



Ministry of Environment  
Department of the EU Funds

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# Minutes

from the 16th meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Operational Programme Environment, held on 25 November 2014 in the Barceló Hotel Prague, Na Strži 32/1660, Prague 4

Attendees: as per the attendance sheet

Meeting agenda:

1. Opening and approval of the agenda of the 16th meeting of the OPE MC
2. Progress in the OPE implementation, discussion of the Report on the Progress of the OPE Implementation
3. The most frequent mistakes in the OPE public procurements
4. Financial Plan of the Draw-down of the OPE Technical Aid for 2015
5. Implementation of the OPE Communication Plan and Annual Communication Plan of the activities for 2015
6. Indicative Annual OPE Evaluation Plan for 2015
7. Information on the preparation of the programme period of 2014-2015 OPE
8. Miscellaneous.
9. Conclusion

## **1) Opening and approval of the agenda of the 16th meeting of the OPE MC**

The meeting was opened by *the OPE MC Chairman, Ing. Jan Kříž*, the Deputy to the Minister for the Section of the EU Funds, Economic and Voluntary Instruments (hereinafter only *the Chairman*), who welcomed the present members and representatives of the European Commission and introduced the new OPE MC members, who are as follows:

- *Ing. Jitka Znamenáčková, the Director of the EUPO Department, MoH*
- *Ing. Šárka Fojtíková, the NOK Department, MoRD*
- *Ondřej Pašek, the Centre for Transport and Energy*
- *Bc. Jan Klán, the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic*



- *MUDr. Jarmila Rážová, Ph.D., MoH*
- *Michaela Chrtová, the Government Office of the Czech Republic*

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure the members of the OPE MC agreed on the decision making in the form of consensus and, where the agreement may not be reached, it shall be moved to voting. The Committee constituted a quorum as 29 members/representatives of the total 47 were present. In the course of the meeting the state was changing as the members of the OPE MC were arriving and leaving.

*The Chairman* acquainted the present members with the main items of the meeting agenda and nobody raised comments to it.

***The Programme of the 16th meeting of the OPE MC was approved by the present members.***

In the introductory information *the Chairman* briefly introduced the current OPE development. He also thanked the members for the previous voting in the form of per rollam.

*Christos Gogos (EC)* welcomed the new members of the OPE MC and expressed his wish that the course of the OPE MC would be constructive and beneficial. He also mentioned the importance of the Operational Programme Environment for the Czech Republic and its citizens.

## **2) Progress in the OPE implementation, discussion of the proposal of the Report on the Progress of the OPE Implementation**

*The Vice Chairman of the OPE MC, Ing. Jaroslav Michna, the Director of the EU Funds, (hereinafter the Vice Chairman)* within his performance informed the members of the OPE MC on the progress in the OPE implementation, referring to the Report on the Progress of the OPE Implementation and, subsequently, on the current state of the programme. In the second part of the presentation he introduced the information on the strategy of completing the draw-down and meeting the rule N +2. The third part of the presentation was oriented on the explanation of the executed administrative measures and supplementary information on the presented details in relation to the major progress in the programme implementation.

*Ing. Šárka Fojtíková (MoRD-NOK)* thanked for a detailed presentation and confirmed the information that the financial loss had decreased owing to the measures which had been mentioned at the previous OPE MC. She raised a suggestion for the next monitoring committee so that the members would be informed on the completed projects which had been transferred to the sustainability stage. She also requested the information regarding the measures planned for 2015, which shall ensure that the recipient would submit their payment requests as soon as possible and would not leave them until the end of the year. Other requests concerned the so called freezer, namely which priority axes it concerns, the amount of resources it includes and when it shall be dissolved.



In the response to the first query, *the Vice Chairman* observed that there were ca. 8 thousand completed projects, which were at that moment in the sustainability stage. In the response to the second query he observed that “the moralization” of the recipients to submit their payment request earlier than at the end of the year would be complicated and proved it by the details shown in the presentation, in which a seasonal character of the submission of the payment requests is evident in long term. He also observed that it was estimated that the recipients of the grant would submit their payment requests until the end of the following year provided that the payment requests submitted at the end of the year would be certified during 2016. Subsequently, he answered also the third query concerning the so called freezer.

*Ing. Vlastimil Mikulášek (NUTS II central Moravia)* raised a question regarding the amount of the OPE decommitment. The Vice Chairman in his response observed that the amount of the decommitment for the OPE in 2013 had amounted to 7.5 billion CZK and the decommitment in the amount of no more than 5 billion CZK was predicted for 2014. The total loss is estimated in the amount of 13 billion CZK, nevertheless the Vice Chairman expressed his belief that the total estimated decommitment would be further reduced .

*Ing. Miloš Juha, Ph.D. (Council of Economic and Social Agreement)* observed that in his opinion the pressure on the recipients regarding the speed of the draw-down had been enormous and, therefore, some the recipients had given up the project completion. He also raised a question regarding an overview of the projects which had had the DoPG issued, but owing to the mention pressure the recipients had given up the completion. *Ing. Martin Kubica (NEF CR)* in his response stated that it was ca. 15 minor projects of total 20 thousands. The pressure on the recipients primarily concerned the projects prior to the issue of the DoPG.

*Christos Gogos (EC)* also thanked for the beneficial presentation and observed that currently the OPE was being managed very effectively. In conclusion he asked that the next OPE MC meeting would be connected with the visit of the completed project, which had been financed from the EU resources. In addition, he raised a question when the 100% contracting the allocation of the projects with the issued DoPG would be expected. *The Vice Chairman* repeated the estimation stated within the presentation. The OPE MA expects the level of the obligation at 95% by the end of 2014. Subsequently, at the beginning of 2015, the freezer of the projects shall be dissolved and, thus, the level of 100-105% achieved.

