



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 21 December 2018

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	PLOVDIV - BURGAS RAIL
Project Number:	2011-0529
Country:	Bulgaria
Project Description:	Rehabilitation of tracks, electrification and signalling system of the sections: Mihaylovo-Kaloyanovetz, Stara Zagora-Zimnitsa and Tzerkovsky-Burgas (total length of the three sections: 177 km). Re-signalling of the Burgas node and remodelling of the railway stations at Stara Zagora, Kermen and Yambol.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

The project consists of a railway line rehabilitation of the sections: Mihaylovo-Kaloyanovetz, Stara Zagora-Zimnitsa and Tzerkovsky-Burgas (total length of the three sections: 177 km - along a route of approximately 210 km located between Plovdiv and Burgas). The project also includes the re-signalling of the Burgas node and remodelling of the railway stations at Stara Zagora, Kermen and Yambol. The project is located on the TEN-T core network and co-financed with the EU Cohesion Fund; the project was prepared with Jaspers assistance.

The project is part of the 2007-2013 SOP-T, which was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) following Bulgarian legislation, in accordance with the SEA Directive and the SEA decision was issued by the Ministry of Environment and Water (MOEW) in March 2010.

The project was assessed component by component between 2014 and 2016 and the competent authorities issued relevant approvals. In 2017, the project (with all components) was subject to full EIA and appropriate assessment study (impact on Natura 2000 sites) and MOEW issued the decision in August 2017.

Moreover, an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared by the contractors and implemented during the construction phases of the project. The EMP addressed the need for environmental safeguards during the construction of the proposed project and facilitated the adoption of environmentally sensitive work practices.

The ongoing environmental monitoring of the project is performed by a specific unit within the Bulgarian railway infrastructure manager (NRIC).

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter, that the Project was implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.