EIB GROUP: A LEADER IN SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

Guided by EU policy, including commitments to the Paris Agreement on Climate Action and to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the EIB Group fosters sustainable growth within the EU and abroad. This approach drives all of our initiatives, products and activities.

Environmental, social and economic due diligence

- The EIB Group mainstreams economic, environmental and social sustainability considerations into all investments: only projects that fulfil both the financial criteria and meet the EIB Statement of Environmental and Social Principles and Standards can be supported by the Group.
- Environmental and social due diligence enables promoters to identify and manage risks and impacts and supports the integration of these aspects into the decision-making process. It also provides a framework for public consultation.
- In the economic appraisal of investment projects, the Group assesses the costs and benefits to society as a whole. This takes into account all resources used by the project (human, technological or natural), often using shadow prices, including for carbon, and gauges the value the project generates to all stakeholders, to determine whether society at large gains.
- When needed, EIB supports its clients in meeting the EIB’s environmental and social standards through technical assistance, training and awareness raising. The group offers a range of tools, including an online course on EIB standards, aimed at financial intermediaries but freely accessible for everyone.

Thinking ahead about sustainability in a multi-dimensional way

- The EIB Group has developed a number a strategies to drive its push towards more sustainable finance. These include, inter alia:
  - Climate Strategy 2015-2020, now under implementation.
  - An approach to conflict sensitivity to guide staff in making informed decisions and carry out due diligence on operations in conflict-affected and fragile areas.
  - Most recently, the 2017 EIB Group Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment aims to protect women’s and girls’ rights and support projects that increase the participation of women in the labour market and the economy.
- The European Investment Fund, part of the EIB Group, initiated the Social Impact Accelerator, the first pan-European public-private partnership addressing the growing need for equity finance to support social enterprises. This fund-of-funds invests in social impact funds that strategically target social enterprises across Europe. The accelerator raised EUR 243m, combining resources from the EIB Group and external investors.
- The Social Innovation Tournament, organized by the EIB Institute annually since 2012, recognises and supports European entrepreneurs whose goal is to generate social, ethical or environmental impact.

Sustainability reporting and transparency

- The EIB Group is committed to the highest possible level of transparency. It reports annually on EIB’s economic, environmental and social results inside and outside the EU.
- Since 2007, the Group has published a yearly Sustainability Report. The EIB Group is the only international financial institution to have the report independently assured by external auditors and reports following the Global Reporting Initiative standards at the highest (“comprehensive”) level.
- Since 2016 the EIB has published the Climate Awareness Bonds Statement, including detailed impact reporting, which is independently assured by our external auditors.
- In line with commitments under the Aarhus regulations, the Group proactively publishes environmental and social information about its projects in a public register of documents.
External rating of the EIB

- The credibility of EIB sustainable financing on the international financial markets is enhanced by the assessment of its activities through independent non-financial rating agencies. At the end of 2017 five non-financial rating agencies gave the EIB top scores on sustainability.

Leading by example

- The EIB Group has measured its own carbon footprint since 2007. Since then, it has achieved a reduction of 48.5% of per-capita emissions.
- Since 2014, the EIB Group has compensated its own residual greenhouse gas emissions fully through the purchase of emissions reductions credits, certified and regularly verified by the Verified Carbon Standard and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard.

Pioneering the Green Bond market

- EIB inaugurated the green bond market in 2007 with a first “Climate Awareness Bond” and is the largest issuer to date (more than EUR 21 bn with allocations to 160 renewable energy and energy efficiency projects all over the world).
- The initiative aimed to foster accountability in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency with the objective to directly involve capital markets in the implementation of the EU Energy Action Plan. This approach has met the growing needs of impact investment and led to the shaping of this new market.
- The Group has chaired the Green Bond Principles since their inception in 2014, steering the development of shared guidelines in the market.
- The Group has driven best practice in impact reporting and external review, engaging actively for its adoption in the market. Core contributions include the IFI-Framework for green bond impact reporting harmonization (coordinated by EIB in 2015) and the first ever reasonable assurance report on its issuance, allocation and reporting by KPMG (2016).

Outstanding supranational Green Bonds

- Following consultations with the multilateral development banks, international development finance organizations, and the China Green Finance Committee, EIB has supported the High Level Expert Group on Sustainable Finance with a first classification proposal for climate change mitigation activities.

- The EIB Group stands ready to continue supporting the EU and the member states in the deployment of their sustainability strategy in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate action.

Ready to support the High Level Expert Group with expert input

Source: Crédit Agricole CIB, as of 25th January 2018

Source: Bloomberg as of 15th January 2018, in USD mil

Outstanding supranational Green Bonds

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