

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

22 January 2008

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee
34th Meeting - 19 October 2007

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted with the following changes:

Agenda item 4.2 Projects approved/rejected since 25 September 2007 - for information (instead of for discussion).

The FMO would give an update on the web development under agenda item 8 "Administrative issues" .

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

2.1 Draft Summary Records Committee meeting 25 September 2007

The draft summary records of the Committee meeting of 25 September 2007 were adopted with the following correction: the year in the first sentence in 3.2 should read 2007.

2.2 Draft Conclusions Committee meeting 25 September 2007

The draft conclusions of the Committee meeting of 25 September 2007 were adopted with the following correction: the year in the first sentence in 3.2 should read 2007.

3 Rules of Procedure for the Financial Mechanism Committee, amendments

The Committee adopted the amendments to the FMC Rules of Procedure in accordance with the FMO's proposal.

4 Grant applications

4.1 Status of the GRD production

As at 16 October 2007, the FMO had received 557 applications (approximately EUR 682 million), 325 commitments had been made (EUR 399 million), 22 projects (EUR 33 million) had been rejected and 8 projects (EUR 3 million) withdrawn.

4.2 Projects approved/rejected since 25 September 2007

The Committee took note of the list of projects approved/rejected since the 25 September 2007 meeting.

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

5.1 Status of the implementation

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

5.2 *Annex C Funds*

Annex C Funds were discussed under Agenda item 5.1.

5.3 *High-level meeting: Poland November 2007*

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of implementation in Poland.

The high-level meeting with Poland will take place on 29 November 2007.

5.4 *High-level meeting: Hungary October/November 2007*

The FMO briefed the Committee on the status of implementation in Hungary. The Committee will revert to the timing of the high-level meeting with Hungary.

5.5 *Annual meeting: Malta 23 October 2007*

The annual meeting with Malta is scheduled for 23 October 2007. The annual report has been received and the FMO has prepared an annotated agenda for the meeting. There will be a site visit in connection with the annual meeting.

5.6 *Annual meeting: Cyprus 12 November 2007*

The annual meeting with Cyprus is scheduled for 12 November 2007. The annual reports have not yet been received.

5.7 *Cyprus: NGO Fund Terms of Reference*

The Committee approved the NGO Fund Terms of Reference.

5.8 *Annual meeting: Estonia 22 November 2007*

The Annual Meeting with Estonia is scheduled for 22 November 2007. A draft agenda is ready.

6 Co-operation with the European Commission

6.1 *Status of the project screening*

The National Expert outlined the status of the screening process.

6.2 *State Aid*

The FMO and the National Expert briefed the Committee on the work on state aid.

7 Guidelines and policy issues

7.1 *Screening procedures*

The FMO and the National Expert briefed the Committee on the work on the screening procedures.

7.2 *Delegation of authority for decommitment of funds*

The Committee delegated the authority to decide on de-commitments to the FMO. De-commitments on unused funds in completed projects is deemed to have been taken when the Committee approves the Project Completion Report, unless explicitly noted. Consultations with the Beneficiary States on the use of de-committed funds in case of each Beneficiary State shall take place in a timely manner.

8 Administrative issues

8.1 *Disbursement forecast*

The Committee took note of the FMO's forecast.

8.2 *FMO's administrative draft budget for 2008*

The FMO presented a draft budget for 2007.

9 Next meeting

Next meeting is scheduled for 28 November 2007.

10 Other issues

The FMO gave a briefing on the web development under item 8.

FMO

FMO, FMO, *Secretary*

Iceland

Mr Angantýr Einarsson, Icelandic Ministry of Finance

Mr Julius Hafstein, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

Mr Pascal Schafhauser, Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the European Union

Norway

Ms Hilde Berit Eide, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Per Strand Sjaastad, Norwegian Ministry of Environment

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

Mr Irvin Høyland, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Other

Jan Edoey, European Commission