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MODERNISATION FUND

Accelerating the transition to climate neutrality

MODERNISATION FUND

EIB CONFIRMATION OF PRIORITY INVESTMENT

ref. MF 2025-1 EL 0-002

Beneficiary Member State: Greece

Investment Proposal: Replacement of urban diesel buses by 50 new urban fuel cell electric buses fueled by renewable hydrogen in Athens

1. Background

The Modernisation Fund was set up pursuant to Article 10d of Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 October 2003 establishing a system for greenhouse gas emission allowance trading within the Union and amending Council Directive 96/61/EC (the “ETS Directive”).

The legal basis for the operation of the Modernisation Fund is set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1001 of 9 July 2020 laying down detailed rules for the application of Directive 2003/87/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the operation of the Modernisation Fund supporting investments to modernise the energy systems and to improve energy efficiency of certain Member States (the “Implementing Regulation”).

In accordance with Article 10d(6) of the ETS Directive, the European Investment Bank (the “EIB”) is to confirm whether a proposed investment falls into a priority area. The EIB may confirm the proposal as a priority investment if the conditions specified in Article 6(7) of the Implementing Regulation are met.

2. Investment proposal

Pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Implementing Regulation, on 18/02/2025 Greece (the “beneficiary Member State”) submitted to the EIB an investment proposal “Replacement of urban diesel buses by 50 new urban fuel cell electric buses fueled by renewable hydrogen in Athens” for which it envisages a contribution from the Modernisation Fund (Modernisation Fund reference number MF 2025-1 EL 0-002).

The investment proposal concerns a project for the period 2025-2027 to support the purchase of 50 urban Fuel Cell Electric Buses (FCEBs) for replacing 50 diesel buses for urban transport in Athens, Greece.

The beneficiary Member State has requested Modernisation Fund funding for the investment proposal of EUR 37 500 000.

The main objective of the investment is to substitute fossil fuel in the public road transport through the use of renewable hydrogen in FCEBs and to save energy through energy efficiency in transport.

Electric mobility is one of the priorities in the transport sector and the improvement of energy efficiency of urban public transport systems one of the measures foreseen in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for Greece.

3. *Compliance with the conditions for a priority investment*

- a) The beneficiary Member State has demonstrated that the investment complies with the requirements laid down in Article 10d(1) of the ETS Directive as it supports the modernisation of the energy system and energy efficiency and it is in line with the objectives and measures set out in its NECP.
- b) According to the information provided by the beneficiary Member State and pursuant to Article 10d(2) Directive 2003/87/EC, the investment is considered as a priority investment as it falls under the priority area c) the reduction of overall energy use through energy efficiency in transport.
- c) The beneficiary Member State has sufficient funds available from allowances referred in Article 10(1), the fourth subparagraph of Directive 2003/87/EC – 2.5% for the requested disbursement, according to the statement of the available funds referred to in Article 5(1) of the Implementing Regulation, and after deduction of any amounts to be disbursed for investments already confirmed in accordance with Article 6(9) of the Implementing Regulation.
- d) The beneficiary Member State has provided evidence that the measures under the investment proposal:
 - are exempted from the State aid notification in accordance with applicable State aid rules.
- e) The beneficiary Member State has demonstrated that the investment complies with Article 10f of the Directive 2003/87/EC.
- f) The beneficiary Member State has confirmed in writing that the investment complies with any other applicable requirements of Union and national law.
- g) According to the information provided by the beneficiary Member State, the amounts requested from the Modernisation Fund are not intended to cover the same costs of the investment as those financed by another Union or national instrument.

4. Conclusions

The EIB has assessed the investment proposal based on the information submitted by the beneficiary Member State in accordance with Article 4 and Annex 1 of the Implementing Regulation and it has concluded that the investment proposal has met the conditions specified in Article 6(7) of the Implementing Regulation.

In view of the above, and in reliance on the information and evidence provided and the confirmations given by the beneficiary Member State as described in paragraph 3 above, the EIB confirms the proposal “Replacement of urban diesel buses by 50 new urban fuel cell electric buses fueled by renewable hydrogen in Athens” (Modernisation Fund reference number MF 2025-1 EL 0-002) as a priority investment.

This confirmation is without prejudice to the requirement for a disbursement decision to be made pursuant to Article 10d(3) of the ETS Directive.

European Investment Bank
Luxembourg, 17th March 2025