



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 4 December 2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	Telecom Greece
Project Number:	2015-0941
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	The project related to the promoter's 4G mobile broadband network coverage and capacity expansions, and technological upgrade. As a result of the project, the population outdoor coverage of the promoter's 4G network would increase from 93% at the end of 2016, according to the promoter's estimate, to around 98% at the end of 2019 and, more importantly, indoor coverage was to increase from 79% estimated at the end of 2016 to around 92% at the end of 2019. Additionally, the promoter would implement new features to upgrade gradually its 4G network to LTE Advanced, which will increase significantly the network's performance in terms of peak broadband speed and capacity. Finally, the project would include the associated investments in the core network to support the additional installed capacity in the access network, product platforms and IT for the integration of the promoter's fixed and mobile products, as well as some smaller investments in 3G network capacity.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project has related to investments in mobile telecommunications equipment mainly in existing network sites. As the project only included a small number of new mobile towers, the impact related to construction and visual nuisances was limited.

The main environmental impact from the sites will be electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation from base stations and microwave radio equipment. So far, mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations, restrictions to their locations, the control of the power of the handsets and guidelines for consumer usage. Greece has adopted exposure limits for these radiations that are significantly stricter than the ones stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC), which is based on the ICNIRP guidelines. In particular, Greek exposure limits are in general 30% lower (stricter) than the ones in the EU recommendation and 40% lower for the particular case of sites in the vicinity of schools, kindergartens, old people's homes and hospitals.



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With regards to the project implementation, the promoter has not *reported any environmental or social issue*.

The licensing of new sites or modification of existing sites in Greece covers all aspects related to potential environmental issues including management of EMF, waste, batteries, noise, fuel, fire, etc. The promoter's mobile network has historically been found to be compliant with the environmental requirements. All new sites have been fully licensed.

*Other Environmental and Social Aspects* - The objective of the promoter's environmental strategy is to reduce the environmental impacts from its activities while providing products and services that enable increases in productivity and environmental protection in other sectors of economic activity. To achieve this, the promoter has developed an integrated quality, safety and environment management system certified according to the following standards: ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007. The promoter is a signatory of the UN Global Compact and the annual Sustainability Report is done according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI 4) standard.

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

**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.