



**SECOND PARTY OPINION<sup>1</sup>**  
**ON THE SUSTAINABILITY OF SYCTOM'S GREEN LOAN**  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## SCOPE

Vigeo Eiris was commissioned to provide an independent opinion on the sustainability credentials and management of the Green Loan (the "Loan") proposed to be borrowed by Sycotom (the "Borrower") relating to the construction of a sorting centre to increase the capacity to manage waste from Parisian districts and nearby municipalities.

Our opinion is established according to our Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") exclusive assessment methodology, in line with the Green Loan Principles (the "GLP") voluntary guidelines of the Loan Market Association (LMA).

Our opinion is based on the review of the two following components:

1. **Borrower:** we have assessed the Borrower's potential involvement in ESG controversies and controversial activities<sup>2</sup>.
2. **Loan:** we have assessed the consistency of the Loan's use of proceeds, its contribution to sustainability and its alignment with the GLP.

Our information sources are multi-channel, combining data from our organization rating database, information provided by the Borrower, the press content providers and stakeholders, complemented by interviews with the Borrower's employees at Sycotom's offices in Paris. We carried out our due diligence assessment from December 6<sup>th</sup> to January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

We could access the appropriate documents and people we solicited. We consider that the provided information enables us to establish our opinion with a reasonable level of assurance on its relevance, precision and reliability.

## VIGEO EIRIS' OPINION

**Vigeo Eiris is of the opinion that the Loan considered to be borrowed by Sycotom is aligned with the Green Loan Principles guidelines.**

**We express a reasonable assurance on the Borrower's commitments and on the Selected Project's contribution to sustainable development. The Selected Project is likely to contribute to three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 9. industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11. sustainable cities and communities and 12. Responsible consumption and production.**

### 1. Borrower:

No controversy or allegation implicating the Borrower on its social and environmental responsibility factors was identified.

Sycotom is not involved in any of the 15 controversial activities screened under our methodology

### 2. Loan:

Sycotom has formalised its commitments and the characteristics relating to its first Green Loan in a Framework Document. The Borrower commits to make this document and the Second Opinion publicly accessible, in line with good market practices.

We are of the opinion that the Bonds are coherent with Sycotom's strategic priorities and sector issues, and contributes to achieving its environmental commitments.

The funds made available are used to finance and refinance the Selected Project, which is likely to contribute to the objectives of pollution prevention and control and climate change mitigation.

- ▶ The environmental objectives associated with the Project are measurable, relevant, and precise.
- ▶ Vigeo Eiris estimates that the definition of the Selected Project is clear and relevant.
- ▶ The Borrower commits to evaluate and quantify the environmental benefits of the Selected Project.

The governance and process for evaluating and selecting the Project is documented and relevant.

- ▶ The process is based on explicit eligibility criteria (selection and exclusion).

<sup>1</sup> This opinion is to be considered as a "Second Party Opinion" as described by the International Capital Market Association ([www.icmagroup.org](http://www.icmagroup.org)).

<sup>2</sup> Alcohol, Animal welfare, Chemicals of concern, Civilian firearms, Fossil Fuels industry, Coal, Tar sands and oil shale, Gambling, Genetic engineering, High interest rate lending, Military, Nuclear Power, Pornography, Reproductive Medicine and Tobacco.

- ▶ We are of the opinion that the identification and management of the environmental and social risks associated with the Project are good for the construction and operation phase.

We consider that the rules for managing funds are clearly defined.

- ▶ The allocation process is clearly defined.
- ▶ The allocation of funds is documented and in line with market practices:.
- ▶ The traceability is ensured, although verification is partially ensured.

The monitoring and reporting process seem convincing, covering the allocation of funds, as well as environmental objectives (performance) and expected benefits (impacts).

## EXTERNAL REVIEW

Syctom's Loan is supported by external reviews:

- A pre-issuance consultant review: a Second Party Opinion delivered by Vigeo Eiris on the degree to which environmental impacts and sustainability factors are taken into account in the design and management of the Loan, covering all components of the operation.

