



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 17 October 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>NORTHER OFFSHORE WIND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2015-0871</i>
Country:	<i>Belgium</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction and operation of an offshore windfarm 22 km from the Belgian Coast with an installed capacity of 370MW.</i>

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at project completion.**

The project concerned the implementation of a 370 MW offshore windfarm located south of the Thornton Bank in the North Sea, 22 km off the Belgian coast and 33 km off the port of Ostend, partly in the Belgian territorial sea and partly in the Belgian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Water depth at the site is between 16 and 33 m.

The Belgian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea is a dedicated zone for offshore wind farms that already contains other operational wind plants. The project was also subject to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“UNCLOS”) and national regulations concerning installation activities at sea, making an EIA mandatory under national law. In particular, the EIA included an Appropriate Assessment of the impacts in neighbouring Natura 2000 sites in Belgium and the Netherlands<sup>1</sup> (including marine protected areas, the closest of which is ca. 6 km from the project site) in light of their respective conservation objectives, as well as proposed measures in order to mitigate these impacts. The competent authorities had granted conditional environmental approval in 2012.

No significant environmental and social issues occurred during the implementation phase and the first period of commercial operation. All mitigation measures required by the competent authority were duly put in place.

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 that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.

<sup>1</sup> BEMNZ0001 (SAC, Vlaamse Banken), BEMNZ0002 (SPA, SBZ 1/ZPS 1), BEMNZ0003 (SPA, SBZ 2/ZPS 2), BEMNZ0004 (SPA, SBZ 3/ZPS 3), NL2008003 (SAC, Vlakte van de Raan) and NL4000017 (SPA/SCI, Voordelta)