



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 21 July 2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>SIMONSFELD ONSHORE WIND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2017-0323</i>
Country:	<i>Austria</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction and operation of three wind parks in the Austrian Federal State of Lower Austria. The project has a total capacity of 39 MW. One wind farm is a re-powering project.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The Simonsfeld Onshore Wind project consisted of the design and construction of three wind farms [Kreuzstetten IV (22 MW), Dürnkrot II (13 MW), and Hipplles II (4 MW)] in Austria with a total nominal capacity of 39 MW under a 13-year feed-in-tariff concession. Wind farm Hipplles II was a re-powering project with two wind turbines.

Wind farms Kreuzstetten IV and Dürnkrot II, including their grid connections, had undergone an EIA process during permitting. Scheme Hipplles II was screened out and permitted under the Electricity Act of Lower Austria (2005).

The appraisal concluded that the project was acceptable under environmental aspects, subject to the following conditions:

- an environmental permit, in-line with the final design of the scheme Dürnkrot II, must be provided to the Bank prior to a related disbursement; and
- a permit under the Austrian aviation act (“Luftfahrtrechtliche Ausnahmegewilligung”) for the Hipplles II wind must be provided to the Bank prior to a related disbursement.

Both conditions have been met. The amended environmental permit was granted by the competent authorities in October 2017 and the permit under the Austrian aviation act was granted in December 2019.

The project has been fully implemented and entered into operation in early 2019. The Promoter reported no significant environmental or social issues during the implementation of the project.

According to the final project acceptance report, the following site-specific mitigation measures have been implemented:

- In the case of Kreuzstetten IV, 7ha fallow land need to be established and maintained in-line with detailed requirements. Furthermore, 1ha of forest has been taken out of industrial use to protect species living in forests (bats in particular).



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- In case of Dürnkrot II, 18 hectares of improved bird of prey habitats adjacent to and inside the "March Thaya Auen" Special Protected Area (SPA) have been implemented by the promoter and its development partner. Given the scheme's proximity to forest areas, also bat-related precaution measures have been identified: under defined ambient conditions (evening to night time, August/September, low wind speed) all Dürnkrot II wind turbines shall be taken out of operation.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on reports from the Promoter and the Lenders' Technical Advisor, the EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of the appraisal.