

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	MAINE ET LOIRE TRES HAUT DEBIT
Project Number:	2017-0214
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project relates to the design, building, financing, operation and commercialisation of an open-access very and ultra-high speed broadband telecommunications network, based on Fibre to The Home (FTTH) technology, in rural areas of the Maine-et-Loire département (France) where private operators are not present with very high speed broadband services due to lack of commercial interest. The network is planned to pass about 220 000 sites, including homes, businesses, public sites and mobile radio stations, which represents close to 100% of the sites in the public initiative area. The project is tendered as a Public Initiative Network (PIN) under a concession regime called "Délégation de Service Public" (DSP).
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 tender documents of the concession stipulate that the concessionaire shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations<sup>2</sup>. The promoter will control the compliance with this condition closely and is entitled to ask for the corresponding reports at any moment.

In addition, the reuse of existing infrastructures is mandatory and the locations of the network nodes have been chosen based on the availability of these existing infrastructures. On top of this, the concessionaire has clear incentives to minimise the amount of civil works necessary to deploy the network in order to reduce its cost and the risk of delay in the project. Therefore, it is expected that only a small part of the network deployment will require civil works, mitigating the already minor environmental impact of the project.

<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, 18 July 2017

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

The project will also have indirect 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 Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil works, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. In addition, in this particular case the reuse of existing infrastructures is mandatory for the concessionaire in charge of the deployment of the network, so the potential impact of the project will be even less significant.

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

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