

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: WALLOON REGION ENERGY GRIDS UPGRADE (ORES)  
Project Number: 2017-0343  
Country: *Belgium*  
Project Description: ORES investment plan comprising gas and electricity networks extension and rehabilitation

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

The Project is an investment programme in gas and electricity distribution sectors to be implemented over the period 2018-2022. The Project is geographically distributed throughout five provinces in Walloon region (Hainaut, Luxembourg, Liège, Namur and Brabant-Wallon) and comprises the following components:

- Retrofit and upgrade of existing facilities in gas and electricity networks
- Grids' extension to connect new customers
- Construction of the new ORES head office

### Environmental Assessment

Given their technical characteristics and sizes<sup>1</sup>, the project's components are not listed under Annex II of the EIA directive and do not require an EIA. They however have been/will be subject, as necessary, to environmental analyses in the course of the permitting process.

During construction the environmental impacts are expected to relate mainly to dust, noise, vibration, traffic disruption and vegetation clearance. Environmental impact during operation may concern electromagnetic fields (EMF), noise disturbance and impact on flying vertebrates. The environmental impacts of the project's components will be mitigated by appropriate measures in accordance with the applicable regulations. These include, but are not limited to, measures to contain the above impacts as well as proper management of construction waste materials, specific maintenance procedures to minimise potential leakage of SF6 and coordination with local authorities and property owners. In densely populated

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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 CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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areas, particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibration and traffic disruption during construction works. Regarding the schemes relating to works in substations, contamination from oil leakage of transformers is mitigated through appropriate design of bunds.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The Promoter has confirmed that no resettlements shall be necessary for the implementation of the project.

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

The environmental management capacity of the promoter is strong, the Promoter's policies are broadly in line with ISO 14001:2004 but not formally certified.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Bank is overall satisfied with the low negative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Project.

### Undertakings:

- The Bank will require the Promoter to undertake not to allocate Bank's funds to Project components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the necessary biodiversity assessment have been finalized, satisfactory to the Bank, and approved by the competent authority. When the EIA is made available to the public, an electronic copy of the Non-Technical Summary and the full EIA study shall be sent to the Bank.
- The Promoter shall undertake to take into account and implement conditions expressed in any screening-out decision or EIA consent granted by the competent authority for nature and environment.
- The Promoter shall undertake to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the Project supporting the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitat and Birds Directives and shall promptly upon request deliver such documents to the Bank.

Based on the information available, and with appropriate environmental conditionality included in the Finance Contract (aforementioned conditions), the Project is deemed to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.