

Steering Board Meeting 9/2023

6 March 2023

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## **InvestEU Steering Board**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2022**

Questions concerning this note should be referred to the InvestEU Steering Board Secretariat:

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## **INVESTEU STEERING BOARD – MEETING 8/2022**

### **Minutes of the meeting**

**25 November 2022, physical and WebEx meeting**

#### **Those attending:**

##### **Steering Board members:**

Ms Elena Flores (EC, Chair)

Mr Herald Ruijters (EC)

Ms Andriana Sukova (EC)

Ms Merete Clausen (EC)

Mr Christoph Kuhn (EIB)

Ms Laura Piovesan (EIB)

Mr Laurent Braun (EIF)

Mr Massimo d’Eufemia (CDP)

Mr Michel Casselman (PMV)

Mr Alain Lamassoure (independent expert appointed by the European Parliament)

##### **Steering Board alternate members:**

Ms Anna Panagopoulou (EC)

Ms Fotini Koutzoukou (EIB)

Ms Christa Karis (EIF)

Mr Antonio Bandés Cajal (ICO)

Mr Csaba Harsányi (MFB)

##### **Presenters:**

Mr Pedro Santos (EC) only for agenda point 4

Mr Marco Lucchini (CDP Equity) only for agenda point 5

Mr Christophe Mroz (CEB) only for agenda point 5

Mr Dmitri Kouznetsov (NIB) only for agenda point 5

##### **Observers:**

Mr Samuel Ben Soussan (EC)

Mr Salvatore Amico Roxas (EC)  
Mr Polyvios Eliofotou (EC)  
Mr Joaquin Guzman Carrizosa (EIB)  
Ms Evangelia Chrysanthou (EIB)  
Mr Davide Galli de Paratesi (CDP)  
Mr Johan Reynaert (PMV)

Secretariat:

Ms Letizia Castellano (EC)  
Ms Mariela Chukanska (EC)  
Ms Aleksandra Koziara (EC)

**1. Drawing up of attendance list and verification of quorum**

Ms Flores opened the meeting, welcomed the other members and alternates to the eighth Steering Board ('Board') meeting and recorded that there was a quorum.

Ms Flores informed of one change in the composition of the Steering Board since the last meeting and introduced Mr Laurent Braun, Head of Strategy and Business Development Department in the EIF, as a new Board member representing the EIF and replacing Alessandro Tappi (EIF).

Ms Flores gave an update on the current state of play of InvestEU implementation, which included: (i) progress on negotiations under InvestEU Fund and guarantee agreement signatures since the last Board meeting, in particular guarantee agreement with CDP Equity signed in October; upcoming signature of guarantee agreements with CEB and NIB; final stage of negotiations with EBRD and advanced progress with ICO, CDC, BGK and CDP with aim for negotiation close in December 2022; ongoing negotiations with other potential implementing partners; (ii) signature of contribution agreements with Romania, Finland, Czechia, Greece and Bulgaria and ongoing discussions of a contribution agreement with Malta; (iii) signature of advisory agreements with CDP, Bpifrance and CDC; (vi) total maximum volume of EU guarantee of operations approved by the Investment Committee until November of EUR 8.4 billion and EU guarantee of operations to be potentially approved until end 2022, resulting in NGEU target for 2022 being met; (v) debrief about the first policy dialogues with the EIB and EIF held in October; (iv) update on the Advisory Hub and Portal, including an outline of advisory initiatives currently offered by EIB, CDP, CDC and Bpifrance and the respective budgets.

## **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The draft agenda was approved without modification.

## **3. Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The draft minutes of the seventh Board meeting, held on 17 June 2022, were adopted.

The minutes will be published on the InvestEU website.

## **4. FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Report on InvestEU implementation**

Mr Santos presented the first Report on InvestEU implementation based on the progress reports received from the implementing partners (EIB and EIF) as of 31 August 2022.

Board members showed a lot of interest in assessing the impact of the InvestEU Programme and asked for more information to be included in the future reports.

Ms Sukova noted a concentration of operations in a few countries and stressed the importance of the InvestEU Advisory Hub to support a more balanced geographical distribution. The next report should therefore also cover the Advisory Hub and its implementation.

Mr Casselman requested to receive further information on the distribution of multi-country and multi-eligible investments in the breakdown of covered eligible countries and areas.

Mr Lamassoure pointed out (i) the difference between approved and signed InvestEU operations under the SME window, (ii) the low number of countries from Central and Eastern Europe receiving resources, and (iii) the need for more specific information on the horizontal targets/commitments spelled out in the InvestEU Regulation (e.g. climate targets, the Just Transition Scheme, etc.). He requested that the Board receives the Investment Committee conclusions submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council twice a year. Lastly, he enquired about the current status of Advisory Board activities and the reason for caps and thresholds of EU guarantee amounts per window and per financial product.

Ms Clausen requested (i) more information on the final recipients and a focus on guarantees to SMEs in the future reports, and (ii) that the Board receives information stemming from the policy dialogues between the Commission and InvestEU implementing partners, in particular sectors and strategic investments per policy window supported under InvestEU. Lastly, she enquired about the risk of running out of funds for supporting specific policies by certain implementing partners.

Mr Kuhn stressed that it is too early for a meaningful analysis regarding country concentration and that the data presented under the report are heavily influenced by the fact that the largest part of approved InvestEU operations are framework operations, and that would explain the share of operations under multi-country and multi-eligible areas that would be concretising during the implementation phase.

In response to the questions raised, Mr Santos and Ms Flores explained that:

- (i) the financial products are market-driven. Given the early stage of implementation of InvestEU, this leads to concentration of operations in a few countries at present. The geographical distribution by country will improve over time, as more operations are signed;
- (ii) the multi-country component in the breakdown of InvestEU operations by country is linked to operations covering several countries. The multi-eligible area component is linked to operations covering several eligible areas;
- (iii) the difference between approved and signed InvestEU operations is largely due to the inclusion of framework operations under approved operations;
- (iv) information on the actual final recipients of EU guarantee and corresponding KPIs/KMIs (location, activity sector, eligible areas covered, types of instruments) will be provided to the Board once the InvestEU implementing partners start reporting on these data, which includes also the horizontal targets set out in the InvestEU Regulation;
- (v) the Investment Committee biannual report to the European Parliament and the Council is subject to confidentiality rules. The Secretariat will check the confidentiality requirements and verify whether these reports can be shared with the Board;
- (vi) the Advisory Board has set up subgroups that are currently working on 3 specific topics – energy efficiency financing gaps, social infrastructure investment and gender equality financing, with final reports expected by mid-2023. Information on these reports will be provided at a Board meeting in the second half of 2023;
- (vii) the caps and thresholds of the EU guarantee amounts available per window and per financial product are laid down in the InvestEU Regulation. The statutory targets and requirements are subsequently translated in the guarantee agreements with implementing partners, which also take account of the implementing partner’s willingness to proceed with a specific window and financial product;
- (viii) concerning the risk of running out of funds, more precise information will be available upon completion of the ongoing negotiations on guarantee agreements and once implementation is more advanced. At that stage, it will be possible to evaluate the situation in all the windows and see if any action needs to be undertaken.
- (ix) the potential of the Advisory Hub to assist with the project preparation where they are most needed should be maximised. Information on Advisory Hub implementation, including

InvestEU promotional activities, will be included in the future reports on InvestEU implementation;

- (x) policy dialogues are meant to allow open and frank bilateral exchanges between the Commission and each implementing partner to thoroughly discuss progress and issues related to the deployment of financial products which are not necessarily relevant to the Board. Should there be more systemic issues faced by implementing partners, these can be brought to the attention of the Board.

Ms Karis and Mr Braun outlined the deployment of InvestEU on the EIF side. Mr Braun highlighted that market reception has been positive so far, however financial intermediaries applying for the portfolio guarantee products were concerned by the lower capacity compared to the previous MFF, and the uncertainty as to resources available after 2024. Ms Karis explained that 180 applications had been received (most often for more than one product) from all Member States except Malta and Cyprus, with a focus on microfinance, social portfolios, etc. In a similar overview from the EIB, Mr Kuhn stressed that in 2023 the focus will mostly be on delivering the projects on the ground in order to be able to meet the signature target in 2024.

Ms Flores thanked the Board members for their interest and their inputs and will follow up with the Commission services concerned.

## **5. FOR INFORMATION**

### **Overview of InvestEU Guarantee Agreements with Implementing Partners other than the EIB Group**

#### **5.1 Presentation by Cassa Depositi e Prestiti Equity (CDP Equity)**

Mr Lucchini presented an overview of the Guarantee Agreement signed on 7 October and the agreed financial product.

In response to a question from Ms Clausen about the size of support to SMEs and number of large companies CDP Equity plans to invest in, Mr Lucchini announced CDP Equity's target of 1000 final beneficiaries in total.

#### **5.2 Presentation by Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**

Mr Mroz presented an overview of the Guarantee Agreement to be signed on 28 November 2022 and the agreed financial product.

Ms Sukova acknowledged CEB experience in the social sector and appreciated their financial products to be implemented under the Social Investment and Skills window.

### **5.3 Presentation by Nordic Investment Bank (NIB)**

Mr Kouznetsov presented an overview of the Guarantee Agreement about to be signed and the agreed financial product.

Ms Clausen acknowledged the importance for the projects involving raw materials possible to be financed under the NIB financial product and the high expectations on the way forward.

In conclusion, Ms Flores provided an overview of all financial products currently being implemented under the InvestEU Fund and expressed appreciation for the future cooperation with CEB, NIB and CDP Equity as implementing partners.

## **6. FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Tentative calendar**

The secretariat presented a tentative proposal for Board meetings calendar in 2023, which was accepted by the Board.

## **7. Any other business**

### **7.1 Assistant to Investment Committee (IC) Chair**

Ms Flores informed the Board that the request of the IC Chair to have an assistant to support him on IC matters has been exceptionally granted and explained the role and the rules associated with the assistant's involvement. The assistant will abide by the confidentiality rules of the IC and has signed an Undertaking of Confidentiality with each current implementing partner.

### **7.2 Call for expression of interest in 2023**

Mr Casselman and Mr d'Eufemia asked for clarity on the timing of the next call for expression of interest under the InvestEU Fund.

Ms Flores informed that the call will not be launched before the second half of 2023. It will be open to all eligible counterparts, including the current implementing partners who wish to offer new financial products or increase the budget under their existing financial products.

### **7.3 Information on overview of financial products**

Mr Casselman and Mr d'Eufemia requested an overview of the financial products for the benefit of all implementing partners.

Ms Flores clarified that the overview of all financial products currently being implemented under the Fund that was provided under agenda point 5 could be shared outside the Board.

### **7.4 Communication on progress of InvestEU implementation**

Mr Lamassoure commented on the need to communicate more widely what is being done under InvestEU and show that InvestEU implementation is advancing.

Ms Flores acknowledged the need to communicate. She confirmed that the Commission will look into general public communication and information available to other implementing partners, also as a way to encourage participation in the second call for expression of interest.

Ms Flores thanked all participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.