

CONCLUSIONS OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEETING ENERGY FACILITY POOLING MECHANISM 16 FEBRUARY 2011

The Evaluation Committee met on the 16th of February 2011 at EuropeAid building (L-41) from 14:30 to 16:30 a.m. in order to clarify the interpretation of some eligibility criteria set in the Pooling Mechanism Guidelines.

Background

The Pooling Mechanism of the Energy Facility has been set up in October last and has started implementation. Seven draft project proposals have been submitted to discussion with member states and EC at the Informal Advisory Group of Experts on Energy (IAGE) and some of them will most probably be evaluated soon by the Evaluation Committee of the Pooling Mechanism.

A preliminary set of questions regarding the evaluation criteria, which do not appear explicitly from the Pooling Mechanism Guidelines, need interpretation and decision. The purpose of this first meeting of the Evaluation Committee is therefore to clarify them.

- The Guidelines of the Pooling mechanism foresee that *"The Pooling mechanism shall provide grant support to medium-size investment projects targeting the principal objective of the Energy Facility: increased access to modern, affordable and sustainable energy services in ACP peri-urban areas, growth centres (areas with relatively high population density and/or potential development of economic activities), and rural areas."* However, as noticed from some of the concept notes received, we are faced with the question of how direct the link between the project purpose and the "access to energy services" should be.
- The Guidelines of the Pooling mechanism foresee that *"Priority will be given to projects relying on renewable energy solutions and energy efficiency measures."* However, the Guidelines do not provide for a definition of "energy efficiency" and this question has also arisen in the framework of some of the received concept notes. Therefore, it is necessary to be more precise on possible definitions of "energy efficiency" in the framework of the Pooling mechanism.
- Another question has arisen regarding the proportion of grant funding requested to the Mechanism. If an applicant applies for funding from the Pooling mechanism to co-finance a programme he is implementing/planning to implement, of which only a limited part is eligible under the Pooling Mechanism, would the maximum 25% funding from the Mechanism be calculated over the whole programme or only over the part of the programme that is of a direct interest to the Pooling activities?

A. Link between proposals and improved access to energy services in rural/peri-urban areas

The Committee confirmed that the link between the proposed projects and the objectives of the Pooling Mechanism (and the Energy Facility as a whole) must be a direct link.

In order to establish this direct link and be eligible, proposed projects will have to show the direct impact of the proposed activities on the end-beneficiaries within the project's set timeline. The proposals will have to integrate within the project design and perimeter all the necessary intermediate results, activities and resources which ensure reaching the principal objective of the Energy Facility, i.e. improving access to energy services in rural and peri-urban areas, with the aim of promoting socio-economic development and contributing to poverty reduction.

B. About energy efficiency

Following the definition of the World Energy Council, energy efficiency is defined as decreasing the amount of energy required for a given output (product, activity).

The Evaluation Committee clarified that energy efficiency is not an objective of the Mechanism *per se*, but is relevant insofar it increases or substantially improves sustainable access to energy services for the targeted populations.

C. How to calculate the proportion of grant from the Mechanism

The Committee clarified that the total amount of the project to be considered for calculating the proportion of the grant from the Mechanism was the cost of the activities which are directly linked and relevant to the Mechanism objectives and are clearly identified in the proposal and its budget.