



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 16/12/2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	SNAM RETE GAS INFRASTRUTTURE IV
Project Number:	20140014
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project improved the reliability of natural gas supply and the flexibility of gas transmission in Italy. Compression capacity has been increased in the station of Poggio Renatico through a new 25 MW turbo-compressor. The flexibility of gas flows has been improved by installing a new large valve station at Minerbio. Three other components related to the construction of new gas pipelines, the first one from Minerbio to Poggio Renatico (19 km), the second one from Biccari to Campochiaro (73 km) and the third one from Gavi to Pietralavezzara (26 km). The latter one replaced existing, but obsolete gas lines including the removal of some 32 km of old sections and the re-connection of the respective consumption regions with some 14 short and small diameter lines with a length of 7 km in total for regional gas transmission purposes.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

All project components have been subject to environmental impact assessments, which incorporated also assessments according to the Habitats and Birds directives, where required. The EIAs did not identify significant permanent environmental impacts, including on sites of nature conservation and they were approved by the competent authority during the years 2009 to 2013.

The promoter reported no environmental and social issues during project implementation and confirmed that the necessary mitigation measures defined in EIAs and environmental permits have been implemented without any reported issues.

Pipeline routes were designed to avoid environmentally sensitive areas to the extent possible. The pipelines were laid underground and followed existing rights of way where appropriate, thus maintaining the integrity of sensitive zones. Impacts that could be typically expected were temporary and related to construction works (clearing of rights of way, noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways, rails and water ways). These impacts were well managed by appropriate measures taken by the construction company in order to avoid unacceptable impacts and nuisance to other parties. During the construction's phase of Gavi - Pietralavezzara transmission pipeline, the promoter discovered asbestos of natural origin along the route. Appropriate measures were taken to handle the issue and therefore it did not



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have significant impact on the operation of the project other than increased costs related to the remediation works. Some pipeline sections affected Natura 2000 sites and required installation technologies such as horizontal drilling in order to minimise impacts. The promoter reported that the provisions required for construction activities in Natura 2000 sites addressed in the EIA and the permit from the competent authority were fulfilled. Such measures consisted of reducing the construction width, reducing the length of pipes, the utilisation of smaller equipment and the restriction of working periods, all resulting into smaller, more flexible and timely activities with less impact on habitats.

The only noteworthy permanent visual impacts resulted from the construction of the new valve station at Minerbio, the location of which converted 4.5 hectares of agricultural land to future industrial use. However, the new valve station is located in the neighbourhood of already existing similar installations.

The new compressor at Poggio Renatico was installed within the existing compression station site. Impacts from the operation of the compressor relates primarily to exhaust gas emissions, which must comply with national and EU legislation.

The main social impacts concerned the compensation for leasing rights of way, the purchase of land for above ground valve stations and the compensation for the loss of crops.

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

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