We have suggested to conduct a post-issuance verification, by an audit firm or other external stakeholder, covering (i) the management of proceeds (internal controls, tracking and funds allocation) and (ii) reporting data on the impact of the Project funded, on an annual basis and until the funds are fully allocated.

An annual audit of the financial accounts is conducted by the public accountant and the regional audit chamber<sup>3</sup>.

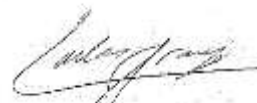
*The validity of this second opinion is limited to the Syctom's first Green Loan.*

Paris, January 24 2019



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<sup>3</sup> The public accountant establishes a management account containing the local authority's accounting balance sheet (describing the local authority's assets and liabilities). This external review is a public policy obligation  
The regional audit chamber regularly examines the management activities of local authorities. This management review covers the regularity of management actions and the evaluation of the results achieved in relation to the objectives set by the deliberative assembly.

## DETAILED RESULTS

### Part I. BORROWER

Syctom is the metropolitan household waste agency, a European public operator for the treatment and recovery of household waste. Its activities benefit nearly 6 million inhabitants in 85 municipalities in the Ile-de-France region in 12 member territories.

#### Stakeholder-related ESG controversies

No controversy or allegation implicating the Borrower on its social and environmental responsibility factors was identified.

#### Involvement in controversial activities

Syctom is not involved in any of the 15 controversial activities screened under our methodology, namely: Alcohol, Animal welfare, Chemicals of concern, Civilian firearms, Fossil Fuels industry, Coal, Tar sands and oil shale, Gambling, Genetic engineering, High interest rate lending, Military, Nuclear Power, Pornography, Reproductive Medicine and Tobacco.

### Part II. LOAN

#### Coherence of the Loan

**We are of the opinion that the Bonds are coherent with Syctom's strategic priorities and sector issues, and contributes to achieving its environmental commitments.**

The improvement of waste management is considered as a key issue for the promotion of a sustainable environment. Projections of global population growth require an increase in waste management capacity and the efficiency of existing treatment mechanisms, promoting energy recovery and production.

In France, the Energy Transition Law for Green Growth (LTECV) stipulates that by 2025, each inhabitant must be able to sort their bio-waste. The law also requires a 30% reduction in non-hazardous waste landfill by 2020 compared to 2010 and a 50% reduction by 2025.

Syctom intends to adapt and transform itself in order to allow an ecological and energy transition, and achieve an efficient functioning of the waste and energy management market on its territory. As a result, Syctom has launched a long-term strategy to integrate its business lines into a sustainable development perspective:

- By 2031, Syctom is committed to developing a metropolitan waste prevention plan to take into account regulatory and technological developments in the sector. In addition, Syctom plans to develop a new sorting centre while adapting existing ones.
- Syctom is planning a more integrated collection and treatment improvement programme, making it possible to join the zero waste territories scheme. In 2015, Syctom applied for and was selected in the Ministry of the Environment's call for projects "zéro déchet, zéro gaspillage"<sup>4</sup> territories, aimed at identifying and supporting local authorities that are committed to preventing, reusing and recycling their waste.
- Syctom's objective is to provide itself with the means to eradicate the burial of raw household waste produced on its territory by 2025, in order to comply with the requirements of the LTE-CV.
- A support system 2015-2020 plan is in place to promote the sorting at origin of bio-waste and the improvement of the selective collection of household packaging and graphic papers. This approach is supported by financial means, collection studies and low pricing incentives for bio-waste.
- Syctom also plans to direct waste refuse towards energy recovery and increase steam production. Syctom estimates that 55% of total refusals are incinerable and intends to direct around 44,000 tonnes (2025) and 40,000 tonnes (2031) of these refusals towards energy recovery in the future.

Thus, by obtaining a Green Loan to finance the Selected Project, Syctom is responding coherently to the challenges of its sector, while remaining in line with its public commitments.

