22nd September 2015

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*NOBELWIND OFFSHORE WIND ()*
Project Number:	*2014-0251*
Country:	*Belgium*
Project Description:	*Construction of the 2nd phase (165 MW) of an offshore windfarm (phases1+2: 330MW) located 46km from the Belgian coast*

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: yes

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

By virtue of its technical characteristics the 330 MW offshore windfarm – of which the project is the 2nd phase – would fall today under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU (amended 2014/52/EU). Following an EIA, mandatorily required by national legislation and undertaken in 2007, the national competent authority granted approval for the entire offshore windfarm (phases 1 and 2) and the associated cabling, following rounds of public consultation and expert advice. With adequate precautionary measures, the impacts on fauna and flora, including on local and migrating birds, marine mammals, benthos and invertebrates were considered to be acceptable.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The windfarm is located in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the North Sea. It is thus also subject to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and national regulations concerning installation activities in the sea, making an EIA mandatory under national law.

The approval also confirmed that windfarm will not have significant impacts on marine protected areas in the coastal zone of Belgium including special nature conservation sites. An environmental management programme was undertaken since the implementation of the 1st phase of the project aiming at adjusting the identified mitigation measures concerning fauna and avifauna appropriately. The annual monitoring results are publicly available.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO_2 emission of an offshore wind farm is deemed negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Belgium (75% operating margin and 25% build margin) the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO_2 equivalent emissions by ~280 kt CO2e/yr.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

[1] 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 CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.