

ANNEX

ACTION FICHE FOR SUPPORT TO FEMIP (2009) MEDITERRANEAN REGION / PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

1. IDENTIFICATION

Title	Support to FEMIP (2009)		
Total cost	€32 million		
Aid method / Management mode	Project approach – centralised indirect management		
DAC-code	32130	Sector	SME Development

Preliminary Remark

This decision concerns the 2009 contribution to FEMIP which is needed to cover the pipeline of operations in 2009-10. Apart from this, nothing is new in this financing decision as compared to the 2007 and 2008 contributions.

2. RATIONALE

2.1. Sector context

The overall objective of the Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP) is to promote sustainable economic growth in the region through investments in infrastructure and especially in private sector development. The specific objective of FEMIP is to enhance the supply of foreign and domestic financing mainly for private, also public, investments in the region, through direct provision of financial resources.

The EU has been financing risk capital operations since the seventies and emphasized its importance and complementarity to other EIB activities as well as to private sector development projects carried out by the European Commission.

The "support to FEMIP" finances both technical assistance and risk capital operations.

2.2. Lessons learnt

A review of FEMIP was conducted by the European Commission in 2006. The review concluded that risk capital operations carried out by the EIB, have played an important role in bringing capital to the private sector in Mediterranean Partner countries. EIB direct or indirect participation in companies induces over time better market practices such as better enterprise governance, respect of environmental norms, labour legislation. Moreover, EIB interventions have a catalytic effect on other sources of finance and can lead to innovative projects, such as, for example, the

creation of the first private sector leasing company in Algeria or the first technology seed fund in Tunisia.

FEMIP's portfolio includes more than 600 operations (co-investments, direct operations, investment funds). Under MEDA II (2000-2006), the EIB has committed the €248 million allocated to risk capital operations in that period.

As regards technical assistance, a mid-term evaluation was conducted in 2006 by independent consultants. The evaluation conclusions were positive, assessing that the Support Fund has been successfully implemented. 99 contracts have been signed by the EIB between 2004 and 2008.

2.3. Complementary actions

The Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership (FEMIP), established in 2002, gives priority to expanding the private sector in the Mediterranean Partner countries. Under FEMIP, one instrument complements risk capital operations: global loans, financed on EIB own resources. Global loans target SMEs' financing needs via local banking intermediaries.

Technical assistance in itself is complementary to risk capital operations and global loans as regards the general objective of developing the private sector of Mediterranean Partners. TA funds have been successfully used for instance to create a private equity fund in Lebanon and train equity fund managers in Tunisia.

2.4. Donor coordination

The Commission and the EIB have reinforced their coordination in order to ensure that actions carried out by each are coherent and complementary. The opening of local EIB offices has facilitated and strengthened this coordination effort.

Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission and the EIB was signed in May 2008 to enhance this coordination and cooperation.

The Commission, Member States and the EIB will also ensure complementarity between this instrument and the Neighbourhood Investment Facility and avoid any duplication.

3. DESCRIPTION

3.1. Objectives

The objective of FEMIP is to provide capital to the private sector of Mediterranean partner countries on terms that are not available locally.

Risk capital will be invested directly or indirectly in order to (i) support the private sector, i.e. enable the creation, restructuring or growth of enterprises (ii) strengthen the role of the local financial sector by supporting the creation of new institutions or the establishment of new activities for the benefit of the private sector.

Technical assistance will be mobilised to strengthen FEMIP operations in the Mediterranean region, with a special focus on private sector development.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The expected results of the risk capital facility are direct or indirect investments in private sector enterprises. Investments will also be made in new or existing financial institutions in as much as their activities are geared to the private sector and in particular SMEs.

As a result of these investments, a number of companies should be established and/or made more competitive jobs should be created and/or maintained.

The expected result of technical assistance is an improved conception and implementation of projects, which should in turn improve the rate of lending and disbursement as well as the development impact of loan projects. The Support Fund will also ensure transfer of know-how to various project promoters and the local financial sector. Assistance related to environmental infrastructure will be given a particular focus, building on prior FEMIP work in this sector.

3.3. Stakeholders

The beneficiaries of the Risk Capital Facility are the private sector in general and SMEs as well as financial intermediaries.

The beneficiaries of technical assistance are private enterprises, public institutions and the financial intermediaries.

3.4. Risks and assumptions

A stable political and security climate on the regional level in general and on the country level in particular is needed to promote and secure investments.

3.5. Crosscutting issues

The EIB ensures that projects financed with EU budget risk capital respect environmental norms. Particularly in the field of microfinance, projects should aim at the integration of women in the labour market.

4. IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

4.1. Implementation method

Risk capital and technical assistance operations will be managed by the EIB on behalf of the European Commission under the indirect centralised management mode.

4.2. Procurement and grant award procedures

The EIB's contractual and financial rules are applied to risk capital operations.

For technical assistance, all contracts must be awarded and implemented in accordance with the procedures and standard documents laid down and published by the Commission for the implementation of external operations, in force at the time of the launch of the procedure in question.

Participation in the award of contracts for the present action shall be open to all natural and legal persons covered by the ENPI Regulation.

4.3. Budget and calendar

The Commission allocates a budget of €32 million to the EIB for the year 2009. This amount will be paid to the EIB in two tranches in 2009.

The distribution of funds between risk capital and technical assistance will be decided jointly by the EIB and the Commission, based on needs and relevance of proposals.

4.4. Performance monitoring

The EIB will submit to the Commission annual implementation reports for technical assistance and risk capital indicating progress on use of funds and the outcome of operations.

For risk capital operations, performance indicators will include an estimation of the economic and financial value of investments made with risk capital funds as well as an indication of the socio-economic impact achieved through these operations.

4.5. Evaluation and audit

The Commission foresees the monitoring of FEMIP operations through external consultants.

4.6. Communication and visibility

The EIB will seek to give maximum visibility to FEMIP risk capital and technical assistance operations and the Commission's financing of this, according to the European Commission Visibility Guidelines.

APPENDIX TO THE ACTION FICHE

SUPPORT TO FEMIP (2009)

REGARDING THE VERIFICATION OF THE CONDITIONS FOR INDIRECT CENTRALISED MANAGEMENT PROVIDED FOR IN ART. 56 OF THE EC REGULATION 1605/2002 (FINANCIAL REGULATION)

The Financial Regulation (FR) (Council Regulation No. 1605/2002) and its implementation rules (Commission Regulation No. 2342/2002) are applicable to the Budget line 19.080101: Financial cooperation with Mediterranean countries.

Based on note Budg/D1/BN D(2008)55239 dated 05/06/2008:

- given that the EIB is a body of the European Communities, and
- given that it is mentioned in the legal basis (ENPI Regulation) as well as in article 54.2.b of the FR,

the EIB may be exempted from the ex-ante assessment foreseen in article 56.1 of the FR.

In addition, the EIB is going to be assessed in a near future according to the requirements of article 56.1 of the FR

On this basis, the Director AIDCO/A proposes that the applicable implementation method for the action "Support to FEMIP (2009)" be indirect centralised management and submits it to the Commission for decision.

Marcus CORNARO,
Director AIDCO/A
[signed]
Date: 19/09/2008