



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name: *WINDPARK PRETUL*

Project Number: *2015-0519*

Country: *Austria*

Project Description:

*The project is a 42 MW wind farm in Styria (Austria). It consists of 14 wind turbines of 3 MW each and a 7 km connection line to an existing MV/HV substation. The wind farm is located on top of a mountain ridge around "Pretulalpe".*

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.**

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. It is therefore up to the Member State's competent authority to judge whether an individual wind farm requires a full EIA or not, based on criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive. The project was screened-in according to Austrian law and underwent a full EIA process. The project was fully permitted.

The wind farm is located on top of a mountain ridge, adjacent to a protected site under national law (Schwarzriegelmoos). Key areas of concern during authorisation and consultation were the project's visual impacts, impacts on the protected "grouse" bird (a species listed in Annex I of the EU Bird-Directive 79/409/EEC, living on mountain ridges), impacts on the adjacent protected site, risks to human health when ice is being thrown off turbine blades, impacts on an adjacent alpine hut and impacts on bats. All have been appropriately mitigated through conditions included in the permit and supplementary commitments made by the promoter. Out of 115 obligations/conditions/actions stipulated in permits, 114 have been fulfilled, and one is still in progress, in line with the implementation schedule of the different actions by the promoter.

A loan condition was included for environmental approval in case a potential alternative route for connecting cables was chosen. A new route was indeed confirmed after appraisal, to follow existing pathways as much as possible and to minimise environmental impact. The corresponding environmental approval by the competent authority was granted to the project in January 2016.

No other significant environmental or social issues were noted.

### Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on monitoring site visits, reports from the promoter, and inputs provided by Lenders' Technical Advisor during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.