

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

14 June 2008

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee
39th Meeting - 16 April 2008

1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

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

2.1 Draft Summary Records, Committee meeting 13 March 2008

The Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 13 March 2008 were adopted.

2.2 Draft Conclusions, Committee meeting 13 March 2008

The Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 13 March 2008 were adopted.

3 Grant applications

3.1 Status of GRD production

As at 15 April 2008, the FMO had received 791 applications (approximately 893 million), 485 projects (EUR 587 million) had been approved, 39 (EUR 46 million) rejected and 13 projects (EUR 14 million) had been withdrawn.

3.2 Projects approved/rejected since 13 March 2008

The Committee took note of list the projects apprived/rejected since 13 March 2008.

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

4.1 Status of implementation in the Beneficiary States

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

4.2 Poland: Starting date of eligibility of costs

The confirmed the adherence to the existing rules: the first date of eligibility of the costs cannot be earlier than the date of the grant decision taken by the donors.

4.3 Annex C Funds

Annex C Funds were discussed under agenda item 4.1.

4.4 *Annual meeting: Greece 17 April 2008*

The Annual Meeting scheduled for 17 April 2008 had to be cancelled and is now scheduled for 22 May 2008.

4.5 *Annual meeting: Czech Republic 22 - 23 April 2008*

The annual meeting with the Czech Republic will take place in Prague on 22 April 2008 with site visits on 23 April 2008 and followed by the Visegard countries meeting on 24 April 2008.

5 **Co-operation with the European Commission**

The National Expert briefed the Committee on the status of the screening.

6 **Guidelines and policy issues**

6.1 *Guideline on FMO's state aid review*

The Committee discussed FMO's draft explanatory note on the FMO's state aid review and gave some drafting comments to the FMO.

6.2 *Co-financing rate*

The FMO presented a memo on the co-financing describing the present practise.

7 **Administrative issues**

7.1 *Draft report to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States*

The Committee gave some additional drafting comments to the draft report to the Standing Committee. The FMO will revise the document and the report will then be forwarded to the Standing Committee of the EFTA States.

7.2 *Audit report by the EFTA Board of Auditors and draft comments*

The Committee discussed the audit report and the process relating to it.

8 **Other issues**

The FMO informed the Committee about the practical arrangements relating to the funding of the office costs.

9 **Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 21 May 2008.

FMO

FMO, FMO

Iceland

Mr Kjartan Jóhannsson, Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

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

Norway

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

Ms Hilde Berit Eide, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Erik Aarhus, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Steinar Hagen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs