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MODERNISATION FUND

Accelerating the transition to climate neutrality

MODERNISATION FUND

EIB CONFIRMATION OF PRIORITY INVESTMENT

ref. MF 2025-2 HR 0-001

Beneficiary Member State: Croatia

Investment Proposal: Investment in battery electric motor units (BEMUs)/trains with a construction of a charging station in northern Croatia, powered by a photovoltaic power plant with energy storage

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 09/09/2025 Croatia (the “beneficiary Member State”) submitted to the EIB an investment proposal “Investment in battery electric motor units (BEMUs)/trains with a construction of a charging station in northern Croatia, powered by a photovoltaic power plant with energy storage” for which it envisages a contribution from the Modernisation Fund (Modernisation Fund reference number (MF 2025-2 HR 0-001).

The investment proposal concerns a project for the period 2025-2029 relating to the purchase of six battery electric trains, BEMUs (Battery Electric Multiple Units) and one charging station powered by photovoltaic power plant with energy storage. These new trains will replace the old diesel trains which will be withdrawn from operation on Croatian railway network.

The beneficiary Member State has requested funding of EUR 53 600 000 for a disbursement under the proposed project.

The beneficiary Member State has indicated a total expected Modernisation Fund funding for the investment proposal of EUR 53 600 000.

The project is a part of a wider rolling stock modernisation programme, which will ensure decarbonisation of railway transport, more efficient and competitive rail passenger transport and contribute to the sustainability of the transport system in the Republic of Croatia. It will also increase the level of energy efficiency of the transport system and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The project is aligned with the objectives of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for Croatia which comprises measures for development energy-efficient rail transport.

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 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 areas a) the generation and use of electricity from renewable sources, c) the reduction of overall energy use through energy efficiency in transport and d) energy storage and the modernisation of energy networks, including demand-side management, district heating pipelines, grids for electricity transmission, the increase of interconnections between Member States and infrastructure for zero-emission mobility.
- c) The beneficiary Member State has sufficient funds available from the auctioning of allowances referred in Article 10(1), the third subparagraph of Directive 2003/87/EC – 2% and 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 do not constitute State aid within the meaning of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

- 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 “Investment in battery electric motor units (BEMUs)/trains with a construction of a charging station in northern Croatia, powered by a photovoltaic power plant with energy storage” (Modernisation Fund reference number MF 2025-2 HR 0-001) 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, 6th October 2025