Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*RENTEL OFFSHORE WIND*
Project Number:	*2015-0619*
Country:	*Belgium*
Project Description:	*Construction and operation of a 294 MW offshore wind park in the North Sea 32 km from the Belgian coast.*[1]

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[2]: yes

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

By virtue of its technical characteristics the 294 MW offshore windfarm would fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU (amended 2014/52/EU). Following an EIA, mandatorily required by national legislation and undertaken in 2007, the national competent authority granted approval for the offshore windfarm and the associated cabling, following rounds of public consultation and expert advice. With adequate precautionary measures, the impacts on fauna and flora, including on local and migrating birds, marine mammals, benthos and invertebrates were considered to be acceptable.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The windfarm is located in Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the North Sea. It is thus also subject to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS") and national regulations concerning installation activities in the sea, making an EIA mandatory under national law.

The Environmental Impact Studies of the offshore wind farm and its associated grid connection facilities comprise an Appropriate Assessment of the impacts in Natura 2000 sites (including marine protected areas) in the light of their respective conservation objectives, as well as proposed measures in order to mitigate these impacts. These studies have been reviewed by the relevant Competent Authorities, which concluded that the project would not have significant effects in regards with the integrity of these sites, if the proposed mitigating measures are duly put in place. An environmental management programme was undertaken since the implementation of the 1st offshore wind concession in the region, aiming at adjusting the identified mitigation measures concerning fauna and avifauna appropriately. The annual monitoring results are publicly available.

The promoter has sound environmental management capability, a good understanding of regulatory and environmental monitoring requirements, as well as experience in the mitigating measures to be performed during construction, given its previous offshore wind experience in the same area. In light of this, the promoter's environmental capacity is considered adequate.

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[1] The project's grid connection infrastructure and associated facilities have been appraised in the context of project ELIA – SECURITY OF SUPPLY (2013-0005`).

[2] 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.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO_2 emission of an offshore wind farm is deemed negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Belgium (75% operating margin and 25% build margin) the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO_2 equivalent emissions by ~460 kt CO2e/a.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.