

FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

Brussels,
25 September 2007

CONCLUSIONS **Financial Mechanism Committee** *29 August 2007*

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kjartan Jóhansson, the new Committee member to be nominated by Iceland to the Committee. Ms Ingrid Schulerud, Norway informed the Committee that she will leave the Committee.

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

2.1 Draft Summary Records Committee meeting 21 June 2007

The Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 21 June 2007 were adopted.

2.2 Draft Conclusions Committee meeting 21 June 2007

The Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 21 June 2007 were adopted.

3 Grant applications

3.1 Status of the GRD production

As at 28 August 2007, the FMO had received 486 applications. 311 commitments (EUR 380 million) had been made, 20 projects (EUR 30 million) had been rejected and 8 projects (EUR 3 million) withdrawn. There were 44 projects on the delayed projects list, 17 of them have issues relating to the State Aid. During the autumn FMO expects to receive up to 300 new applications and the workload during the autumn would be approximately 400 projects.

3.2 Projects

PT0015 – AWAKE of GREEN BIOTECH in Portugal: Waste elimination using genetically manipulated fungal species in an ionic liquid environment

The project was approved in accordance with the GRD.

SK0041 – Extension of Slovak Cord Blood Registry

The project was approved in accordance with the GRD.

4 Status of the implementation of the EEA FM in the Beneficiary States

4.1 Status of the implementation of the EEA FM in the Beneficiary States

The FMO informed the Committee of the status of the implementation in the Beneficiary States.

4.2 Annex C Funds

Annex C Funds were discussed under agenda item 4.1.

5. Co-operation with the European Commission

The screening process is running smoothly. It appears that the Commission has comments on approximately 10% of the projects.

6. Guidelines and policy issues

6.1 Allocation for appraisal, monitoring and ex-post evaluation

The FMO had prepared a draft letter to the Focal Points on the allocations for appraisal reports, monitoring and ex-post evaluations. The allocation set aside was based on reasonably safe assumptions. However as unforeseen circumstances could occur, a reservation has been included in the letter.

The Committee had no comments to the FMO's draft letter to the Focal Points on the allocation for appraisal, monitoring and ex-post evaluation.

6.2 Amendment to the NGO guideline

The Committee adopted the amendment to the NGO Guideline enabling the FMO to act as an intermediary for a NGO Fund. The Committee adopted "Rules regarding purchases of services by the FMO related to the set-up and implementation of funds within the EEA and/or Norwegian Financial Mechanisms."

6.3 State Aid

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

7. Administrative issues

7.1 Administrative accounts 2006

The Committee took note of the FMO's report on the administrative accounts for 2006.

7.2 Administrative accounts 2007, status 30 June 2007

The Committee took note of the FMO's report on the administrative accounts as at 30 June 2007.

7.3 FMO's workplan and task memo fall 2007

The Committee took note of the FMO's workplan and task memo for fall 2007.

7.4 FMO web development

The Committee underlined the importance of having the new website ready as soon as possible.

8. Other issues

There were no other issues.

9. Next meeting

The Committee meetings for the autumn 2007 were scheduled as follows: 25 September, 19 October (in Reykjavik) and 6 December.

ANNEX I

Meeting participants:

Norway:

Mr Anders Erdal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Chairman*
Mr Ingrid Schulerud, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Steinar Hagen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ms Hilde Berit Eide, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Iceland:

Mr Kjartan Jóhansson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Angantýr Einarsson, Ministry of Finance

Liechtenstein:

Mr Pascal Schafhauser, Mission of Liechtenstein

FMO:

Ms Stine Lundin Andresen
Ms Laura Harjapää
Mr Kurt Haugen
Mr Pawel Krzeczunowicz
Mr Hjörtur Bragi Sverrisson

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