

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

17 September 2009

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee
50th Meeting - 22 June 2009

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Summary Records and Draft Conclusions of the previous Committee meeting

2.1 Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 28 - 30 April 2009

The draft Summary Records of the previous Committee meeting were adopted with clerical corrections.

2.2 Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting 28 - 30 April 2009

The draft Summary Records of the previous Committee meeting were adopted with clerical corrections.

3 Status of the implementation of the EEA Financial Mechanism in the Beneficiary States

3.1 Status of implementation

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

3.2 Status of disbursements and update of the disbursement forecast

The FMO briefed the Committee on the current status of disbursements and provided the Committee with an updated disbursement forecast.

3.3 Status of monitoring activities

In 2007 – 2008 an external monitoring was carried out for 41 projects. The FMO will prepare a review of monitoring results in autumn 2009 and go through the project portfolio during the summer in order to carry out risk assessment for the projects.

3.4 Irregularities

The FMO informed the Committee that the Beneficiary States were in the process of submitting the irregularities reports for the first quarter 2009. The FMO will publish an alert system on mismanagement of funds on the eeagrants website on 23 June 2009.

3.5 Priority sector review: NGO Funds survey

The NGO Funds meeting organised in Oslo in mid-June had taken stock of progress until now. It had been

noted that the funding appears to benefit the grass root level and that it has provided much needed support for the capacity building in the NGO sector. The FMO has carried out a web survey on the NGO support. The final report of the web survey was not yet available.

4 Guidelines and policy issues

4.1 Amendment of the Rules and Procedures

With the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EEA, Protocol 38a was modified and an addendum to the protocol was added to the EEA Agreement. Therefore, modification of the Rules and Procedures would be necessary. In addition to reflect a change made to Protocol 38a at the time of the Romanian and Bulgarian accession, the article in the Rules and Procedures concerning Commission screening would have to be modified. The Committee will decide on the modifications by written procedure.

4.2 Advance payment increase

The FMO briefed the Committee on the informal and formal requests for increased advance payments. The Committee concluded that additional advance payments beyond the limit set out in the Rules and Procedures are not considered at this stage and requested the FMO to work on alternative solutions within the existing limits to facilitate the cash flow of projects.

5 Administrative issues

5.1 FMO administrative budget: actual figures 2008

The Committee took note of the FMO's reports on actual expenses 2008 and on actual expenses 1st quarter 2009.

5.2 FMO administrative budget: actual figures 1st quarter 2009

See 5.1.

5.3 Funds: Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2008

The Committee took note of the draft Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2009.

5.4 FMO's semi-annual activity plan July through December 2009

The Committee took note of the FMO's semi-annual activity plan.

6 Other issues

There were no other issues.

7 Next meeting and tentative meeting schedule for autumn 2009

The Committee will revert to the date of the first Committee meeting and to the meeting schedule for autumn 2009.

FMO

FMO, FMO

Iceland

Mr Bjarni Vestmann, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

Mr Thomas Bischof, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the European Union

Norway

Ms Hilde Berit Eide, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Anders Erdal, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Chairman*

Mr Steinar Hagen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Marianne Berg Haaland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs