



Brussels, 28.9.2023
C(2023) 6454 final

ANNEXES 1 to 4

ANNEXES

to the

Commission Notice

**Technical guidance on the application of “do no significant harm” under the Recovery
and Resilience Facility Regulation**

ANNEX I: DNSH checklist

- 1. Part 1 – Member States should filter the six environmental objectives to identify those that require a substantive assessment.** For each measure, please indicate which of the below environmental objectives, as defined in Article 17 (*‘Significant harm to environmental objectives’*) of the Taxonomy Regulation, require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure:

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | Yes | No | <i>Justification if ‘No’ has been selected</i> |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | | |
| Climate change adaptation | | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | | |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | | |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | | | |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | | |

- 2. Part 2 – Member States should provide a substantive DNSH assessment for those environmental objectives that require it.** For each measure, please answer the questions below, for those environmental objectives identified under Part 1 as requiring a substantive assessment:

| <i>Questions</i> | No | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|---|----|----------------------------------|
| <i>Climate change mitigation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions? | | |
| <i>Climate change adaptation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets? | | |
| <i>The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources:</i> Is the measure expected to be detrimental: (i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or (ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters? | | |
| <i>The transition to a circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling:</i> Is the measure expected to: (i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or (ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural | | |

| | | |
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| <p>resource¹ at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures²; or</p> <p>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy³?</p> | | |
| <p><i>Pollution prevention and control:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants⁴ into air, water or land?</p> | | |
| <p><i>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems:</i> Is the measure expected to be:</p> <p>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition⁵ and resilience of ecosystems; or</p> <p>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</p> | | |

¹ Natural resources comprise energy, materials, metals, water, biomass, air and land.

² For instance, inefficiencies can be minimised by significantly increasing the durability, reparability, upgradability and reusability of products or by significantly reducing resources through the design and choice of materials, facilitating repurposing, disassembly and deconstruction, in particular to reduce the use of building materials and promote the reuse of building materials. Additionally, transitioning to ‘product-as-a-service business models and circular value chains with the aim of keeping products, components and materials at their highest utility and value for as long as possible. This also comprises a significant reduction in the content of hazardous substance in materials and products, including by replacing them with safer alternatives. This further includes significantly reducing food waste in the production, processing, manufacturing or distribution of food.

³ Please refer to Recital 27 of the Taxonomy Regulation for more information on the circular economy objective.

⁴ Pollutant means a substance, vibration, heat, noise, light or other contaminant present in air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the environment.

⁵ In line with Article 2(16) of the Taxonomy Regulation, “‘good condition’ means, in relation to an ecosystem, that the ecosystem is in good physical, chemical and biological condition or of a good physical, chemical and biological quality with self-reproduction or self-restoration capability, in which species composition, ecosystem structure and ecological functions are not impaired”.

ANNEX II: Supporting evidence for the substantive DNSH assessment in the context of Part 2 of the checklist

Where useful, when providing a substantive DNSH assessment for a measure in the context of Part 2 of the checklist (see Section 3), Member States can rely upon the (non-exhaustive) list of supporting elements of evidence below. This list is provided by the Commission to facilitate the case-by-case assessment by the Member State as part of the substantive assessment in the context of Part 2 of the checklist. While using this list is optional, Member States can refer to this list to identify the type of evidence that can support their reasoning to establish that a measure is compliant with DNSH, complementing the general questions included under Part 2 of the checklist.

Cross-cutting supporting evidence

- The applicable part of the **EU environmental legislation** (in particular environmental assessments) has been complied with and relevant **permits/authorisations** have been granted.
- The measure includes elements requiring companies to implement a recognised **environmental management system**, such as EMAS (or alternatively ISO 14001 or equivalent), or to use and/or produce goods or services that are awarded an **EU Ecolabel**⁶ or another Type I environmental label⁷.
- The measure concerns the implementation of best environmental practices or the reaching of **benchmarks of excellence** set out in the Sectoral Reference Documents⁸ adopted according to Article 46(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).
- For public investments, the measure respects **green public procurement criteria**⁹.
- For infrastructure investments, the investment has been subject to a **climate and environmental proofing**.

Climate change mitigation

- For a **measure in an area not covered by ETS benchmarks**, the measure is compatible with achieving the GHG emissions reduction target by 2030 and with the objective of reaching climate neutrality by 2050.
- For a **measure promoting electrification**, the measure is complemented with evidence that the energy mix is on a path to decarbonise in line with the GHG emissions reduction targets by 2030 and 2050, and is accompanied by increased renewables generation capacity.

⁶ The EU Ecolabel scheme is established by Regulation (EC) No 66/2010. The list of product groups for which EU Ecolabel criteria have been set is available at: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/products-groups-and-criteria.html>

⁷ Type I environmental labels are set out in the ISO 14024:2018 standard.

⁸ Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/emas_publications/sectoral_reference_documents_en.htm

⁹ The European Commission has set out EU Green Public Procurement criteria for a large number of product groups: https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/eu_gpp_criteria_en.htm

Climate change adaptation

- A proportionate **climate risk assessment** has been carried out.
- If an investment is above the value of €10 million, a **climate vulnerability and risk assessment**¹⁰ has been carried out or is planned leading to identification, appraisal and implementation of relevant adaptation measures.

The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources

- Environmental degradation **risks related to preserving water** quality and avoiding water stress have been identified and addressed in accordance with the requirements under the Water Framework Directive and a River Basin Management Plan.
- In the case of a measure in relation to the **coastal and marine environment**, the measure does not permanently preclude or compromise the achievement of good environmental status as defined under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive at the level of the marine region or sub-region concerned or in the marine waters of other Member States.
- The measure does not significantly impact (i) **affected water bodies** (nor prevent the specific water body to which it relates nor other water bodies in the same river basin to achieve good status or good potential, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive) or (ii) **protected habitats and species** directly dependent on water.

The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling

- The measure is in line with the relevant national or regional **waste management plan and waste prevention programme**, in accordance with Article 28 of Directive 2008/98/EC as amended by Directive 2018/851/EU, and, where available, the relevant national, regional or local circular economy strategy.
- The measure is in line with the **principles of sustainable products and the waste hierarchy**, with a priority on **waste prevention**.
- The measure ensures **resource efficiency** for major resources used. **Inefficiencies**¹¹ in the use of resources are addressed, including ensuring that products, buildings and assets are efficiently used and durable.
- The measure ensures the effective and efficient **separate collection of waste at source** and that source-segregated fractions are sent for **preparation for reuse or recycling**.

Pollution prevention and control

- The measure is in line with existing global, national, regional or local **plans for pollution reduction**.
- The measure complies with the relevant **Best Available Techniques (BAT)** conclusions or with the **Best Available Techniques Reference Documents (BREFs)**¹² in the sector.

¹⁰ Member States are encouraged to use the Commission's guidance on the Sustainability proofing of investments under InvestEU, including the guidance on climate proofing of infrastructure 2021-2027. However, the Member States are allowed to apply their own criteria and markers for the sustainability proofing, provided they are based on the EU climate targets, and they substantially contribute to climate and environmental objectives in the meaning of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

¹¹ See Footnote 2 in Annex I of this guidance.

- Alternative solutions to the use of **hazardous substances**¹³ will be implemented.
- The measure is in line with the **sustainable use of pesticides**¹⁴.
- The measure is in line with best practices to combat **antimicrobial resistance**¹⁵.

The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems

- The measure respects the **mitigation hierarchy**¹⁶ and other relevant requirements under the Habitats and Birds Directives.
- An **environmental impact assessment** has been carried out and the conclusions have been implemented.

¹² The type of supporting evidence is applicable to activities under the scope of Directive 2010/75/EU ('Industrial Emissions Directive'). The list of available BAT conclusions and BREFs can be accessed at: <https://eippcb.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reference>

¹³ This question addresses prevention and control of pollution arising from industrial activities. Article 3(18) of the Directive 2010/75/EU ('Industrial Emissions Directive', EID)⁴ defines 'hazardous substances' as: "substances or mixtures as defined in Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures". In addition, Article 58 of the EID states: "Substances or mixtures which, because of their content of volatile organic compounds classified as carcinogens, mutagens, or toxic to reproduction under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008, are assigned or need to carry the hazard statements H340, H350, H350i, H360D or H360F, shall be replaced, as far as possible by less harmful substances or mixtures within the shortest possible time."

¹⁴ As laid down in the Sustainable Use Directive 2009/128/EC.

¹⁵ Council conclusions on the next steps towards making the EU a best practice region in combating antimicrobial resistance (2019/C 214/01).

¹⁶ In line with the Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6 (3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

ANNEX III: Specific conditions for compliance with the climate change mitigation objective of DNSH under the RRF for measures related to power and/or heat generation, as well as related transmission and distribution infrastructure, using natural gas

- Support for measures related to **natural gas-based power and/or heat generation** can exceptionally be given on a case-by-case basis in Member States that face significant challenges in the transition away from carbon-intensive energy sources, provided that this support would contribute to the EU's decarbonisation objectives for 2030 and 2050, if:
 - Measures relate to future-proof, flexible and efficient gas-fired power production or gas-fired Combined Heat and Power, with GHG emissions lower than 250 gCO₂e/kWh over the economic life-time of the facility;
 - or
 - Measures relate to future-proof, flexible and efficient gas-fired power production or gas-fired Combined Heat and Power, enabled for the use of renewable and low-carbon gases and:
 - the RRP includes credible plans or commitments to increase usage of renewable and low-carbon gases; and
 - result in the simultaneous closure of a significantly more carbon-intensive power plant and/or heat generation facility (e.g. coal, lignite or oil) with at least the same capacity, leading to a significant decrease in GHG emissions; and
 - the Member State concerned can demonstrate that they have a credible trajectory for increasing the share of renewables towards their 2030 renewables target; and
 - the RRP includes concrete reforms and investments to increase the share of renewables.
- Support for measures related to **natural gas-based generation facilities in district heating and cooling systems** can exceptionally be given, if the facility meets the requirements of 'efficient district heating and cooling' systems (as defined in Article 2(41) of the Directive 2012/27/EU) and meets the conditions for natural gas-based heat/power generation as described in the first bullet of this Annex.
- Support for measures related to **district heating and cooling networks that obtain heat/cool from facilities using natural gas** can exceptionally be given, if:
 - they are a part of 'efficient district heating and cooling' systems (as defined in Article 2(41) of the Directive 2012/27/EU), obtaining heat/cool from existing facilities that meet the conditions for natural gas-based heat/power generation as described in the first bullet;
 - or
 - investments in the heat/power generation facility start within three years of the modernisation of the network, aim at making the whole system efficient (as defined in Article 2(41) of the Directive 2012/27/EU) and meet the conditions for natural gas-based heat/power generation as described in the first bullet.
- Support for measures related to **transmission and distribution infrastructure of gaseous fuels** is possible, if they enable at the time of construction the transport (and/or storage) of renewable and low-carbon gases.
- Support for measures related to **natural gas-based boilers and heating systems (and related distribution infrastructure)** can exceptionally be given, on a case-by-case basis, if:

- they are either in line with Article 7(2) of the Energy Labelling Framework Regulation (EU) 2017/1369¹⁷ or are being installed in buildings that are part of a wider energy efficiency or building renovation programme, in line with long-term renovation strategies under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, leading to a substantial improvement in energy performance, and
- lead to a significant decrease in GHG emissions; and
- lead to a significant improvement of the environment (notably due to pollution reduction) and public health, in particular in areas where the EU air quality standards set by Directive 2008/50/EU are exceeded or risk being exceeded, such as when replacing coal- or oil-based heating systems and boilers.

¹⁷ Article 7(2) of the any Energy Labelling Framework Regulation (EU) 2017/1369 stipulates that incentives provided by Member States must aim at the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency, or at higher classes as laid down in a delegated act. For space and water heaters, fossil-fuelled products are generally not in these classes with the possible exception of gas fired micro-cogeneration products.

ANNEX IV: Worked out examples of how to implement the DNSH assessment

This section provides worked out examples of hypothetical measures and the general elements that could form part of the DNSH assessment, using the two steps of the checklist described in Section 3. These examples are provided without prejudice to the level of detail or content required in the description of the measure and the actual DNSH assessment to be performed in the RRFs. The DNSH assessment that will be ultimately required depends on the nature and features of each measure, and cannot be exhaustively covered for the purposes of this document.

Example 1: Energy efficiency measures in existing buildings, including replacement of heating and cooling systems

Description of the measure

Investments in a broad energy efficiency building renovation programme, leading to a substantial improvement in energy performance, aimed at renovation of existing residential housing stock through a variety of energy efficiency measures, including insulation, efficient windows, replacement of heating and cooling systems, green roofs, and installing renewable energy generation equipment (e.g. solar PV panels).

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|------------|-----------|---|
| Climate change mitigation | X | | |
| Climate change adaptation | X | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. No environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and water stress are identified, as no water fittings or water-using appliances are being installed. |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | X | | |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | X | | |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. The building renovation programme does not concern buildings located in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas). |

Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|---|-----------|--|
| <i>Climate change mitigation: Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions?</i> | X | <p>The measure is eligible for intervention field 025 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a climate change coefficient of 40%.</p> <p>The measure is not expected to lead to significant GHG emissions because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The building is not dedicated to extraction, storage, transport or manufacture of fossil fuels. - The renovation programme has the potential to reduce energy use, increase energy efficiency, leading to a substantial improvement in energy performance of the buildings concerned, and significantly reduce GHG emissions (see specifications of the measure on page X of the RRF and specifications in the next point below). As such, it will contribute to the national target of energy efficiency increase per year, set out according to |

| | | |
|---|----------|---|
| | | <p>the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU) and the Nationally Determined Contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This measure will lead to a significant reduction in GHG emissions, i.e. an estimated XX kt of GHG emissions per year, which corresponds to X% of national GHG emissions from the residential sector (see analysis in page X in the RRP). - The renovation programme will, amongst others, include the replacement of coal/oil-based heating systems with gas condensing boilers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o These boilers correspond to class A, which is below the highest two significantly populated classes of energy efficiency in this Member State. Lower-carbon and more efficient alternatives (notably, heat pumps of A++ and A+ classes) were considered but due to the architecture of the buildings covered by the programme, common heat pumps cannot be installed, and gas condensing boilers of class A are the best-performing technologically feasible alternative. o Moreover, the investments in gas condensing boilers are a part of a wider energy efficiency building renovation programme, in line with long-term renovation strategies under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, and leading to a substantial improvement in energy performance. o Alongside the installation of these boilers, the measure also includes the installation of solar PV panels as part of these building renovations. - In order to not hamper the deployment of low-carbon alternatives, in particular heat pumps, across the Member State, reform X of this component (see page Y of the RRP) will lead to a review of relative fuel pricing. |
| <p><i>Climate change adaptation.</i> Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?</p> | <p>X</p> | <p>The physical climate risks that could be material to this measure were assessed as part of an exposure analysis, covering current and future climate, which demonstrated that buildings in the targeted climate zone will be exposed to heatwaves. The measure requires the economic operators to ensure that the technical building systems in the renovated buildings are optimised to provide thermal comfort to the occupants even in those extreme temperatures. There is thus no evidence of significant negative direct and primary indirect effects of the measure across its life-cycle on this environmental objective.</p> |
| <p><i>Transition to a circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling:</i> Is the measure expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or (ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or (iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | <p>X</p> | <p>The measure requires the economic operators carrying out the building renovation to ensure that at least 70% (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste (excluding naturally occurring material referred to in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Decision 2000/532/EC) generated on the construction site will be prepared for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.</p> <p>The measure includes technical specifications for the renewable energy generation equipment that can be installed about their durability, reparability and recyclability as specified on page X of the RRP. In particular, operators will limit waste generation in processes related to construction and demolition, in accordance with the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol. Building designs and construction techniques will support circularity and in particular demonstrate, with reference to ISO 20887 or other standards for assessing the disassemblability or adaptability of buildings, how they are designed to be more resource efficient, adaptable, flexible and dismantlable to enable reuse and recycling.</p> |
| <p><i>Pollution prevention and control:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?</p> | <p>X</p> | <p>The measure is not expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The replacement of oil-based heating systems in particular will lead to significant reductions of emissions to air and a subsequent improvement in public health, in an area where the EU air quality standards set by Directive 2008/50/EU are exceeded or likely to be exceeded. - As described in the justification for the climate change mitigation objective, |

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| | | <p>lower-impact alternatives were considered but are not technologically feasible in the context of this programme. Moreover, the expected average lifetime of the boilers to be installed is 12 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The operators carrying out the renovation are required to ensure that building components and materials used in the building renovation do not contain asbestos nor substances of very high concern as identified on the basis of the list of substances subject to authorisation set out in Annex XIV to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006. - The operators carrying out the renovation are required to ensure that building components and materials used in the building renovation that may come into contact with occupiers emit less than 0,06 mg of formaldehyde per m³ of material or component and less than 0,001 mg of categories 1A and 1B carcinogenic volatile organic compounds per m³ of material or component, upon testing in accordance with CEN/TS 16516 and ISO 16000-3 or other comparable standardised test conditions and determination method. - Measures will be taken to reduce noise, dust and pollutant emissions during renovation works, as described on page X of the RRP. |
|--|--|---|

Example 2: Waste management (construction and demolition waste processing)

Description of the measure

This measure is an investment to support the construction of recycling facilities for construction and demolition waste. More specifically, the facilities sort and process separately collected, non-hazardous and solid waste streams, including from the building renovation component of the RRP. The facilities recycle non-hazardous and solid waste into secondary raw materials by involving a mechanical transformation process. The objective of the measure is to convert more than 50%, in terms of weight, of the processed separately collected, non-hazardous and solid waste into secondary raw materials that are suitable for the substitution of primary construction materials.

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|------------|-----------|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | The measure is eligible for the intervention field 045bis in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a climate change coefficient of 100% since the technical specifications of the support to recycling facilities is conditional on achieving the 50% conversion rate. The objective of the measure and the nature of the intervention field directly support the climate change mitigation objective. |
| Climate change adaptation | X | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. No environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and water stress are identified. In accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU, the screening stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process concluded that no significant effects are expected. Where construction and demolition waste will be stored waiting to be processed will have to be covered, and water infiltration on site will be managed, to avoid that pollutants from the treated waste can be washed off into the local aquifer in case of rain. |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | The measure is eligible for the intervention field 045bis in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with an environmental coefficient of 100% since the technical specifications of the support to recycling facilities is conditional on achieving the 50% conversion rate. The objective of the measure and the nature of the intervention field directly supports the circular economy objective. The measure is consistent with the [national/regional/local] waste management plan. |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. In accordance with Directives 2011/92/EU, the screening stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) |

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|---|--|---|--|
| | | | process was concluded that no significant effects are expected, based on measures taken to reduce noise, dust and pollutant emissions during construction of the recycling facility and its operation (sorting and treatment of waste). The facilities supported by the measure apply the best available techniques described in the Reference Document on Best Available Techniques (BREF) for waste treatment industries. Measures taken to reduce noise, dust and pollutant emissions during construction works are described on page X of the RRP. |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. The operation is not located in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas). In accordance with Directives 2011/92/EU and 92/43/EEC, the screening stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process was concluded that no significant effects are expected. |

Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|--|-----------|--|
| <i>Climate change adaptation: Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?</i> | X | Since the measure relates to two facilities being constructed in proximity to flood-prone areas and the expected life-span of the facilities exceed 10 years, a robust climate risk and vulnerability assessment has been performed, using high resolution, state-of-the-art climate projections across a range of future scenarios consistent with the expected lifetime of the facilities. The conclusions of the assessment have been incorporated in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP). Additionally, the measure specifies the obligation for the economic operators to develop a plan to implement adaptation solutions to reduce material physical climate risks to the recycling facilities (see page X in the RRP). The obligation includes that adaptation solutions do not adversely affect the adaptation efforts or the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of assets and of other economic activities and are consistent with local, sectoral, regional or national adaptation efforts. |

Example 3: Waste incinerator (example of non-compliance with DNSH)

Description of the measure

This measure is an investment to support the construction of new waste incinerators to increase the existing capacity in the country. The aim of the measure is to reduce the landfilling of non-hazardous municipal solid waste and generate energy through waste incineration (waste-to-energy).

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|------------|-----------|--|
| Climate change mitigation | X | | |
| Climate change adaptation | X | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | X | In this particular case, the activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. There is evidence that the measure will not result in environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and water stress in accordance with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). In accordance with Directives 2011/92/EU, the screening stage of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process was concluded that no significant effects are expected. |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | X | | |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | X | |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | X | |

Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Climate change mitigation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions? | X | <p>The facilities supported by the measure aim to minimise CO₂ emissions of fossil origin. This is ensured by incinerating only biomass (and not fossil) material. This is substantiated (see page X in the RRP) and incorporated in the relevant targets linked to Component Y.</p> <p>A monitoring plan is in place for leakage of GHG emissions at each facility, in particular from stored waste to be processed, as reflected in the design of the measure on page X in the RRP.</p> |
| <i>Climate change adaptation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets? | X | <p>Since the three waste incinerators to be supported by the measure are located in landslide prone areas and with an expected life-span of the facilities of 25-30 years, a robust climate risk and vulnerability assessment has been performed, using high resolution, state-of-the-art climate projections across a range of future scenarios consistent with the expected lifetime of the facilities. The conclusions of the assessment have been incorporated in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP).</p> <p>Additionally, the measure specifies the obligation for the economic operators to develop a plan to implement adaptation solutions to reduce material physical climate risks to the waste incinerators (see page X in the RRP). The obligation further includes that adaptation solutions do not adversely affect the adaptation efforts or the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of assets and of other economic activities and are consistent with local, sectoral, regional or national adaptation efforts.</p> |
| <p><i>Transition to a circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling:</i> Is the measure expected to:</p> <p>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or</p> <p>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or</p> <p>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy?</p> | <p><i>Example of non-compliance with DNSH</i></p> | <p><i>While this measure aims to divert, among others, combustible non-recyclable waste from landfills, the Commission would likely consider this measure to develop or “lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste” for the following reasons.</i></p> <p><i>The construction of new waste incinerators to increase the existing incineration capacity in the country leads to a significant increase in the incineration of waste, which does not fall under the category of non-recyclable hazardous waste. Therefore, it is in direct breach of Article 17(1)d(ii) (‘Significant harm to environmental objectives’) of the Taxonomy Regulation.</i></p> <p><i>The measure hampers the development and deployment of available low-impact alternatives with higher levels of environmental performance (e.g. reuse, recycling), and could lead to a lock-in of high-impact assets, considering their lifetime and capacity. Significant amounts of non-hazardous waste (recyclable and non-recyclable, indistinctively) might be used as feedstock, thus hampering, as regards recyclable waste, treatment ranking higher in the waste hierarchy, including recycling. This would undermine the achievement of recycling targets at national/regional level and the national/regional/local Waste Management Plan adopted in accordance with the amended Waste Framework Directive.</i></p> |
| <i>Pollution prevention and control:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to a significant | X | The measure requires the facilities supported to apply the best available techniques laid out in the BAT Conclusions for Waste |

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| increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land? | | <p>Incineration (Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/2010). This is ensured by the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP).</p> <p>The facilities supported by the measure have secured the relevant environmental permit and include mitigation and monitoring of environmental impacts, based on measures taken to reduce and control the level of noise, dust and other pollutant emissions during construction, maintenance works and operation (see page X in the RRP).</p> |
| <p><i>Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems:</i> Is the measure expected to be:</p> <p>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or</p> <p>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</p> | X | <p>An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or screening has been completed in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU, and the required mitigation measures for protecting the environment have been/will be implemented and reflected in the milestones and targets of measure X in Component Y (see page X in the RRP).</p> <p>The incinerators will not be located in or near biodiversity-sensitive areas (including the Natura 2000 network of protected areas, UNESCO World Heritage sites and Key Biodiversity Areas, as well as other protected areas).</p> |

Example 4: Transport infrastructure (roads)

Description of the measure

This measure would consist of investments across two sub-measures:

- Construction of a new highway, part of the Core TEN-T Network, aimed at (i) better connecting a remote region of a Member State with the rest of the country and (ii) improving road safety.
- Construction of electric charging (one charging point per ten vehicles) and hydrogen refuelling points (one refuelling point every X km) along the new highway.

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | | Yes | No | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|--|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | Construction of the new highway | X | | |
| | Construction of charging and refuelling infrastructure | | X | <p>This sub-measure is eligible for intervention field 077 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a climate change coefficient of 100%.</p> <p>In addition, electric charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure (which will be based on green hydrogen produced by electrolyzers) promotes electrification and as such can be considered a necessary investment to enable the shift to an effective climate-neutral economy. Justification and evidence of upscaling of renewables generation capacity at the national level is provided in component X, pages Y-Z of the RRP.</p> |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | X | | |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | | |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | | X | | |
| The protection and restoration of | | X | | |

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| biodiversity and ecosystems | | | |
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Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|---|-----------|---|
| <i>Climate change mitigation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions? | X | <p><i>(Only regarding the sub-measure on the construction of a new highway:)</i></p> <p>The measure is not expected to lead to significant GHG emissions, as the new highway forms part of the comprehensive transport plan¹⁸ aimed at decarbonising transport in line with 2030 and 2050 climate targets. In particular, this is due to the following accompanying measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the coupling of the road investment with electric charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure; - reform X (pages Y-Z) of this component, which introduces tolling for this road and others; - reform Y (pages Y-Z) of this component, which increases taxation for conventional fuels; - reform Z (pages Y-Z) of this component, which provides incentives for the purchasing of zero emission vehicles; - and measures XX and XY (pages Y-Z) of this component, which support the modal shift towards rail and/or inland waterways. |
| <i>Climate change adaptation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets? | X | <p>Since the measure relates to the construction of a road and related charging and refuelling infrastructure in an area prone to heat stress and temperature variability and the expected life-span of the assets exceeds 10 years, a climate risk and vulnerability assessment has been performed, using climate projections across a range of future scenarios consistent with the expected lifetime of the facilities. In particular, a flood risk analysis was carried out and two segments where specific adaptation solution need to be implemented have been identified. Special attention has been paid to sensitive elements like bridges and tunnels. The conclusions of the assessment have been incorporated in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP).</p> <p>Additionally, the measure specifies the obligation for the economic operators to develop a plan to implement adaptation solutions to reduce material physical climate risks to the road and related charging and refuelling infrastructure (see page X in the RRP). The obligation includes that adaptation solutions do not adversely affect the adaptation efforts or the level of resilience to physical climate risks of other people, of nature, of assets and of other economic activities and are consistent with local, sectoral, regional or national adaptation efforts.</p> |
| <i>Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources:</i> Is the measure expected to be detrimental: (i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or (ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters? | X | <p>An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out for the construction of the road and installation of the related charging and refuelling infrastructure, in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU. The required mitigation steps for protecting the environment will be implemented, which has been reflected in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP). The EIA included an assessment of the impact on water in accordance with Directive 2000/60/EC and the risks identified have been addressed in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP).</p> <p>Environmental degradation risks related to preserving water quality and avoiding water stress are identified and addressed in accordance with the requirements under Directive 2000/60/EC (Water Framework Directive) and with a River Basin Management Plan developed for the potentially affected water body or bodies in consultation with relevant stakeholders (see page X in the RRP).</p> |

¹⁸ Or, in the absence of a comprehensive sustainable transport plan, a specific cost-benefit analysis performed at project-level shows that the project itself leads to a decrease / does not lead to an increase of GHG emissions throughout its life cycle.

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| <p><i>Transition to a circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling:</i> Is the measure expected to:</p> <p>(i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or</p> <p>(ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or</p> <p>(iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy?</p> | X | <p>The measure requires the operators carrying out the road construction to ensure that at least 70 % (by weight) of the non-hazardous construction and demolition waste from the construction of the road and related charging and refuelling infrastructure (excluding naturally occurring material defined in category 17 05 04 in the European List of Waste established by Commission Decision 2000/532/EC) generated on the construction site will be prepared for re-use, recycling and other material recovery, including backfilling operations using waste to substitute other materials, in accordance with the waste hierarchy and the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol.</p> <p>The operators will limit waste generation during construction, in accordance with the EU Construction and Demolition Waste Management Protocol and taking into account best available techniques and facilitate re-use and high-quality recycling by selective removal of materials, using available sorting systems for construction waste.</p> |
| <p><i>Pollution prevention and control:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land?</p> | X | <p>The measure is not expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, as it forms part of the comprehensive transport plan and is in line with the National Air Pollution Control Programme. In particular, this is due to the following accompanying measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the coupling of the road investment with electric charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure; - reform X (pages Y-Z) of this component, which introduces tolling for this road and others; - reform Y (pages Y-Z) of this component, which increases taxation for conventional fuels; - reform Z (pages Y-Z) of this component, which provides incentives for the purchasing of zero emission vehicles; - and measures XX and XY (pages Y-Z) of this component, which support the modal shift towards rail and/or inland waterways. <p>In addition, noise and vibrations from use of the road and related charging and refuelling infrastructure will be mitigated by introducing wall barriers that comply with Directive 2002/49/EC.</p> |
| <p><i>Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems:</i> Is the measure expected to be:</p> <p>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or</p> <p>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</p> | X | <p>An Environmental Impact Assessment was carried out for the construction of the road and related charging and refuelling infrastructure, in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU and Directive 92/43/EEC. The required mitigation steps for reducing land fragmentation and degradation, in particular green corridors and other habitat connectivity measures, as well as the relevant protected animals species listed in Annex IV of Directive 92/43/EEC, have been based on established conservation objectives and have been implemented, which has been reflected in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP).</p> |

