

FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

Brussels,
13 March 2008

<p style="text-align: center;">CONCLUSIONS Financial Mechanism Committee <i>14 February 2008</i></p>
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1 Meeting agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2 Draft Summary Records and Conclusions of the previous meeting

The Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 16 January 2008 were adopted.

The Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 16 January 2008 were adopted.

3 Grant applications

3.1 Status of GRD production

As at 6 February 2008, the FMO had received 727 applications (approximately EUR 825 million), 395 projects (EUR 477 million) had been approved, 31 (EUR 40 million) rejected and 9 (EUR 4 million) withdrawn.

3.2 Projects approved/rejected since 16 January 2008

The Committee took note of the list of projects approved/rejected since 16 January 2008.

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

4.1 Status of implementation

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

4.2 Annex C Funds

Agenda item 4.2 Annex C Funds was discussed under agenda item 4.1.

4.3 High-level meeting: Hungary 15 February 2008

Final version of the agenda for the high-level meeting with Hungary was distributed.

4.4 Semi-annual meeting: Bulgaria 5 March 2008

A semi-annual meeting is scheduled for 5 March 2008 and will take place in Sofia. The FMO will come back to the Committee with a proposal for a draft agenda.

4.5 Semi-annual meeting: Romania 6 March 2008

The semi-annual meeting is scheduled for 6 March 2008. The FMO will come back to the Committee with a proposal for a draft agenda.

4.6 Annual meeting: Slovakia 10 – 11 March 2008

The annual meeting with Slovakia is scheduled for 10 – 11 March 2008 starting with site visits on 10 March 2008 and continuing with the annual meeting in Bratislava on 11 March 2008. The FMO has received the draft agenda and the draft annual reports and will come back to the Committee with comments and proposals.

5 Co-operation with the European Commission

The National Expert introduced to the Committee Director Rudolph Niesler (Directorate D, Policy Coordination). The Chairman of the Committee and the Director of the FMO gave an overview of the status of the mechanisms to the Commission, DG Regional Policy.

The National Expert informed the Committee of the status of the screening.

6 Guidelines and policy issues

6.1 State Aid

Committee took note of the FMO's briefing on state aid.

6.2 Public procurement

The Committee took note of the FMO's briefing on public procurement and partnerships.

6.3 Report on monitoring

The FMO presented a report on the findings of the pilot phase of the monitoring started during the autumn 2007. The monitoring showed that generally the grant funds are being spent in the manner expected.

The Committee took note of the FMO's report on the 2007 monitoring.

7 Administrative issues

7.1 Disbursement forecast

The Committee took note of the disbursement forecast.

7.2 Reimbursement of net interest from FMO/Beneficiary States

The FMO presented its recommendation for a decision on the reimbursement of net interest from FMO/Beneficiary States. The recommendation for decision was referred to a decision by written procedure.

7.3 FMO semi-annual activity plan spring 2008

The Committee took note of the FMO's semi annual activity plan for spring 2008.

8 Other issues

The FMO informed the Committee of the compliance audit carried out by the EFTA Board of Auditors 11 – 13 February 2008 at the FMO.

9 Next meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 13 March 2008.

ANNEX I

Meeting participants:

Iceland

Mr Kjartan Jóhannsson, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Bjarni Vestmann, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Liechtenstein

Dr Georges Baur, Mission of Liechtenstein

Norway

Mr Anders Erdal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chairman

Mr Steinar Hagen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms Hilde Eide, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Eirik Bergesen, Mission of Norway

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