

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: ORANGE SPAIN FTTH AND 4G ROLLOUT  
 Project Number: 2014-0573  
 Country: SPAIN  
 Project Description: The project relates to the roll-out of mobile and fixed next generation access networks, including the related investments in the backbone network and IT systems, in Spain. With the implementation of the project, the promoter plans to extend the coverage of its fibre based network by 5.2 million households and grow its 4G network throughout the country.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: No

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

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

Neither the installation of mobile nor fixed telecommunication networks fall under Annexes I and II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EC, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment. Mobile telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from the visual impact of base station towers and EMF radiation. The disturbances during civil works related to the construction of fixed telecommunication systems will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

The residual project risks are related to the impact of EMF exposure to the general public, a subject that is under continuous study by international organizations.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with minor negative residual impacts.

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

Regarding the limitation of EMF exposure to the general public, the promoter will adhere to the guidelines set out by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). EMF is however under continuous study by international organizations, and in the most recent development in 2011 the WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified EMF radiation as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

#### Social Assessment

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The promoters has an ISO 14001 certified Environment Management System, and its health and safety management system is OHSAS 18001 certified.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

Concerning the “Habitats” Directive 92/43/EEC and related Natura 2000 protection sites, the relevant legislation does not include any provision regarding telecoms infrastructure, since individual schemes are small and not expected to have any significant negative impact. For the mobile component of the project, 43 sites that are being upgraded will be located within areas of nature protection, but the negative impact can be expected to be minimal as the project does not include any construction of new towers in those areas.

The promoter will make use of existing infrastructure to the extent possible with the aim of reducing the disturbances during construction. For the FTTH component of the project, the use of on-facade connections will cause some visual disturbances in the urban areas in which the buildings do not allow for in-house cabling, but this is mitigated by the use of aerial connections by other telecom operators and utility companies.