Example 5: Car scrappage scheme (example of non-compliance with DNSH)

Description of the measure

This measure is a scrappage scheme for the replacement of currently used internal combustion-engine cars by more efficient ones also relying on internal combustion (i.e. diesel or petrol combustion). The incentive takes the form of a unitary grant per scrapped and acquired car but can also take a more sophisticated form (tax deduction).

The measure seeks to replace older, more polluting vehicles with more recent and therefore less polluting equivalents. For the purpose of this example, it is assumed that this scheme only requires the shift to a new generation of product (e.g. a successive level of the Euro standards) within the same technology.

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | Yes | No | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|-----|----|--|
| Climate change mitigation | X | | |
| Climate change adaptation | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | X | | |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | X | | |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. |

Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|--|--|--|
| <i>Climate change mitigation:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to significant GHG emissions? | <i>Example of non-compliance with DNSH</i> | <i>Combustion cars produce CO₂ (and particulate emissions, NO, volatile organic compounds and various other hazardous air pollutants including benzene). As regards climate change mitigation, the acquisition of new cars (to replace old ones) would diminish emission but still lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions (The average CO₂ emissions, measured in laboratory tests, of new passenger cars registered in the EU and Iceland in 2018 were 120.8 grams of CO₂ per kilometre). The Commission is likely to reject the argument that new generation diesel or petrol cars represent the best available alternative in the sector and that therefore the investment does not breach DNSH. Electric cars represent a better available alternative with a higher environmental performance (i.e., lower levels of lifecycle emissions) in the sector in terms of climate change mitigation. Therefore, the Commission would be likely to consider that the scrappage scheme would lead to a significant harm to climate mitigation.</i> |
| <i>Circular economy and waste management:</i> Is the measure expected to: (i) lead to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or (ii) lead to significant inefficiencies in the direct or indirect use of any natural resource at any stage of its life | X | Measures are in place to manage waste both in the use phase (maintenance) and the end-of-life of the fleet, including through reuse and recycling of batteries and electronics (in particular critical raw materials therein), in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Production impacts are factored in, and the scheme will not encourage the premature scrapping of serviceable vehicles. In particular, the scheme requires that any scrapped car is processed by an Authorised Treatment Facility (ATF) according to the end-of-life vehicles directive (2000/53/EC) as proven by a certificate required to take part in the scheme. Additionally, the measure is accompanied by an activity that promotes the harvest of parts by the ATFs for their ultimate re- |

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| cycle which are not minimised by adequate measures; or (iii) cause significant and long-term harm to the environment in respect to the circular economy? | | use and remanufacturing. |
| <i>Pollution prevention and control:</i> Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants ¹⁹ into air, water or land? | <i>Example of non-compliance with DNSH</i> | <i>Combustion-engine cars emit among others carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and unburnt hydrocarbons (HC). Given the average practices and regulatory requirements in the industry²⁰, the Commission would be unlikely to consider that the measure does not lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, for similar considerations as those set out for climate change mitigation.</i> |

Example 6: Land irrigation

Description of the measure

The measure envisages primarily investments in an existing and in-use irrigation system in region X to use more efficient irrigation methods and promote safe re-use of reclaimed water. The aim is to compensate water scarcity of soil caused by droughts and as such to contribute to climate change adaptation, in particular as regards agricultural crops. The measure will be accompanied by the promotion and support for sustainable agricultural practices, in particular more sustainable and efficient irrigation systems and natural water retention measures, switching to crops and management practices with lower water requirements, as well as more sustainable fertilisation practices.

Part 1 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Please indicate which of the environmental objectives below require a substantive DNSH assessment of the measure</i> | <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Justification if 'No' has been selected</i> |
|---|------------|-----------|--|
| Climate change mitigation | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. This is ensured because the new system/equipment will be energy-efficient and hence the absolute emissions will not increase despite a modest increase in the irrigated area, and/or because the electricity to power the equipment will be wind or solar derived. Irrigation can indirectly facilitate the continuation of agricultural practices that compromise the carbon sink function of agricultural soils or even turn them into net emitters. The meaningful promotion and support for sustainable agricultural practices as part of the measure indicates no further deterioration on that account, and ought to lead to an improvement. |
| Climate change adaptation | X | | |
| The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources | X | | |
| The circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling | | X | The activity that is supported by the measure has an insignificant foreseeable impact on this environmental objective, taking into account both the direct and primary indirect effects across the life cycle. The measure will not lead to |

¹⁹ Pollutant means a substance, vibration, heat, noise, light or other contaminant present in air, water or land which may be harmful to human health or the environment.

