

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TELECOM GREECE
Project Number:	2015-0941
Country:	GREECE
Project Description:	The project relates to the promoter's mobile broadband network coverage and capacity expansions, and technological upgrade. In addition, the project will include the associated investments in core network to support the additional installed capacity in the access network, product platforms and IT.
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

The project relates to investments in mobile telecommunications equipment mainly in existing network sites. As it will only include a small number of new mobile towers, the impact related to construction and visual nuisances will be limited. The main environmental impact will be electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation from base stations and microwave radio equipment. The EMF radiation produced by mobile handset is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a WHO specialized agency, as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Studies are ongoing to further assess the potential long-term effects of use. So far mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations, restrictions to their locations, the control of the power of the handsets and guidelines for consumer usage. Greece has adopted exposure limits for these radiations that are significantly stricter than the ones stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC), which is based on the ICNIRP guidelines. In particular, Greek exposure limits are in general 30% lower (stricter) than the ones in the EU recommendation and 40% lower for the particular case of sites in the vicinity of schools, kindergartens, old people's homes and hospitals.

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, 15 June 2017

The licensing of new sites or modification of existing sites in Greece covers all aspects related to potential environmental issues including management of EMF, waste, batteries, noise, fuel, fire, etc. In addition, for sites located in Natura 2000 or other protected areas an even more detailed specific environmental study is required. The promoter's mobile network has historically been found to be substantially compliant with the environmental requirements.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The objective of the promoter's environmental strategy is to reduce the environmental impacts from its activities while providing products and services that enable increases in productivity and environmental protection in other sectors of economic activity. To achieve this, the promoter has developed an integrated quality, safety and environment management system certified according to the following standards: ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2004 and OHSAS 18001:2007.

The promoter is a signatory of the UN Global Compact and the annual Sustainability Report is done according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI 4) standard.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Mobile telecommunication networks do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to Environmental Impact Assessments.

The environmental impacts of mobile networks are mainly visual nuisance and electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation. Potential health risks from EMF radiation are being studied at an international level. The Greek legislation includes exposure limits that are between 30% and 40% lower (stricter) than the ones stipulated in the EU Recommendation 1999/519/EC. The promoter has a well-developed environmental management system to manage all the environmental risks related to the project.

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

PJ/SQM/ECSO 15.10.15