



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>ELIA - SECURITY OF SUPPLY</i>
Project Number:	<i>2013-0005</i>
Country:	<i>Belgium</i>
Project Description:	<i>Upgrade and reinforcement of the high-voltage electricity transmission grid in Belgium. Investment programme 2013-2018.</i>

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The four sub projects in the original scope of work were:

- STEVIN to expand the 380 kV network between Zomergem and Zeebrugge.
- Boucle de l'Est to upgrade the transmission network at the eastern part of Belgium from 70 kV to 110 kV.
- Gramme - van Eyck to strengthen the north-south axis by reinforcing the 380 kV axes between Gramme and van Eyck.
- BRABO to reinforce the 380 kV network around the Antwerp seaport and connection to the Netherlands

Eventually, the scope of work was modified and the Bank disbursed only against the Stevin sub-project, which was an expansion of the 380 kV network between Zomergem and Zeebrugge. This project was subject to a full EIA including public consultation.

At appraisal, the Stevin permit was in the process of being granted. However, following a ruling from the Belgian constitutional court invalidating the law enabling public consultation only by electronic documentation, the process for granting the environmental permit was unclear. The finance contract included a condition to disbursement that the competent authorities had to approve the EIA and the integrated biodiversity assessment, which was fulfilled on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2013.

The environmental impact assessment carried out indicated that, with appropriate mitigations in place, no significant long-term impacts were expected to result from the construction and operation of the project. According to the available information, the project has been implemented in accordance with its permit requirements, and the mitigating measures that were foreseen have been put in place.

No significant environmental or social issues were noted or notified.



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**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during construction, that the sub-project financed by the Bank was implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.