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<sup>4</sup> "Zero waste, zero waste"

### Use of Proceeds

The funds made available are used to finance and refinance the Selected Project, which is likely to contribute to the objectives of pollution prevention and control and climate change mitigation.

The environmental objectives associated with the Project are measurable, relevant, and precise.

Vigeo Eiris estimates that the definition of the Selected Project is clear and relevant.

The Borrower commits to evaluate and quantify the environmental benefits of the Selected Project.

The funds made available for Sycotm's first Green Loan are used to finance or refinance, in part, the Selected Project corresponding to the:

- Waste sorting center Paris XVII

The Selected Project is located on French territory and corresponds to construction or operating expenses.

The Borrower has formalized the definition of the Selected Project in its Framework Document, and has identified the objectives and expected environmental benefits. The Borrower has undertaken to evaluate and quantify the environmental objectives and benefits of the Selected Project.

Category	Definition	Objectives and expected benefits	Vigeo Eiris analysis
<b>Pollution Prevention and Control</b>	Construction of the sorting center Paris XVII, enabling the optimisation of industrial operations and the recycling of urban waste.	<b>Pollution Prevention and Control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Recycling of 95% of the recyclable part, i.e. 73% of the total collected part.</i></li></ul> <b>Climate Change Mitigation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through the integration of renewable energies, waste recovery and CO2 absorption through the installation of green surfaces.</i></li></ul>	The definition of the Selected Project is clear and the content is relevant, in line with the Borrower's strategy. The environmental objectives of the Project are precise, measurable and relevant. In addition, Sycotm commits to quantify them. The environmental benefits will be assessed and quantified by the Borrower.

Sycotm has established in its Framework Document that, in the event of refinancing, the allocation of the expenses will not exceed 24 months before the date of subscription of the Loan, in line with good market practices. For this first loan, the refinancing percentage is estimated at 100%.

In addition, Sycotm has committed to allocate all the funds within 6 months of their availability.

**Vigeo Eiris considers that the Selected Project is likely to contribute to three United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11. Sustainable cities and communities and 12. Responsible consumption and production.**



#### Contribution to SDG 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

The Borrowing is likely to contribute to SDG 9 and its objectives of building a resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization that benefits all and encouraging innovation, including:

- 9.4. By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities



### Contribution to SDG 11. Sustainable cities and communities

The Borrowing is likely to contribute to SDG 11 and its objectives of ensuring that cities and human settlements are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, including:

- 11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.



### Contribution to SDG 12. Responsible consumption and production

The Borrowing is likely to contribute to ODD 12 and its objectives of establishing sustainable consumption and production patterns; including:

- 12.2 By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.
- 12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.
- 12.5 By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.

## Evaluation and Selection Process

### **The governance and process for evaluating and selecting the Project is documented and relevant.**

The process for evaluating and selecting the Selected Project for this first green loan is clearly defined and formalised in the Framework Document.

- The process is reasonably structured. It is based on relevant internal and external expertise, with well-defined roles and responsibilities:
  - The Finance, Operations and Technical departments present the multi-year investment programme containing the project financed by the Green Loan to the General Management, which reviews and approves the proposed Project.
  - The Strategic Committee of elected officials validates the Project.
  - The Trade Union Committee approves the Project during the Budgetary Orientation Debate.
  - A Steering Committee has been set up to lead the Selected Project.
  - The Selected Project is part of a public procurement process.
- Traceability is ensured throughout the process, and verification is partially ensured by an internal system:
  - The Steering Committee meets at key stages of the Project. Presentations and decision statements ensure traceability. An annual meeting is held for the Project.
  - We have suggested that an independent external third party be hired to verify compliance between the funded projects and the eligibility criteria defined in the Framework Document in the event of a reallocation of funds, should the Project be transferred.

