



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 07/04/2021

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: *WINDPARK BRUCKNEUDORF-HOEFLEIN WEST*
 Project Number: *2017-0780*
 Country: *Austria*
 Project Description: *Construction and operation of 5 wind turbines in Lower Austria and Burgenland, respectively, totalling 17MW.*

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The 'Bruckneudorf-Hoeflein West' project consists of the design and construction of five wind turbines that are part of two wind farms: Bruckneudorf (Burgenland) and Höflein West (Lower Austria). Taken together, the total installed capacity was 17 MW.

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU requiring a screening opinion by the competent authority. The competent authority provided an opinion that an EIA was required for both projects, and an EIA processes was followed.

At the time of appraisal, permits had been granted but several amendment processes relating to these permits were ongoing and envisaged, respectively.

The appraisal concluded that the project was acceptable for Bank financing under environmental aspects, subject to the following condition:

- *It is proposed that final environmental permits, as amended and in-line with the final project design, must be provided to the Bank prior to any disbursement to the relating wind turbines.*

This condition has been fully implemented.

- The last permit amendment processes for wind farm HLW was finalised in March 2018, with the approval by the competent authorities. A monitoring report, submitted in June 2020, concluded that the newly created meadows ('*Ausgleichflächen*') have been successful in attracting collision-prone large bird species away from the wind farm Hoeflein West. Another monitoring report on the bee-eater was submitted in May 2020 and concluded that the additional pasture land, implementation of habitat improvement measures and restricted use of access roads cumulatively have had a positive impact on breeding of local bird species.
- The last permit amendment processes for wind farm BND were finalised in December 2018, respectively, with the approval by the competent authorities.
- The promoter reported full implementation of the corresponding amended permit conditions.



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The project has been fully implemented and entered into operation in late 2019. The Promoter reported no significant environmental or social issues during the implementation of the project.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on reports from the Promoter and the Lenders' Technical Advisor, the EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of the appraisal.