Luxembourg, 15 November 2016

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ILIAD FRANCE TRES HAUT DEBIT
Project Number:	2016-0383
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project relates to the extension of a fibre to the home (FTTH) telecommunication network by an alternative telecommunications operator in France. The project, to be implemented between 2016 and 2018, comprises the roll-out of an FTTH network to cover over 4 m households in the highly densely populated areas (black areas) and over 6 m households in the areas with a medium population density (the grey areas) throughout the country. Taking into account the promoter's existing network, the FTTH network at project completion will cover a total of around 15 m households. The project includes the related investments in active equipment as well as in the backbone network.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The horizontal roll-out of the own FTTH network will mainly take place inside the existing ducts of the incumbent or via the sewer system in the city of Paris. Only companies that are certified by the city of Paris are allowed to work in the sewer system. They follow strict health and safety rules and their work is closely supervised by the relevant municipal authorities. The roll-out of fibre inside the former incumbent's existing ducts is not expected to have any major environmental impact, apart from some disturbance to the traffic when cables are blown-in.

For the components of the project for which additional civil works are requested, the environmental impact will be limited to the disturbance created by the construction.

The roll-out of the vertical in-house network plans to use existing infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. For the limited number of cases (less than 5% of total connections) in which there is no existing infrastructure, the promoter has expressed its intention to use an aerial deployment of the fibres.

[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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Concerning the “Habitats” Directive 92/43/EEC and related Natura 2000 protection sites, the relevant legislation does not include any provision regarding telecoms infrastructures, since individual schemes are small and not expected to have any significant negative impact. In addition, the investments will be mainly performed in urban areas, and to a large extent also within existing equipment sites already being used for similar activities.

As part of its annual report, the promoter publishes a chapter on Environment, highligthing the main environmental and social actions it has undertaken.

The expansion of the fibre network will help to increase the FTTH competition in the 10 m households covered and allow for more affordable and better high speed broadband products. Investments in the FTTH roll-out have an effect to significantly improve the quality of broadband services, with widely reported positive social benefits such as enabling tele-working solutions thereby reducing the need for travel, enabling the use of cloud computing solutions with energy efficiency gains, the delivery of e-health and tele-education services to underserved regions, and supporting regional development through development of sufficient ICT ecosystem.

The project will require a highly qualified workforce, both for its implementation as well as operation. With the planned increase in activity, mainly for the customer connections, the promoter is planning to hire around 900 additional staff.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the Directive 2011/92/EU as ammended. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can be mitigated by appropriate measures. The civil works will be mainly carried out in urban areas as well as alongside roads, while the new electronic equipment will be housed in small office-type sites already used for the same purpose in most of the cases.

In light of the above, the project has been found to be acceptable for EIB financing in environmental terms.