



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 09 November 2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	SOFIA TRANSPORT FLEET RENEWAL
Project Number:	20140319
Country:	Bulgaria
Project Description:	The project comprises the purchase and putting into operation of new rolling stock - buses and tramcars - as well as the development of the traffic management system of Sofia Municipality. The project would be co-financed by EU funds under the OP Environment and own resources.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project concerned the acquisition of 258 modern, low floor buses and 5 trams together with traffic management and control system (TMCS) improvements at 170 junctions.

From an environmental perspective, the acquisition of buses, trams and traffic management system did not fall under either Annex I or Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU, which was not applicable to manufacturing of rolling stock as well as TMCS improvements.

The new buses and trams replace older obsolete units and conform to modern environmental standards. The new fleet has the potential to generate significant energy savings, emission reductions and safety improvements compared to the older fleet. Trams also improve noise levels on an aggregate basis. Therefore, the project include some positive environmental impacts by helping public transport to maintain its attractiveness in an urban environment. Without it, public transport service quality would have been degraded with a consequent modal shift towards private car use.

The overall impact of the project on the environment is positive due to modal shift away from private car towards public transport. This reduces negative impacts and contributes to climate change objectives.

One of the key areas of transport policy of the European Union is road safety. Thanks to the installation of the TMCS, the project reduces the number of accidents at junctions and creating better traffic conditions. In particular, the upgrade of junctions with state-of-the-art signalling technology and design standards avoid accidents, which not only prevents deaths and injuries but also affect road traffic and cause time losses.

No significant environmental or social issues were noted.



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Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.