committee 2014-2021 meeting

27 – 28 October 2016

Conclusions

1 December 2016

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following change: "Rules of Procedure for the Financial Mechanism Committee" and "Election of Chair and Vice-Chair" were added to agenda item 12. "Other issues".

2 Draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous meeting

The draft Minutes and Conclusions from the previous meeting were adopted.

3 Consultation with the European Commission

The Committee discussed the consultations with the European Commission scheduled for 28 October 2016.

4 Guidelines

4.1 Bilateral Guideline

The Committee commented the draft Bilateral Guideline and requested the FMO to send an updated version of the Guideline on written procedure to the Donors for approval before sending it on consultation.

4.2 Results Guideline

The Committee approved the Guideline for consultation with the Beneficiary States.

4.3 Educational Guideline

The Committee approved the Guideline for consultation with the Beneficiary States.

4.4 Civil Society Guideline

The FMO will modify the draft Guideline into a Civil Society Manual. The Manual will be sent to the Donors for approval by written procedure.

5 Civil Society: Fund Operator selection process, ToR and bid form

The Committee approved the Terms of Reference, the bid form for the Fund Operator (FO) selection and the Rules on the appointment and contracting of FOs.

6 Risk management strategy

The Committee adopted the "Risk Management Strategy, EEA & Norway Grants 2014 – 2021".

7 New Information System

The FMO briefed the Committee on the current status of the work on the new Grant Management System.

8 MoU process

The Committee took note of the status of the MoU negotiations and discussed the plan for the rest of the year.

9 Administrative budget 2017 Financial Mechanisms 2014 – 2021

The administrative budget 2017 was discussed at the FMC 2009 – 2014 meeting.

10 EEA and Norway Grants: Fund for Youth Employment and EEA and Norway Grants: Fund for Regional Co-operation, status update

The FMO briefed the Committee on the current status of the work on "EEA and Norway Grants: Fund for Youth Employment and EEA and Norway Grants: Fund for Regional Co-operation".

11 Training plan to improve programme quality

The FMO presented a training plan consisting of a set of modules which aim to help operationalise the results and risk approach inherent in the FMs 2014 – 2021. The Committee took note of the plan.

12 Other issues

Rules of Procedure for the Financial Mechanism Committee

The competence of the Financial Mechanism Committee was extended to cover the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014-2021 by the Standing Committee of the EFTA States by its Decision No. 2/2016/SC of 2 June 2016.

The Committee adopted the amendments to the Rules of Procedure for the Financial Mechanism Committee to take account of the latest extension of the competence of the Financial Mechanism Committee to cover the EEA Financial Mechanism 2014 – 2021.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Mr Niels Engelschiøn (Norway) was elected as the Chair with an effect from 1 November 2016 and Ms Þóra Magnúsdóttir (Iceland) as the Vice-Chair of the Committee with an effect from 5 December 2016.

13 Next meeting

1 – 2 December 2016 were set aside for the next meeting.

ANNEX I

List of participants

Ms Thóra Magnúsdóttir, Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Andri Júlíusson, First Secretary, Embassy of Iceland

Liechtenstein

Mr Dominik Marxer, Counsellor, Mission of Liechtenstein to the EU

Norway

Mr Anders Erdal, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Chairman)
Mr Niels Engelschiøn, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (part of the meeting)
Mr Sjur Larsen, Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Eivind Lorentzen, Counsellor for Regional and Local Affairs, Mission of Norway to EU
(part of the meeting)
Ms Torill Johansen, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Tønnes Svanes, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Tom Tjomsland, Senior Adviser, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (part of the meeting)

FMO - Secretary