### **The process is based on explicit eligibility criteria (selection and exclusion).**

- The selection criteria are based on the definitions of the Eligible Project, for which criteria are explicitly stated, including:
  - Compliance with the best safety standards in force
  - Building that aims to minimize the environmental and social impact in the its area of influence (harmony with the district, water and energy consumption, privileged rail transport and maximum reduction of nuisances).
- The Borrower has also defined relevant financial exclusion criteria, in particular to exclude the portion of investments covered by other sources of financing.

**We are of the opinion that the identification and management of the environmental and social risks associated with the Project are good for the construction and operation phase.**

The process for identifying and managing environmental and social risks is described in the Project documentation.

- Environmental management and eco-design: A "Green Building Site Charter" and an "Environmental and Sustainable Development Requirements Rulebook" have been adopted by Sycotm. These documents guide the environmental activities of the constructors and operators. The bidding process included several selection criteria, such as water conservation, visual and acoustic nuisances, air emissions and energy consumption. Concerning the end of the Project's life, Sycotm is required to return the land to the City of Paris in the same condition as it received it.
- Control of energy consumption and reduction of polluting emissions: the Green Building Site Charter establishes the use of low-energy lamps for the lighting of construction buildings, regulation from presence detectors coupled with light sensors and the use of timer switches for sanitary facilities. Provisions for site heating are also prescribed and include the use of exterior walls with appropriate thermal resistance and limitation of thermal bridges in load-bearing structures. At the same time, the maximum heating temperature is limited to 20°C and electric heaters equipped with a dynamic appliance control system will be favoured.

During the operating phase, the buildings will be in line with the RT2012 standard for thermal insulation, natural lighting will be favoured and lighting detectors will be installed. The centre will also produce energy due to the installation of nearly 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> of photovoltaic panels (250kW) in its roof. Additionally, 85% of the heat supply will be obtained from renewable sources.

- Biodiversity protection: a study on fauna, flora and natural habitat was conducted for the Project. The design of the Project includes the installation of green terraces and walls as well as the delimitation of green spaces. In addition, none of the operating areas are considered to be Natura 2000 sites. In terms of water consumption, pre-treatment of wastewater is planned, as well as rainwater harvesting.
- Pollution prevention and controls: Sycotm conducts pollution risk studies, including fire, seismic, flood, road, river and rail risks. In addition, soil and subsoil studies were carried out. There are procedures for the prevention of diesel fuel leaks during operations. ISO 14001 certification, which will be obtained for the operation phase, includes the implementation of an industrial emergency plan.
- Health and safety management: during the construction phase, Sycotm relies on a Health Protection Safety Coordinator, whose mandate is to be present on site for 5 half-days a week. However, no processes for obtaining OHSAS 18001 certification could be identified.

For the operation phase, as part of its CSR strategy development, Sycotm is developing a safety policy based on a continuous improvement approach in the areas of compliance with the Machinery Directive, risk prevention during waste unloading and fire risk prevention. In addition, operators will obtain OHSAS 18001 certification. For sorting staff, particular attention has been paid to the ergonomics of manual sorting stations and air treatment in cabins. In addition, fire safety is guaranteed throughout the chain, from the upstream storage area, equipped with a fire detection and protection system, to the downstream storage area, which is designed to be fireproof.

- Economic and social development nearby sites and social dialogue: a public consultation was launched during the design of the Project, aiming to obtain the authorization of the Project by local authorities. Sycotm commits to ensure a continuous dialogue with the various actors involved in the Project. During the construction phase, local residents and stakeholders are informed about the various phases of the works by means of posters, particularly on environmental matters. A system of registers makes it possible to collect questions and complaints and provide answers. Clauses for the integration of people in difficulty are included in the contracts with the constructors and operator of the Project, aimed at promoting the return to employment of people who are unemployed or who face difficulty integrating the labour force.

