



Luxembourg, 18.11.2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>CO-INVESTMENT EIFFEL SOLAR IRELAND</i>
Project Number:	<i>2022-0673</i>
Country:	<i>Ireland</i>
Project Description:	<i>Co-investment into a Solar PV project portfolio in Ireland</i>
EIA required:	Some sub-projects may require an EIA
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 operation consists of a co-investment up to EUR 21 million alongside Eiffel Energy Transition Fund S.L.P (“EETF I”). It is presented under the EIB Co-Investment Programme as a co-investment with the fund EETF I. The Bank was an investor in Eiffel Energy Transition Fund S.L.P. since 2017 (EIFFEL ENERGY TRANSITION FUND (2016-0371)) and in Eiffel Transition Fund II S.L.P. since 2020 (EIFFEL ENERGY TRANSITION COVID-19 TOP-UP (2020-0506)).

The Promoter is an Irish Independent Power Producer (IPP), Power Capital Renewable Energy (“PCRE”), which will develop, implement and operate ground based solar PV plants located in Ireland.

This operation supports European and Irish targets related to renewable energy (RE) generation and it will hence contribute to EU energy objectives, notably the decarbonisation of the power system to tackle climate change. It also supports the Bank’s priority lending objectives concerning renewable energy. It will contribute 100% to climate action

PCRE’s pipeline is comprised of nineteen (19) ground mounted solar PV projects for a total capacity of 744 MWp. Due to their technical characteristics, the plants fall under Annex II of Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, leaving it to the national competent authority to determine, according to Annex III of the said Directive, whether an environmental impact assessment is required. In Ireland, EIA’s and biodiversity requirements are required for planning permission to be obtained for solar PV projects. In addition, the plants might include overhead grid interconnection lines, which could fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive, depending on their technical characteristics, and hence be required to undergo an EIA process. The Bank carried out a due diligence on the investee company, PCRE, in order to assess its strategy, skillset and resources to manage E&S processes and issues throughout the development, as well as an initial assessment on the E&S risk of the portfolio, including a sample review of the biodiversity assessments and planning discharge conditions pertinent to planning approval for certain projects.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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Based on the initial assessments carried out, the results are satisfactory. For the sample projects, planning consents and ecological assessments as well as pre-construction conditions are in place following the site-specific studies.

PCRE possess a good understanding of the environmental impacts of solar PV development and showed capacity to manage and execute these investments from an E&S point of view. Moreover, the ecological assessment studies and biodiversity studies included an adequate identification of the individual and cumulative impacts of the projects, such as visual and noise impacts, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems (mainly loss of habitats for otters and other small animals), the determination of their significance, as well as the measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and compensate the impacts.

Finally, concerning public disclosure, in Ireland, public consultations are obligatory to planning consent. These were conducted with one appeal being lodged for a single site. The case was heard and a decision by the local council made to grant planning permission to PCRE. The process is deemed satisfactory and in line with the relevant EU Directives.

Social Assessment

The operation needs to comply with the Bank's requirements, including applicable provisions of the relevant labour standard of the Bank. The Fund Manager will be required to undertake reasonable efforts to mitigate risks of forced labour in the supply chain. This will include, on a best effort basis, enhanced due diligence also guided by the Fund Manager's human rights commitment, and ensuring that appropriate contractual provisions are cascaded to contractors/suppliers of the individual projects.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

- The counterparty, Eiffel Energy Transition Fund S.L.P, is in scope and screened into the PATH framework.
- The counterparty already meets the requirements of the PATH framework with its existing alignment plan(s).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The investments targeted by the operation are expected to have limited social and environmental impact, provided that all mitigation measures, included in the planning approvals provided, are implemented.

For future projects (within the same portfolio) that are subject to an environmental impact assessment (EIA), PCRE shall ensure that an EIA is carried out and that public consultations are undertaken in accordance with national legislation and the EIA Directive. PCRE shall collect and publish the EIA studies on the Manager's/Investee Company's website or on PCRE's website, or if otherwise agreed with the Bank, send the EIA to the Bank for publication. Upon request, PCRE will confirm to the Bank that the Investment incorporates relevant mitigating measures recommended by the EIA.

If a project is screened out, according to the EIA Directive, the screening decision, which is made public by the Competent Authority, and details the reasons for not requiring such an assessment, should be provided to the Bank by the Fund Manager. The EETF I Fund will, on an annual basis, prepare and submit to the Bank an aggregated E&S performance report of the operation.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable for the Bank's financing in E&S terms.