



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 18.12. 2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	France Biomasse – GdF Suez
Project Number:	2012-0193
Country:	France
Project Description:	The operation comprises four biomass based energy projects in France undertaken by the GDF Suez Group.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The project consisted of the design, construction, operation and maintenance of four biomass projects (Forbach, Nantes, Lacq and Epinal) primarily run with wood sourced regionally. It included also renovation and in some cases extension of district heating networks as well as replacement or retrofit of existing generation units. The main objective of the operation was to increase utilisation of renewable energy sources in the district heating networks.

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

At appraisal, some environmental processes were not fully completed in Nantes for the new site Californie. Since then the environmental processes have been completed and the operation permit of the heating plant “Californie” in Nantes was granted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2016. This operation permit is currently contested in the court by the local association “Trentemoult Village et autres”. The main controversy is on the exhaust fume of the last component of the project, the biomass boiler, that entered into operation in May 2019 and that provides 8 MW to Nantes District heating project which comprises 153 MW on the historical site named “Malakoff” and 55 MW on this new site named “Californie”. This claim was rejected once on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 but an appeal is ongoing and the decision of the court should be known by the end of 2020.

All projects are in line with EIB Standards and comply with emission limit values which are equal to or below (dust, NOx) those defined by French law and, where applicable, with the Industrial Emissions Directive (2010/75/EC) and the conditions set in the EIAs.

The promoter uses a biomass mix which is primarily sourced from regional forests, following sustainable forest management practices, as defined by internationally accredited certification schemes, such as FSC and PEFC (where applicable), and complies with biomass sustainability criteria as recommended by ADEME and defined in the Directive 2018/2001/EC. The supply of biomass to all plants is organised by promoter subsidiaries with substantial experience in forest biomass sourcing.

#### **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.