## Management of proceeds

### **We consider that the rules for managing funds are clearly defined.**

The allocation process is clearly defined and the allocation of funds is documented and in line with market practices:

- The loan has already been signed and Sycotom has placed the funds in its treasury account (Regional Directorate of Public Finance).
- The funds invested in the Selected Project are monitored via Sycotom's internal systems. An internal file will summarize the amount of loans qualified as "green" and the amount of expenses in the Selected Project, up to an equivalent amount. The date of allocation of funds will also be indicated.
- The Sycotom commits to allocate all the funds within 6 months of the signature of the Loan.  
The refinancing period is limited to 24 months before the signature of the Loan, in line with good market practice.
- The rules for the management of unallocated funds are those in force for cash management. The Sycotom is subject to the obligations applicable to local authorities in terms of accounting units. In particular, Sycotom is required to deposit free funds within the Public Treasury
- If the Project were to be transferred and no longer belonged to Sycotom, the funds would be allocated to an equivalent project such as the continuous improvement of sorting centres. The associated reallocation period will be 24 months.

Traceability is ensured, although verification is partially ensured:

- A Steering Committee will meet at least once a year to verify the allocation of funds.

We recommended that an external auditor be hired to carry out this verification.

## Monitoring & Reporting

### **The monitoring and reporting process seems convincing, covering the allocation of funds, as well as environmental objectives (performance) and expected benefits (impacts).**

The process for monitoring, consolidating and reporting non-financial information is clearly defined by the Borrower.

- Each department concerned is in charge of monitoring the non-financial information for which it is responsible.
- The consolidation of this information is centralised by the Finance department, with the support of the departments concerned.

Sycotom's reporting commitments are in line with market practices:

- The Sycotom commits to prepare and make available to the public information concerning the allocation and environmental performance and impacts of the Loan, through its Activity Reports:
  - The selected allocation indicators are relevant: the amount of Borrowed proceeds, the amount of the Loan not yet allocated to eligible investments and the distribution of funds by type of expenditure.
  - The selected environmental performance and impacts indicators are relevant: operating capacity, number of beneficiaries, tonnes sorted per hour, tonnes of CO2 avoided (via waste reuse, photovoltaic energy production or installation of vegetated surfaces), tonnage of total recovered material versus total collected tonnage, and percentage of recovered material.
- This report will be updated and communicated annually until the total allocation of funds and in the event of a change in the list of Eligible or Funded Projects.

The Sycotom has undertaken to present the underlying methodologies and/or assumptions used for the quantitative evaluations.

We recommended that an external third party be hired to verify the published impact indicators.



## METHODOLOGY

In Vigeo Eiris' view, ESG factors are intertwined and complementary. As such they cannot be separated in the assessment of ESG management in any organization, activity or transaction. In this sense, Vigeo Eiris writes an opinion on the Borrower's Corporate Social Responsibility as an organization, and on the objectives, management and reporting of the Loan to be issued.

Vigeo Eiris' methodology to define and to assess corporate's ESG performance is based on criteria aligned with public international standards, in compliance with the ISO 26000 guidelines, and organized in 6 domains: Environment, Human Resources, Human Rights, Community Involvement, Business Behaviour and Corporate Governance. The evaluation framework has been customized regarding material issues, based on Waste and Water Utilities assessment framework, project's specificities and emerging issues.

Vigeo Eiris reviewed information provided by the Borrower, press content providers and stakeholders (partnership with Factiva Dow Jones: access to the content of 28,500 publications worldwide from reference financial newspapers to sector-focused magazines, local publications or Non-Government Organizations). Information gathered from these sources will be considered as long as they are public, documented and traceable. Vigeo Eiris has reviewed documents and websites of the Borrower and interviewed members from several departments of the Borrower.

Our research and rating procedures are subject to internal quality control at three levels (analysts, heads of cluster sectors, and internal review by the audit department for second party opinions) complemented by a final review and validation by the Direction of Methods. A right of complaint and recourse is guaranteed to all companies under our review, including three levels: first, the team linked to the company, then the Direction of Methods, and finally Vigeo Eiris' Scientific Council. All collaborators are signatories of Vigeo Eiris' Code of Ethics.

