



Luxembourg, 04 December 2023

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>A-32 SOUTH ALBACETE BY-PASS (FL 20150080)</i>
Project Number:	<i>2015-0296</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>The project was a major allocation under the Framework Loan Fomento Road Renewal and Rehabilitation (no. 20150080) and consisted of a new 11 km dual carriageway, southern bypass of Albacete.</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 construction of an 11 km long dual carriageway road bypass on a new alignment in the city of Albacete. The Project scope included three interchanges: one at the east end of the alignment connecting to the A-30 motorway (Madrid-Murcia corridor); a second one at the west end merging with the existing A-32 motorway; and a third interchange in the middle of the section linking with a regional road.

The Project is a class of development that falls under Annex I of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU, and was subject to a full EIA procedure. The Project received a favourable Environmental Decision (*Declaración de Impacto Ambiental, DIA*) in August 2006. As part of the Environmental Decision, the Competent Authority issued confirmation that the project has no significant impact on Natura 2000 sites. Given that the start of works of the Project was significantly delayed by the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, the Competent Environmental Authority confirmed in December 2013 the validity of the DIA for the delayed implementation calendar.

The Project was implemented broadly in line with the initial scope, with only minor technical modifications concerning the drainage system of the motorway and some of the ramps of the interchanges on both ends of the alignment. No new environmental procedures were required, given the nature, limited scope of the changes and absence of significant impacts. The revised Project design was subject to public consultation for expropriation purposes in November 2019. The changes to the scope resulted in the expropriation of eight more plots of agricultural land (94 plots were expropriated in total).

No major issues with impact on the environment were reported during implementation nor at completion of the Project. Mitigation measures were implemented in line with the requirements of the DIA. Some of these measures included restoration of access to some 19 rural roads and nearby properties, including to that end the construction of 11 km of service roads; 750 m of noise barriers to mitigate the impact of traffic on buildings in the vicinity of the Project; installation of 5 350 m of 4 m high opaque longitudinal screens to block direct line of sight from the motorway on the adjacent Albacete Military Air Base and allow the normal operation of its radar facilities.



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Other mitigation measures included the construction of a flood abatement basin, since the Project is in a particularly flat area prone to recurrent flooding, the plantation of greenery and the construction of drainage and runoff water treatment systems.

Impacts of the Project during operation include among others severance effect, mitigated to a large extent by the measures above, alteration of the natural drainage patterns or permanent loss of agricultural land. The Project absorbs local and long-distance traffic from urban roads in Albacete city centre, thus alleviating congestion. As a result, the Project generates environmental and social benefits in the city through improved road safety and the reduction of traffic related air pollution and noise.

Road safety audits at various stages of design, pre-commissioning, and after opening to traffic were performed and made available to the Bank.

Monitoring by the Bank of environmental and social aspects was carried out based on annual progress and completion reports from the Promoter, who was deemed to have adequate environmental and social management capacity.

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

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the Promoter and publicly available information that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.