

Fourteenth Meeting of the WBIF Steering Committee Hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo, Norway

16-17 June 2016

Agenda

Venue: Scandic Holmenkollen Park Hotel, Kongeveien 26, 0787 Oslo, Norway

Participants: DG NEAR, IFIs, Bilateral donors, WBIF Secretariat, Beneficiary Countries, IPF 3, IPF 4, IFICO

WBIF Policy and Strategy

Thursday, 16 June 2016

Co-Chairs: *Mrs. Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director Western Balkans, DG NEAR, European Commission*

Mr. Haakon Blankenborg, Director, Section for South East Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

08:30 - 09:00 **REGISTRATION AT VENUE**

09:00 - 09:30 **WELCOME REMARKS**

Mrs. Elisabeth Aspaker, Minister of EEA and EU Affairs, Norway

Mrs. Genoveva Ruiz Calavera, Director Western Balkans, DG NEAR, European Commission

09:30 - 10:00 **Economic Outlook in the region**

Mr. Holger Muent, Director Western Balkans, EBRD

10:00 - 10:15 **Update on Connectivity and the WB6 process**

Mr. Morten Jung, DG NEAR

10:15 - 10:30 **Norwegian Perception "Connectivity Agenda and the Berlin Process"**

Mr. Haakon Blankenborg, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

- 10:30 - 11:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 11:00 - 11.30 **WBIF GC and RoP** (for adoption)
Mrs. Barbara Banki, DG NEAR, and Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Update: GAF, Guidelines and Reporting** (for endorsement)
Mrs. Barbara Banki, DG NEAR, and Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR
- 12.00 - 13.00 **State of Play Investment Grant Co-financing**
- IG Co-financing 2015 projects, progress
 - First Round IG Co-financing, 2016
 - Second Round IG Co-financing, 2017
- Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR*
- 13:00 - 14:30 **LUNCH**
- 14.30 - 15.00 **Grant Submission Modus Operandi and WBIF Key Dates**
- New application modus for Technical Assistance
 - Application modus for IG Co-financing
- Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR, and Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat*
- 15:00 - 15:30 **ERPS (Economic Reform Programmes)**
Mr. Oliver Klabunde, DG NEAR
- 15:30 - 16:00 **COFFEE BREAK**
- 16:00 - 16:30 **Visibility and Communication**
- Annual Report
 - Web
 - MIS
- Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat*
- 16:30 - 17.00 **CONCLUDING REMARKS – END OF DAY 1**
- EVENING EVENTS**
- 19:00 - 19:30 **Group Photo & Signing Ceremony** (at venue)
- 19:30 Departure to Holmenkollen ski-jump, casual dress code (10 – 15 mins walk)

Project oriented session

Friday, 17 June 2016

Co-Chairs: *Mr. Morten Jung, Head of Unit, Western Balkans, DG NEAR, European Commission*

Mr. Olav Reinertsen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

08:30 - 09:00 **REGISTRATION AT VENUE**

09:00 - 09:30 **1st Project oriented session - Monitoring Report**

- General overview and progress
- Presentation of grants proposed for cancellation
- Availability of grants for TA Round 15

Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat, and Mr. Steven van der Touw, IFICO

09:30 - 11:00 **2nd Project oriented session - WBIF Projects Approval (TA Round 15)**

- Presentation of proposals by representatives of the Beneficiaries and the IFIs

Co-chairs of the PFG, Mr Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR, and TBC, EIB

11:00 - 11:30 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:30 - 12:00 **3rd Project oriented session – Next rounds**

- Eligibility criteria (TA Round 16)
- Call for pledges for ENV and SOC sector co-financing

Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR, and Mrs. Stine Andresen, WBIF Secretariat

12:00 - 12:30 **Update on COM Technical Assistance**

- IPFs
- Regional Connectivity Gap Analysis
- CONNECTA

Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR

12:30 - 12:45 **AOB**

- Regional Hydro Masterplan
- Gas to Power Study update
- Rio Markers review

Mr. Wolfgang Schläger, DG NEAR

12:45 - 13:00 **CONCLUDING REMARKS – END OF SC**

13:00 - 14:00 **LUNCH**