²⁰ The composition varies from petrol to diesel engines. Euro 5 and 6 Regulation 715/2007/EC sets the emission limits for cars for regulated pollutants, in particular nitrogen oxides (NOx, i.e. the combined emissions of NO and NO₂) of 80mg/km.

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| | | | significant inefficiencies in the use of resources nor to increase the generation of waste. |
| Pollution prevention and control to air, water or land | X | | |
| The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems | X | | |

Part 2 of the DNSH checklist

| <i>Questions</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Substantive justification</i> |
|---|-----------|---|
| <i>Climate change adaptation: Is the measure expected to lead to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the measure itself or on people, nature or assets?</i> | X | <p>The measure is not expected to be detrimental to climate change adaptation for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The main part of the measure contributes to a limited extent to improving resilience to climate change impacts in the short term, since it enhances irrigation without increasing water abstraction. This positive contribution is possible only in so far as the current and projected state of the water bodies affected are in a good state (or are reasonably not expected to deteriorate to a less than good state according to reliable projections). If this were not to be the case, the rate of abstraction would therefore be unsustainable, and the investment would not qualify as a climate adaptation measure (and would be a borderline mal-adaptation measure) even if it doesn't make the underlying situation worse, as it would prolong the lifetime of a fundamentally unsustainable structure. The measure is in principle eligible for the intervention field 040 in the Annex to the RRF Regulation with a climate change coefficient of 40% since the measure is a water management measure that is aimed at managing water scarcity which is exacerbated by climate-related risks, i.e. droughts. - The promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and natural water retention measures, would, by contrast, fit into intervention field 037, directly supporting the climate change adaptation objective. For the whole measure to qualify under 037, the latter would need to be predominant, or at least sufficiently convincing in size, scale and detail. |
| <i>The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources: Is the measure expected to be detrimental:</i> (i) to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or (ii) to the good environmental status of marine waters? | X | <p>The measure is not expected to be detrimental to the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources. The measure is aimed at improving the sustainable use of water resources, in particular through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting the switch by the farmers to crops and management practices with lower water requirements; supporting farmers to implement measures that increase the soil water retention capability and water storage at farm level; - implementing irrigation system that allows the re-use of water in line with the Water Framework Directive and does not lead to an increment of water abstraction. The measure will contain investments in infrastructures to enable the safe re-use of reclaimed water for agricultural purposes. Through this investment, it will become possible to use treated urban waste water for the irrigation of nearby crop fields and prepare for the application of the new Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse (EU/2020/741); - investing in more sustainable and efficient irrigation systems that require less water, such as localised irrigation. This at the same time will lead to less nutrient leaking to the ground waters as well as nearby inland water bodies; - where the activity involves water abstraction, a permit for water abstraction has been granted by the relevant authority, specifying conditions to avoid deterioration and ensure that affected water bodies achieve good quantitative status (in case of groundwater) or good ecological status or potential (in case of surface water) at the latest by 2027, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC; - an environmental impact assessment in line with the EIA Directive has been conducted and all the necessary mitigating steps have been identified and reflected in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP). |
| <i>Pollution prevention and control: Is the measure expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air,</i> | X | <p>The measure is not expected to lead to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into air, water or land because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - of the use of ultra-efficient energy consuming equipment, or that powered from renewable energy sources; |

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| water or land? | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - with the installation of more efficient irrigation systems (explained above), the nutrient runoff from agriculture will be reduced. - with the support to farmers to switch to crops and management practices with lower water requirements and the increment of water availability at farm level, less water will be used for irrigation; - sustainable agricultural practices will be supported which will in turn require less pesticides leading to less water and land pollution. |
| <p><i>The protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems: Is the measure expected to be:</i></p> <p>(i) significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or</p> <p>(ii) detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest?</p> | X | <p>The measure will not have detrimental effects on biodiversity and ecosystems because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the irrigation projects covered by this measure are not located in protected sites, or will not have negative effects on such sites in light of their conservation objectives. Any disturbance of species or negative impact on habitats outside those sites, both during the construction and operation phases, will be avoided through the necessary prevention and mitigation steps, which are reflected in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP); - an environmental impact assessment in line with the EIA Directive has been conducted and all the necessary mitigating steps have been identified and reflected in the design of the measure (see page X in the RRP); - it complies with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directive; it was subject to an Article 6(3) assessment under the Habitats Directive (integrated in this particular case within the environmental impact assessment procedure) which excluded significant effects on Natura 2000 sites; - by supporting sustainable agricultural practices, it will in turn require less pesticides hence mitigating the negative impact on biodiversity (insects, birds, life in the soil) and may include more crop diversity, also supporting biodiversity. |