



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 09.12.2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>RENTEL OFFSHORE WIND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2015-0619</i>
Country:	<i>Belgium</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction and operation of a 309 MW offshore wind park in the North Sea 32 km from the Belgian coast.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project concerned the implementation of a c. 309 MW offshore windfarm located at the Thornton Bank in the North Sea, 32 km off the coast and 42 km away from the port of Oostende, in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Belgium. Water depth at the site is between 27 and 35 m.

The project comprised the design, construction, operation & maintenance of 42 wind turbines with 7.35 MW unit capacity (slightly higher than the 7 MW unit capacity assumed at appraisal stage, without changes to the wind turbine dimensions); the turbines' foundations; the wind farm's inter array and export cabling; an offshore substation; balance of plant and transport, installation and logistics services (vessels). The project is connected through the export cable to a jointing pit, located on the beach near Zeebrugge port. The construction was completed in 2018 and the wind farms were set in commercial operation in March 2019.

The project was subject to an EIA and an Appropriate Assessment in relation to existing Natura 2000 sites and the national competent authority had granted approval before the project was approved by the Bank.

During the implementation phase and the first year of operation, no significant environmental or social issues were noted. All mitigating measures required by the Competent Authority were duly put in place. During the implementation phase a serious injury incident took place in relation to a standstill device in the nacelle of one of the wind turbines. The promoter and turbine supplier took appropriate actions, both in terms of emergency actions directly after the incident and in terms of root cause analysis and procedural follow-up.

An environmental monitoring programme has been undertaken since the implementation of the first offshore wind concession in the region. The annual monitoring results are publicly available (<https://odnature.naturalsciences.be/mumm/en/windfarms/>).

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on the reporting from the promoter and inputs provided by the Lenders' Technical Advisor during and after construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.