

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA
FINANCIAL MECHANISM COMMITTEE

14 January 2009

Conclusions
Financial Mechanism Committee
44th Meeting - 19 November 2008

1 Meeting agenda

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

2.1 Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 22 October 2008

The Draft Summary Records of the Committee meeting of 22 October 2008 were adopted.

2.2 Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 22 October 2008

The Draft Conclusions of the Committee meeting of 22 October 2008 were adopted.

3 Grant applications

3.1 Status of GRD production

As of 18 November 2008, the FMO had received 1030 applications (EUR 1,077 million), 735 (EUR 788 million) commitments had been made, 60 (EUR 63 million) applications had been rejected and 23 applications (EUR 21 million) were withdrawn.

3.2 List of approved/rejected projects since 22 October 2008

The Committee took note of the list of projects approved/rejected since 22 October 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 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: Poland 4 December 2008

Agenda item 4.3 High level meeting: Poland 4 December 2008 was discussed under agenda item 4.1. The FMO briefed the Committee about the initial ideas of the FMO and the Focal Point for the agenda of the high level meeting on 4 December 2008.

4.4 *Annual meeting: Estonia 9 - 10 December 2008*

Agenda item 4.4. Annual meeting: Estonia 9-10 December 2008 was discussed under agenda item 4.1. The agenda for the annual meeting had been tentatively agreed.

4.5 *Priority sector review: Regional Policy and Cross-border activities*

The FMO gave the Committee a review of the priority sector for regional policy and cross-border activities.

4.6 *Review - non-committed funds (Protocol 38A, Article 6)*

The FMO drew the Committee's attention to Article 6 of the Protocol 38A. The Committee thanked the FMO for bringing the issue to the Committee's attention and decided to desist from any action in respect of reallocation of funds between beneficiary states.

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

The National Expert did not participate in the meeting.

6 **Guidelines and policy issues**

6.1 *Amendment of Detailed Eligibility Provisions*

The Committee adopted a change to the Detailed Eligibility Provisions, which will allow the Focal Points to use TA funds to cover meetings between the Focal Points and Paying Authorities in respect of the implementation, monitoring, reporting and auditing of projects.

6.2 *Decommitments/recommitments November 2008 - April 2009*

The FMO presented a memo on the decommitment requests received from the Focal Points prior to the 31 October 2008 deadline. The Committee agreed that should any cases occur prior to 31 January 2009, where a decommitment would follow, the funds decommitted as a result will be made available for commitment prior to the commitment deadline of 30 April 2009. The Committee further asked the FMO to follow up with its suggestion on adding remaining uncommitted amounts to funds.

6.3 *Lessons learned: (i) Rolling open call versus fixed deadlines, (ii) Two stage application procedure and (iii) Private sector call*

Following a previous request from the Committee, the FMO presented a memo on lessons learned on (i) Rolling open call versus fixed deadlines, (ii) Two stage application procedure and (iii) Private sector call

7 **Administrative issues**

7.1 *Administrative budget 2009*

FMO presented a draft budget for 2009. The Committee gave its initial comments and will recert to the matter in the December meeting.

8 **Other issues**

There were no other issues.

9 **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be on 17 December 2008.

FMO

FMO, FMO, *Secretary*

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

Ms Vibeke Rysst-Jensen, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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