



Luxembourg, 2 May 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	ROUTE E420 FRASNES BRÛLY RTE
Project Number:	2012-0103
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	Construction of a 2x2 motorway along the road E420 between Frasnes and Brûly

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project involved the construction of 13.8 km of a new dual-carriageway road (type réseau routier à grand gabarit) forming part of the E420 European route between Frasnes, Couvin and Brûly in Belgium. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU, the project fell under Annex I and therefore was subject to the full EIA procedure. The environmental process of the project developed in three distinct time periods. The first EIA was completed in 2001 and supplementary environmental studies were completed in 2005 and in 2008. The ESIA had been prepared for the N4 road (Charleroi-France), which includes the project road section. Each stage included stakeholder and public consultation. In February 2009 the Government of Wallonia issued a planning permit for the project.

Mitigation measures were prescribed by the planning permits and incorporated in the design and include provision of channels and culverts for migration of identified large and small fauna, storm basins, sluice and drainage systems in sensitive areas with pollution separators, and appropriate animal fencing. The project compensates for the loss of flora through replanting and habitat creation in affected areas. In particular, the following compensatory measures have been implemented: Phase I: Restoration of limestone grassland, Phase II: Wet meadow and hedgerows restoration; Tree planting and Creation and restoration of ponds.

As per information from the promoter, all works, including implementation of mitigation and compensatory measures, were executed in accordance with the instructions of the Department of Nature and Forests of the Service public de Wallonie (SPW). The SPW has been monitoring the project's construction works.

The project scope has not changed. The entire project road has been open to traffic since 6 September 2019, following the substantial completion of the project. However, the Couvin bypass railway underpass section was completed and open to traffic only on 1 October 2022.

Post implementation environmental monitoring is foreseen but has not yet started. It will involve monitoring of fish populations on the Eau Noire and the Ry de Rome, monitoring of wildlife crossings, monitoring of wildlife mortality on the motorway, monitoring of fauna in restored environments, monitoring of water in storm basins (control and maintenance of decanters and oil separators) and air quality and noise monitoring.

Project implementation has seen a few vandalism acts targeting construction companies and certain negative publicity in a form of an independent production movie reflecting environmental and social impacts of this project.

Road safety audits for the project have been carried out in accordance with the national legislation.



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The project led to land and property expropriations, which were the subject of ministerial orders of 19/04/2007, 22/10/2007 and 05/03/2013. The total surface area of the expropriations is 1,701,730 m² including 15 houses and farms. The number of displaced persons was estimated as 35.

As per information from the promoter, there are no pending litigation or complaints in relation to environmental and social aspects of the project.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion

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