



Luxembourg, 13 December 2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | Iliad France 5G expansion |
| Project Number: | 2023-0435 |
| Country: | France |
| Project Description: | The project relates to the investments in the design and roll-out of a 5G and a 5G-ready multi-band, multi-technology mobile telecommunications network throughout France. |
| EIA required: | No |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : | No |

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project consists of the three main components:

1. Deployment of new equipment and active infrastructure on new and existing sites
2. Upgrade of active MIMO (C-Band) antennas
3. Expand backhauling fibre connectivity to radio access sites

For all these components, the project focuses on the active equipment and active infrastructure (Radio Access, Backhauling, Power, Cooling etc...) and reinforcement of passive infrastructure in certain sites. The promoter will rent the passive infrastructure (tower, shelters) from third-party tower companies; the deployment of new passive infrastructure is therefore not part of the project scope.

Regarding component 1, on new sites, the Environmental permitting process requires a "déclaration d'urbanisme". This declaration is reviewed, amongst others, by environmental regional authorities (DREAL - Direction Régionale de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement).

Activities included in components 1 (for existing sites) to 3 involve to a large extent the installation of equipment in existing infrastructures (towers, rooftop sites and other radio access and core network buildings) that will not change their scope due to the project. These installations might require refurbishment or adaptation works, which are not expected to have a significant negative environmental impact.

Where relevant, visual nuisance due to towers and rooftops is mitigated by following the corresponding requirements of the ABF (Architectes des Bâtiments de France) that is consulted as part of the permitting process and may impose height restrictions, specific disguising site formations (tree shape, chimney, etc.) and other similar measures.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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Paris Alignment

Telecommunication networks are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy and fulfil the Paris Alignment criteria as set out in the EIB's CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened out for the PATH framework, as its activities are not included in the list of EIB sub-sectors and segments in high emitting sectors and for high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

During the operations phase, the main potential impact would be related to exposure to EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) emissions by RAN equipment. Studies continue to be conducted to further assess the potential long-term effects of exposure to EMF emissions on human health. So far, mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations and restrictions to their locations. France has adopted exposure limits aligned with the ones stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC), which is based on the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) 1998 guidelines. ICNIRP has stated that in terms of the 5G exposure levels measured so far, its 1998 guidelines would also provide protection for the frequency bands that the promoter's network would use. The European Union Directive 2013/35/EU of 26 June 2013 defines the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields (EMF)).

To verify compliance with the exposure limits, the French National Frequency Agency (ANFR) performs audits at the request of citizens and city councils. In addition, some specific measurement campaigns are done in schools and municipal squares and parks for the ministry of environment and sustainable development.

In 2021, the promoter joined the United Nations' Global Compact. As part of its CSR commitments, the company has committed to become Net Zero for its direct emissions as from 2035. At the end of 2022, 100% of the electricity purchased by the promoter was covered by guaranteed renewable sources.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project consists mostly of the installation of telecommunications equipment in existing sites already approved for such purposes.

The project focuses mostly on the active equipment and the reinforcement of existing passive infrastructure. Potential environmental impact during construction is expected to be limited and, where applicable, the relevant environmental authorities will review the documentation and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented.

The environmental impact of mobile networks during operations is mainly related to electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions that are mitigated by operation under the exposure limits determined by the regulation and based on the best science currently available.

Therefore, the project is considered to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.