### Part I. BORROWER

*The Borrower's performance in terms of corporate social responsibility has not been subject to Vigeo Eiris Rating's rating or benchmark process.*

#### Stakeholder-related ESG controversies and

A controversy is public information from traceable and liable sources that serves to incriminate a company on ESG issues within the scope of the Equitics© methodology. Such incriminations may relate to specific events, conflicting interpretations of events, legal procedures, proven facts or non-proven claims.

Vigeo Eiris provides an opinion on companies' controversies risks mitigation based on the analysis of 3 factors:

- **Severity:** the more a controversy will relate to stakeholders' fundamental interests, will prove actual corporate responsibility in its occurrence, and will have adverse impacts for stakeholders and the company, the highest its severity. Severity assigned at corporate level will reflect the highest severity of all cases faced by the company (scale: Minor, Significant, High, Critical).
- **Responsiveness:** ability demonstrated by an Issuer to dialogue with its stakeholders in a risk management perspective and based on explanatory, preventative, remediating or corrective measures. At corporate level, this factor will reflect the overall responsiveness of the company for all cases faced (scale: Proactive, Remediate, Reactive, Non- Communicative).
- **Frequency:** reflects for each ESG challenge the number of controversies faced. At corporate level, this factor reflects on the overall number of controversies faced and scope of ESG issues impacted (scale: Isolated, Occasional, Frequent, Persistent).

The impact of a controversy on a company's reputation reduces with time, depending on the severity of the event and the company's responsiveness to this event. Conventionally, Vigeo Eiris' controversy database covers any controversy with Minor or Significant severity during 24 months after the last event registered and during 48 months for High and Critical controversies.

#### Involvement in controversial activities

In addition, 15 controversial activities have been analysed following 30 parameters to verify if the company is involved in any of them. The company's level of involvement (Major, Minor, No) is based on:

- An estimation of the revenues derived from controversial products or services.
- The precise nature of the controversial products or services provided by the company.



## Part II. LOAN

The Loan has been evaluated by Vigeo Eiris according to the Green Loan Principles and our methodology based on international standards and sector guidelines applying in terms of ESG management and assessment.

### Use of proceeds

The use of proceeds guidelines are defined to ensure that the funds raised are used to finance and/or refinance Eligible Projects and are traceable within the issuing organisation. Each project endorsed shall comply with at least one Eligible Project Category definition in order to be considered as an Eligible Project. Vigeo Eiris evaluates the relevance, visibility, and measurability of the associated environmental and/or social objectives. The sustainability purpose of the Loan related Eligible Project has been precisely defined, with regard to the Borrower's commitments, and assessed based on the described and estimated benefits of Eligible Projects. The contribution of Eligible Projects to sustainable development is evaluated based on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

### Process for evaluation and selection

The evaluation and selection process has been assessed by Vigeo Eiris regarding its transparency, governance and efficiency. The relevance and exhaustiveness of eligibility criteria and associated supporting elements integrated in the Loan Issuance, and the coherence of the process are analysed based on material issues considered in Vigeo Eiris' methodology.

### Management of proceeds

The rules for the management of proceeds and the allocation process have been evaluated by Vigeo Eiris regarding their transparency, coherence and efficiency.

### Reporting

Reporting indicators, processes and methodologies are defined by the Borrower to enable annual reporting on fund allocation, environmental benefits (output and impact indicators) and on the responsible management of the Eligible Projects (re)financed by the Green Loan proceeds, collected at project level and potentially aggregated at Loan level. Vigeo Eiris has evaluated the relevance of the reporting framework according to three principles: transparency, exhaustiveness and effectiveness.

- Scale of assessment for processes and commitments: Weak, Limited, Good, Advanced.
- Scale of level of assurance on Borrower's capacity: Reasonable, Moderate, Weak.

