



## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	ENEXIS ELECTRICITY NETWORK UPGRADE AND EXPANSION
Project Number:	2023-0147
Country:	The Netherlands
Project Description:	The Project is an investment programme for electricity distribution in the period 2023 to 2024, including refurbishment, upgrading and expansion of existing electricity distribution infrastructure and the installation of smart meters in five provinces in the Netherlands.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Programme comprises a large number of electricity distribution schemes up to 20 kV, with the majority of schemes being reinforcements of medium and low voltage equipment with limited environmental impact. None of these schemes will require an EIA. The environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed good. Based on the information available, and with appropriate environmental conditionality, the Programme is acceptable to the Bank in environmental terms.

#### Environmental Assessment

EIA Directive 2011/92/EU has been implemented in Chapter 7 of the Dutch Environmental Management Act (Wet Milieubeheer). An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a prerequisite for the construction of major infrastructure. The promoter confirmed that the envisaged programme (i.e. its sub-projects), according to this legislation, does not require an EIA.

All lines are low to medium voltage (up to 20 kV) and laid underground. As per the provisions of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) these works do not fall under Annex I or Annex II..

The schemes will be screened according to national legislation with respect to the need for Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the EU Habitats Directive. Based on preliminary information, some of the schemes might cross Natura 2000 areas. In such cases, the competent authority will be consulted and the assessments required under art. 6(3) and art. 6(4) of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC will be carried out. Given the characteristics and the typical

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



impacts of the programme schemes, the promoter at this stage expects that none of schemes will be screened in for an AA.

The programme has the potential for some low to moderate environmental and social impacts. These include noise, vibration, dust, and disruption of traffic during construction, and electromagnetic radiation during operation. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. For smart meters, the main impacts of the components are electromagnetic radiation during data exchange and the disposal of meters that are replaced (in line with relevant legislation). Smart meters comply with the electromagnetic radiation limits set out in guidelines published by national and international organisations.

The promoter manages, monitors and mitigates the effects on the environment through documents such as the health and safety plans, the waste management plan, technical specifications (technical clauses) and requirement for subcontractors in general, the implementation of equipment taking into account Eco Design (in particular the types of transformers) etc.

Physical climate change risks relevant to the area of installation of the project schemes, i.e. mainly extreme rainfall events, flooding and storms and high winds, are mitigated in the design stage, by adapting - as necessary - the design or the location of the equipment.

GHG emissions have been calculated but fall below the thresholds defined for the Carbon Footprint Exercise (CFE). The source of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for the programme is network losses associated with new or refurbished network equipment. At programme completion, the corresponding absolute emissions are estimated to be 17.2 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year. These absolute emissions are offset by the reduction in network losses enabled by the programme in comparison to the do-nothing alternative. Therefore, at completion, the programme is expected to enable a saving of approximately 1.0 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per year.

Whilst smart meters may facilitate energy savings, they are not expected to have significant impact on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. As a conservative approach, the savings in end-user consumption have not been considered in the Carbon Footprint Exercise.

The operation has been assessed for its Paris alignment. It is considered to be aligned for low carbon and resilience, in line with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and with the EIB's Energy Lending Policy.

### **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

- The counterparty Enexis Holding NV is in scope and screened in to the PATH framework, because it is considered high emitting and high vulnerability.
- The counterparty has agreed to develop its decarbonisation plan and publicly disclose a new alignment plan by no later than the second anniversary of the Contract
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### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultations, when necessary, are organised by the competent authority, as required.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**



Considering the above, the promoter's capacity to implement this operation in compliance with the EIB's Environmental and Social Standards is deemed acceptable. Based on the information available and with appropriate conditions and monitoring, the programme is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

The promoter undertakes:

- that no EIB funds will be allocated to assets connecting generation with lifecycle GHG emissions above 100gCO<sub>2</sub>e/kWh.
- not to engage in incompatible activities, as defined in the EIB Group PATH Framework (<https://www.eib.org/en/publications/the-eib-group-path-framework>).
- to ensure that programme schemes that may have an effect on a Natura 2000 site will undergo an analysis (or screening) to determine whether the scheme requires an Appropriate Assessment. When an Appropriate Assessment has been deemed necessary, before allocating the Bank's funds to the relevant programme scheme, the promoter will ensure that such assessment is carried out in line with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.
- to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the programme and which support the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.
- not to allocate the Bank's funds to Programme schemes that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Appropriate Assessment (AA) until the EIA and/or the AA have been finalised to the Bank's satisfaction, including public consultations, and approved by the competent authority. For schemes requiring an EIA and/or an AA, an electronic copy of the relevant documentation, including EIA/AA reports, consultation documents, EIA approvals, must be sent to the Bank as soon as each scheme is approved by the competent authority.