

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	LTE VOLTE - HIGH SPEED MOBILE INTERNET ROLLOUT	
Project Number:	2016-0118	
Country:	Netherlands/Sweden	
Project Description:	The project concerns investments into the expansion and capacity increase of the 4G mobile networks in Sweden and in the Netherlands. The plans intend to increase by 2019 the geographical coverage close to full population coverage in both countries and to further increase the network capacity for broadband data services.	
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")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project relates to investments in mobile network infrastructures which uses radio based technology with electromagnetic emissions.

In the Netherlands and Sweden the exposure limits, in respect to these emissions, are stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC / based on the ICNIRP principles) and have been implemented for the frequency bands used by mobile Telecommunication networks. In both countries the effective emission levels are also verified through independent measurements.

The works in the Netherlands refers mainly to the installation of latest equipment with low power consumption at existing sites. In Sweden it is planned to add over the three years period several new sites with latest radio access equipment. The sites will be carefully chosen and the construction of new sites as well as additional new radio equipment at existing sites needs to be within the existing approved limits or will require a new approval by the competent authorities. As the main network rollout phase is over, it is expected that the impact during implementation for the remaining network extensions will be limited as the promoter is keen to use as many existing sites as possible.

The two national operations are part of a European Telecom group that is strong in the Nordic and also in East European countries. It has a well-developed and wide policy in terms of corporate social responsibility. The annual CSR reporting is done according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI 4) standard.

<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.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I and II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EC, and are therefore not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Generally, mobile networks based on UMTS/LTE technology have limited environmental effects.

The impact during implementation will be limited as the majority of most modern equipment will be installed on existing sites in the Netherlands. In Sweden the increase of a wider territorial coverage requires some new sites and additional access nodes. The main impact during operation, such as the radiation emissions or the visual detraction, will be mitigated by appropriate construction and operation measures within the national regulations compliant with EU standards.

Potential health risks from electromagnetic radiation are being studied at an international level. Still, the ICNIRP thresholds are considered appropriate.

The project is classified as acceptable with minor residual impact and it is therefore eligible for the Bank's financing.