

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	GRAND EST TRES HAUT DEBIT
Project Number:	2016-0850
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a PIN (Public Initiative Network) in 7 departments of the Grand Est Region, France (Ardennes, Marne, Aube, Haute-Marne, Meuse, Vosges and Meurthe-et-Moselle). The objective of the project is to deploy a Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network that will pass around 827 500 homes and business premises. The access networks included in the project will be deployed in areas where private operators are not present with very high speed broadband services due to lack of commercial interest.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The tender documents of the concession stipulate that the Délégitaire shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the reuse of existing infrastructures is one of the evaluation criteria. This model should also be in the interest of the Délégitaire in order to reduce as much as possible the civil works necessary to deploy the new Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network because of their high cost and organisational and logistic complexity.

The Region will have to validate the roll out plans of the Délégitaire and will be particularly attentive to impact on the protected areas of Grand Est (Natura 2000). Besides monitoring the project implementation, the Region will have to accept the project elements once concluded. At that stage the Region will confirm their compliance with the validated plans.

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<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.

<sup>2</sup> Notably the “Code de l’Environnement” in France

Luxembourg, 16 May 2017

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

The project will also have positive environmental and social contributions because very high speed broadband access networks enable videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-administration and telework. These solutions improve significantly the attractiveness of the less densely populated areas that the project is targeting in terms of job opportunities and quality of life. In addition, they will contribute to the reduction of personal transportation needs and therefore of road traffic and pollution.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92 EC.

Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. In addition, in this particular case the promoter is incentivising the reuse of existing infrastructures to reduce the potential impact of the implementation of the project even further.

Hence the project is deemed to be environmentally acceptable for EIB financing.

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