## VIGEO EIRIS' ASSESSMENT SCALES

Performance evaluation		Level of assurance	
Advanced	Advanced commitment; strong evidence of command over the issues dedicated to achieving the objective of social responsibility. Reasonable level of risk management and using innovative methods to anticipate emerging risks.	Reasonable	Able to convincingly conform to the prescribed principles and objectives of the evaluation framework
Good	Convincing commitment; significant and consistent evidence of command over the issues. Reasonable level of risk management.	Moderate	Compatibility or partial convergence with the prescribed principles and objectives of the evaluation framework
Limited	Commitment to the objective of social responsibility has been initiated or partially achieved; fragmentary evidence of command over the issues. Limited to weak level of risk management.	Weak	Lack or unawareness of, or incompatibility with the prescribed principles and objectives of the evaluation framework
Weak	Commitment to social responsibility is non-tangible; no evidence of command over the issues. Level of insurance of risk management is weak to very weak.		



Vigeo Eiris is an independent international provider of environmental, social and governance (ESG) research and services for investors and public & private organizations. We undertake risk assessments and evaluate the level of integration of sustainability factors within the strategy and operations of organizations.

Vigeo Eiris offers a wide range of services:

- ▶ **For investors:** decision making support covering all sustainable and ethical investment approaches (including ratings, databases, sector analyses, portfolio analyses, structured products, indices and more).
- ▶ **For companies & organizations:** supporting the integration of ESG criteria into business functions and strategic operations (including sustainable bonds, corporate ratings, CSR evaluations and more).

Vigeo Eiris is committed to delivering client products and services with high added value: a result of research and analysis that adheres to the strictest quality standards. Our methodology is reviewed by an independent scientific council and all our production processes, from information collection to service delivery, are documented and audited. Vigeo Eiris has chosen to certify all its processes to the latest ISO 9001 standard. Vigeo Eiris is an approved verifier for CBI (Climate Bond Initiative). Vigeo Eiris' research is referenced in several international scientific publications.

With a team of more than 240 experts of 28 different nationalities, Vigeo Eiris is present in Paris, London, Boston, Brussels, Casablanca, Hong Kong, Milan, Montreal, Rabat, Santiago and Stockholm.

The Vigeo Eiris Global Network, comprising 7 exclusive research partners, is present in Australia, Brazil, Germany, Israel, Japan, Spain and Mexico.

For more information: [www.vigeo-eiris.com](http://www.vigeo-eiris.com)

#### Disclaimer

Transparency on the relation between Vigeo Eiris and the Borrower: Vigeo Eiris has not carried out any audit mission or consultancy activity for the Borrower until so far and no established relationship (financial or other) exists between Vigeo Eiris and the Borrower.

This opinion aims at providing an independent opinion on the sustainability credentials and management of the Loan, based on the information which has been made available to Vigeo Eiris. Vigeo Eiris has neither interviewed stakeholders out of the Borrower's employees, nor performed an on-site audit nor other test to check the accuracy of the information provided by the Borrower. The accuracy, comprehensiveness and trustworthiness of the information collected are a responsibility of the Borrower. Providing this opinion does not mean that Vigeo Eiris certifies the effectiveness, the excellence or the irreversibility of the Projects to be financed by the Loan. The Borrower is fully responsible for attesting the compliance with its commitments defined in its policies, for their implementation and their monitoring. The opinion delivered by Vigeo Eiris neither focuses on the financial performance of the Loan, nor on the effective allocation of its proceeds. Vigeo Eiris is not liable for the induced consequences when third parties use this opinion either to make investments decisions or to make any kind of business transaction.

The opinion delivered on stakeholder-related ESG controversies is not a conclusion on the creditworthiness of the Borrower or its financial obligations. Vigeo Eiris does not express an opinion as a score when controversial activities, products and services are not prohibited by international standards or treaties.

Restriction on distribution and use of this opinion: the opinion is provided by Vigeo Eiris to the Borrower and can only be used by the Borrower. The distribution and publication is at the discretion of the Borrower, submitted to Vigeo Eiris approval.