***The OPE MC adopted the resolution “the OPE MC acknowledges the presented Report on the Progress of the OPE Implementation”***

### **3) The most frequent mistakes in the OPE public procurements**

*Mgr. Kateřina Holendová (MoE)* informed on the most frequent mistakes in public procurements in the OPE, such as the failure to meet the minimum length of the deadline for the submission of public procurements and the failure to publish part of the tender documentation to the applicant's profile. In connection with the presentation *the Chairman* promised the preparation of the information brochure for the applicants summarising the most



frequent mistakes in public procurements and its submission for application to not only the members of the Committee. *Christos Gogos (EC)* in connection with the presentation referred to the importance of the correct solution of public procurements and the related need to prevent drawbacks in the area of public procurements and ensuring greater awareness on public procurements in the Czech Republic, e.g. in the form of seminars, brochures.

#### **4) Financial Plan of the Draw-down of the OPE Technical Aid for 2015**

*Mgr. Radek Brynda (MoE)* informed the members of the OPE MC on the Financial Plan of the Draw-down of the OPE Technical Aid.

*The OPE MC adopted the resolution “the OPE MC approves the Financial Plan of the Draw-down of the OPE Technical Aid for 2015”*

#### **5) Implementation of the OPE Communication Plan and Annual Communication Plan of the Activities for 2015**

In the second part of the presentation *Mgr. Radek Brynda (MoE)* acquainted the present members with the implemented promotional activities in the area of promotion and publicity in 2014 and, subsequently, he introduced the Annual Communication Plan of the Activities for 2015. In addition to other activities, he also introduced a prepared project which relates with the existing as well as the upcoming OPE programme period and within which frame the containers for waste separation would be placed at the stations in the Czech Republic.

In addition, *Christos Gogos (EC)* requested the explanation of details in Annex No. 10 to the Report on the Achieved Progress - justification of an increased number of administrative staff in 2015 and a subsequent reduction in 2016. *Mgr. Radek Brynda* in his response observed that the increased number of the staff in 2015 is connected with the OPE implementation, whereas the reduction in the number of staff in 2016 is a result of the half amount designed for the draw-down of the OPE Technical Aid in that year.

*Mgr. Radek Brynda (MoE)* completed the information on the prepared OPE annual conference, whose date is planned for February 2015. *RNDr. Lenka Pocová (NUTS II the north-west)* submitted a suggestion for the self-presentation of the successful financially more intensive projects, if any, via a seminar or workshop. *The Chairman* welcomed the suggestion also with respect to continuing setting the OPE 2014-2020.

*The OPE MC adopted the resolution “The OPE MC approves the Annual Communication Plan of the Activities for 2015”*

#### **6) Indicative Annual OPE Evaluation Plan for 2015**



*Ing. Petr Kolečka (MoE)* also presented the Indicative Annual OPE Evaluation Plan for 2015. With reference to the source documents for the discussion, he briefly informed on the projects which had been implemented in that year and also on the projects planned for 2015.

***The Resolution “The OPE MC acknowledges the Indicative Annual OPE Evaluation Plan for 2015”.***

## **7) Information on the preparation of the programme period of 2014-2020 OPE**

*Ing. Barbora Holková (MoE)* introduced the current state of the preparation of the programme period of 2014-2020, she mentioned 3 major topics, which had been discussed at the meeting with the EC on 6 November 2014 (problems – the supports of the exchange of “coal for coal”, reporting data on wastes and the integration of new European legislations, e.g. Directive on Ecodesign, in the text of the existing programme). The proposal of the new OPE was sent to the EC on 24 November 2014. She also supplemented the information that the OPE MC for the upcoming programme period was currently being shaped in the future form, the first MC should be held in January 2015.

*Radoslav Lipták (EC)* thanked for an extraordinarily fast hand-over of the proposal of the new OPE to the European Commission. *Ing. Šárka Fojtíková (MoRD-NOK)* reminded that the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic requested the schedules of the calls in individual operational programmes until the end of the year. *The Chairman* replied that the time schedules would be presented to the OPE in the shortest time possible, once they would be approved by the meeting of the OPE management.

*Ing. Vladimír Novotný (Council of Economic and Social Agreement – employees' represent.)* expressed words of praise on the course of setting the new programme. In addition, he notified the problems connected with the exchange of the existing facilities of local furnaces and recommended taking into consideration the outputs of the Medium-sized Strategy of the Air Protection in the Czech Republic, which is implemented within the evaluation activities.

At the end of the block *the Chairman* mentioned the interest to prepare at the beginning of 2015 the meeting of the monitoring committee for the OPE 2014-2020 and related activities aiming at the appointment of the representatives for individual organisations in the estimated deadline until the end of 2014.

## **8) Miscellaneous**

In this part no suggestions for discussion were raised.

## **9) Conclusion**



*The Chairman* summarised up the course of the meeting, thanked the members for their participation at the 16th meeting and closed the meeting of the OPE MC.

<b>Estimated date of the next regular meeting of the MC</b>	June 2015
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ASSIGNMENTS			
No.	assignment	owner	date of completion
1	See the completed project at the next meeting of the OPE MC	MA	June 2015
2	Prepare a brochure on the most frequent mistakes in public procurements	MA + ZS	Continuously/inform at the next meeting
3	Inform the members on the completed projects which have been transferred to the sustainability stage	MA + ZS	next meeting of the OPE MC

**Recorded by:** Bc. Kateřina Zárubová, DEUF (Department of the EU Funds of MoE)

**Verified by:** Ing. Jaroslav Michna, Director of the Department of the EU Funds)

**Approved by:** Ing. Jan Kříž, the Deputy to the Minister - Director for the Section of the EU Funds, Economic and Voluntary Instruments