

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TUNISIE TELECOM 4G ROLLOUT
Project Number:	20150828
Country:	Tunisia
Project Description:	The project relates to the roll-out of mobile next generation access networks, including the related investments in the backbone network and IT systems, in Tunisia. With the implementation of the project, the promoter plans to roll-out a 4G mobile network throughout the country to connect 1.1 m customers.
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

If the project were located within Europe, it would not be subject to EU Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, as defined under Annexes I and II of Directive 2011/92 EU as amended and would therefore be subject only to local or national legislation. Similarly, in Tunisia, only local environmental impact mitigation legislation is applicable for the authorisation process of telecommunication projects.

The environmental impacts of mobile communication systems are mainly visual nuisance, electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation, and noise from diesel generators located at base stations and microwave radio towers.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Regarding the limitation of EMF exposure to the general public, the promoter will adhere to the guidelines set out by the Agence nationale de fréquences (ANF) which are in line with the threshold defined by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The ANF is also in charge of the control of the radiation limits of the individual base stations.

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.

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.

Luxembourg, 23 September 2016

Despite this low risk, public perception in Tunisia is sensitive towards the installation of high frequency antennas close to populated areas. Over the last years, the Agence Nationale de Contrôle sanitaire et environnemental des produits (ANCSEP) has been receiving over 100 complaints per year from citizens about the installation of base stations. The ANCSEP is collaborating with the ANF in the resolution of those complaints.

Conclusions and Recommendations

If the project were located within Europe, it would not be subject to EU Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, as defined under Annexes I and II of Directive 2011/92 EU as amended and would therefore be subject only to local or national legislation.

Due to the fact that potential risks steaming from the EMF radiations are limited, the project is classified as acceptable for the Banks financing.

PJ/ECSO 15.10.15