



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 19 December 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>BORSSELE 1 AND 2 OFFSHORE WIND FARM</i>
Project Number:	<i>2019-0715</i>
Country:	<i>The Netherlands</i>
Project Description:	<i>Construction and operation of an offshore wind farm with a capacity of 752 MW, located 20 km off the coast of The Netherlands in the Borssele wind farm zone.</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 752 MW offshore windfarm located 20 km off the coast of The Netherlands in the Borssele wind farm zone and within the Dutch Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the North Sea. The area is bordering the Belgian EEZ where a dedicated zone for offshore windfarms already contains several operating or licenced windfarms. The plant consists of 94 wind turbines with 8MW unit capacity, 116m hub height above sea level and a turbine rotor with a diameter of 167m. Turbines are built on steel monopile foundations in 14-40m water depths.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken and approved in May 2016. This SEA was subject to a public consultation process and took into account different usages of the Dutch North Sea EEZ, including offshore wind energy production. Dutch authorities are also maintaining and regularly updating a Framework for Assessing Ecological and Cumulative Effects; it focuses on possible cumulative effects on the populations of species to be protected during the construction and operation of offshore wind farms in the period leading up to 2030. 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. The final Wind Farm Site Decision, integrating all environmental and maritime consents, was taken in April 2016 following an EIA process that included an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the impacts on neighbouring Natura 2000 sites Vlakte van de Raan (SCI) and Voordelta (SPI), respectively 9 km and 10 km from the wind farm. The AA shows that significant impact on the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 areas can be ruled out.

The offshore grid that connects the project and a neighbouring wind farm to the onshore grid at the existing substation at Borssele (outside the scope of this operation) was subject to a separate EIA permitting process, including an AA, with approval by the Competitive Authority in June 2016.

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.



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It is noted, however, that a fire occurred in the nacelle of turbine B05 in October 2021. Several pieces of debris were identified on the seabed nearby the turbine; however, a debris clearance was successfully completed shortly after the incident and it is the Bank's understanding that the issue has been fully resolved.

The promoter has executed its nature inclusive action plan on the Atlantic cod as approved by the relevant Dutch authorities. Artificial reefs were installed within the wind farm area, in order to fulfil the requirement of including nature in the design and construction of the wind farm. A monitoring programme including issues specifically requested in the environmental permit has been developed in cooperation with Wageningen Marine research Institute; through the programme, data is being collected on the behaviour of the Atlantic cod using acoustic telemetry and acoustic tags.

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

Based on reporting from the promoter, the EIB is of the opinion that the project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards applicable at the time of appraisal.