

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GRAND CONTOURNEMENT OUEST DE STRASBOURG
Project Number:	2015-0234
Country:	France
Project Description:	<p>The project consists of the construction of a 24km motorway by-passing the city of Strasbourg by the west. It will connect the A4 motorway, located in the north of Strasbourg, to the A35 and the A352, in the south. It therefore aims at ensuring the continuity of the motorway connection on the N-S corridor and providing an alternative to the saturated section of A35 running through the centre of Strasbourg (up to 160.000 vehicles per day).</p> <p>The project will be subject to real tolls under a 55-year PPP-DBFOM concession.</p>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

The A355 project does not belong to a plan or investment program that needs to comply with SEA Directive 2001/42/EC relative to the evaluation of environment impacts as it was approved by the French Ministry of Transport before the SEA Directive came into force.

The project falls under Annex I of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC and an EIA, including public consultation, was performed in 2006 in accordance with the Directive. No Natura 2000 area is located in the vicinity of the project but several "Zone d'Intérêt Ecologique Faunistique et Floristique" (ZNIEFF) will be crossed by the project, as well as 2 protection areas for the "Grand Hamster d'Alsace".

The main residual negative impacts of the project are conversion and permanent loss of land, visual intrusion and severance for communities living adjacent to the new road. Numerous measures will be implemented to reduce, mitigate or manage negative impacts. Positive impacts are expected to include time savings, reduced noise, pollution and vibration in the city, as well as reduced vehicle operating costs.

In 2009, the European Court of Justice condemned France for not having taken sufficient measures to protect the "Grand Hamster d'Alsace", an endangered species since 1993. The French authorities then put in place a national plan to protect. It is monitored by the Commission on a regular basis and will continue to be under scrutiny in the future. In order to ensure that the project will have minimal impact on the "Grand Hamster d'Alsace", further compensation measures such as the restoration of an ecological corridor will be implemented by the public authority and the concessionaire, and will condition EIB lending.

All relevant approvals up to the present phase of the project have been obtained. The "Déclaration d'Utilité Publique" was signed on 23rd January 2008 and is valid for 10 years.

The following conditions for the project have been set:

¹ 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.

- Satisfactory involvement of the local stakeholders in the identification of a protection zone for the “Grand Hamster d’Alsace”, compensating the loss of land caused by the project;
- Adequate ecological corridor between the north and the centre zones of the project;
- Appropriate ecological compensation measures outside the area of influence of the project (action 2.7 of the Hamster National Action Plan)
- Provide an opinion of the Competent Authority for Nature Conservation on the expected impact of the project on protected areas and species (Form A/B).

Subject to the fulfilment of the above-mentioned conditions, the project is acceptable to the EIB from an environmental and social point of view.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

No Natura 2000 site is in the direct vicinity of the project. The closest Natura 2000 site is at a 3km distance.

The project crosses however two “zones naturelles d’intérêt écologique, faunistique, et floristique” (ZNIEFF)

- One type 2 ZNIEFF (ZNIEFF of the Ried de la Bruche : the impact of the A355 motorway will however be minimal as the motorway will cross this zone as a viaduct;
- One type 1 ZNIEFF (ZNIEFF of Altorferbaech and the Ried of Altorf).

There are also two other type 1 ZNIEFF which are close to the project and whose ecological functioning could be impacted (Dachsteinbach and Mittelgiessen).

The project crosses in addition two protection zones of the “Grand Hamster d’Alsace”. By its decision C-383/09 of the 9th June 2011, the European Court of Justice condemned France because of the insufficiency of measures implemented to protect this species. The Court questioned agricultural practices and the urbanistic development impacting negatively the survival of the Grand Hamster, despite the protection plans in place since 2000. As a consequence, France developed a new national protection plan for the period 2012-2016, aiming at densifying the overall population of hamsters so as to have a minimum of 1500 individuals with a minimum density of 2 burrows per ha. The strategy relies on the creation of a protection zone of 9236 ha where the compensation measures will be implemented. This includes the improvement of the species’ habitat and the reinforcement of the population, including agroenvironmental measures aiming at increasing the number of crops whose farming don’t have a negative impact on the Grand Hamster.

In the context of the dialogue between the promoter and the EC on this topic, and as per EC request to the Promoter in July 2015, further compensation measures will also be implemented for the "Grand Hamster d'Alsace" including:

- Involvement of local actors in the identification of a protection zone for the “Grand hamster d’Alsace”, compensating the loss of land caused by the project
- Implementation of adequate ecological features to restore an ecological corridor between the north and the centre zones of the project
- Implementation of ecological compensation measures outside the area of influence of the project (action 2.7 of the Hamster National Action Plan)

Mitigation and compensation measures include mainly fauna/flora protection, noise reduction measures, landscaping and reforestation as well as water protection measures.

The DUP was approved in 2008, including the EIA. It was updated in the context of the preliminary “CNPN derogation” required for the implementation of the project, and will be further developed by the concessionaire in view of obtaining the related permits.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The A355 motorway project was the subject of a public enquiry from 1 June to 28 July 2006. The “commission d’enquête” gave its report on 21 December 2006. The “dossier d’enquête publique” was then publicly available and contained an environmental impact assessment in line with the Directives.

The main issues in the EIA were:

- The presence of several protected species in the study area, among which the Grand Hamster d’Alsace
- The architectural insertion of the Bruche crossing
- The noise reduction in the vicinity of Vendenheim

The “commission d’enquête publique” has given a favourable opinion to the A355 project with five reserve points and several recommendations. The reserve points concerned:

- The reinforcement of acoustic protection in Vendenheim
- The speed limitation of 110km/hour at the right of Vendenheim/Eckwersheim and Kolbsheim/Ernolsheim
- The use of low noise pavements all along the “tracé”
- The risk reduction during the works and operating phase and consideration of water catchments and catchment projects between Vendenheim and Oberschaeffolsheim
- The works close to the water catchments of Lampertheim and catchments projects of Griesheim-sur-Souffel and Oberhasubergen

All five reserve points have been taken into account by the contracting authority. The “décret d’utilité publique” details the practical explanations on how to implement the mitigating recommendations. These undertakings are also in the “dossier des engagements de l’Etat”.