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**MODERNISATION FUND**  
Accelerating the transition to climate neutrality



## **MODERNISATION FUND** **EIB CONFIRMATION OF PRIORITY INVESTMENT**

ref. MF 2023-1 CZ 0-007

*Beneficiary Member State: Czech Republic*

*Investment Proposal: Replacement of a coal block with a gas source (STAGE I) - Opatovice*

### **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 the 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 16/02/2023 Czech Republic (the “beneficiary Member State”) submitted to the EIB an investment proposal “Replacement of a coal block with a gas source (STAGE I) - Opatovice” for which it envisages a contribution from the Modernisation Fund (Modernisation Fund reference number MF 2023-1 CZ 0-007).

The investment proposal concerns replacing the existing coal-fired source with installed power by combined cycle gas turbines (CCGT) and heat recovery steam generators (HRSG) in a high-efficiency CHP solution with a total electric output of 76 MW and a thermal output of 57 MW. It will help reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels and consumption of primary non-renewable energy while maintaining the supply of heat to the local distribution system of central heating in combination with the production of electricity (CHPG).

The beneficiary Member State has requested funding of EUR 64 255 276.

The main objective of the investment is to replace the existing coal-fired source with installed input by combined cycle gas turbines and heat recovery steam generators in order to reduce the production of CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuels and the consumption of primary non-renewable energy while maintaining the supply of heat to the local distribution system of central heating in combination with the production of electricity (CHPG).

Improving energy efficiency and modernizing the energy system while reducing GHG emissions are included in the objectives and measures of the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) for Czech Republic.

### **3. Compliance with the conditions for 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 the modernisation of the energy system 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 “improvement of energy efficiency”.
- c) The beneficiary Member State has sufficient funds available 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:
  - a. have obtained State aid clearance in accordance with the Commission Decision C(2022) 9680, ref. State Aid SA.103821.
- e) The beneficiary Member State has confirmed in writing that the investment complies with any other applicable requirements of Union and national law.
- f) 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 at paragraph 3 above, the EIB confirms the proposal “Replacement of a coal block with a gas source (STAGE I) - Opatovice” (Modernisation Fund reference number MF 2023-1 CZ 0-007) 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, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023