

Consortium Agreement



[OCTOPUS]

Version 1– November 1st 2024

(Based on DESCA – Model Consortium Agreement for Horizon Europe, Version 2.0, February 2024)

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CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT

THIS CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT is based upon Regulation (EU) 2021/783 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing a Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1293/2013 (Text with EEA relevance), laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and on the European Commission's LIFE MGA — Multi & Mono: v1.0 and its Annexes, and is made on November 1st, 2024, hereinafter referred to as the Effective Date

BETWEEN:

'the coordinator':

1. AUVERGNE-RHONE-ALPES ENERGIE ENVIRONNEMENT (AURA-EE), PIC 986084153, established in RUE GABRIEL PERI 18 IMMEUBLE LE STRATEGUE, VILLEURBANNE 69100, France,

and the following other beneficiaries, if they sign their 'accession form' (see Annex 3 and Article 40):

2. ASSOCIATION POUR UNE GESTION DURABLE DE L'ENERGIE (AGEDEN), PIC 898904821, established in AVENUE BENOIT FRACHON 14, SAINT MARTIN D'HERES 38400, France,

3. ENERGEIAKO GRAFEO KYPROU (CEA), PIC 986210447, established in LEFKONOS 2-12, LEFKOSIA 1011, Cyprus,

4. ENTE VASCO DE LA ENERGIA (EVE), PIC 997911363, established in Alameda Urquijo Edificio Plaza Bizkaia 36, 1^o, BILBAO 48011, Spain,

5. FEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES AGENCES ET DES REGIONS POUR L'ENERGIE ET L'ENVIRONNEMENT (FEDARENE), PIC 998945868, established in RUE DU COLLEGE 27, IXELLES 1050, Belgium,

6. ENERGETICKE CENTRUM USTECKEHO KRAJE, PRISPEVKOVA ORGANIZACE (ECUK), PIC 877308062, established in VELKA HRADEBNI 3118/48, USTI NAD LABEM 400 01, Czechia,

7. CONSORCIO AGENCIA EXTREMENA DE LA ENERGIA (AGENEX), PIC 882147877, established in AVDA. ANTONIO MASA CAMPOS 26 RESIDENCIA UNIVERSITARIA HERNAN CORTES, BADAJOZ 06011, Spain,

8. MAZOWIECKA AGENCJA ENERGETYCZNA SPZOO (MAE), PIC 972351863, established in UL. NOWOGRODZKA 31 LOK 330, WARSZAWA 00-511, Poland,

9. SOCIEDAD PUBLICA DE GESTION AMBIENTAL IHOBE SA (IHOBE), PIC 990681953, established in ALAMEDA DE URKIJO 36 6, BILBAO 48011, Spain,

10. INSTITUTE FOR EUROPEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY STICHTING (IEECP), PIC 923763690, established in KINGSFORDWEG 151, AMSTERDAM 1043 GR, Netherlands,

Hereinafter, jointly referred to as, jointly or individually, "Parties" or "Party"

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in short

OCTOPUS

hereinafter referred to as “Project”

WHEREAS:

The Parties, having considerable experience in the field concerned, have submitted a proposal for the Project to the Granting Authority as part of the Programme for the Environment and Climate Action (LIFE), Grant Agreement number 101120775.

The Parties wish to specify or supplement binding commitments among themselves in addition to the provisions of the specific Grant Agreement to be signed by the Parties and the Granting Authority (hereinafter “Grant Agreement”).

The Parties are aware that this Consortium Agreement is based upon the [DESCA model consortium agreement](#).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1.1 Definitions

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the meaning defined either herein or in the LIFE Programme Regulation or in the Grant Agreement including its Annexes.

1.2 Additional Definitions

“Consortium Body”

Consortium Body means any management body described in Section 6 (Governance Structure) of this Consortium Agreement.

“Defaulting Party”

Defaulting Party means a Party which the General Assembly has declared to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement and/or the Grant Agreement as specified in Section 4.2 of this Consortium Agreement.

“Grant Agreement”

The term Grant Agreement refers to the Grant Agreement concluded between the Parties and the Granting Authority and effective as of September 1st, 2023.

“Granting Authority”

means the body awarding the grant for the Project: European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA)

“Needed”

Needed means:

For the implementation of the Project:

Access Rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access Rights, carrying out the tasks assigned to the recipient Party would be technically or legally impossible, significantly delayed, or require significant additional financial or human resources.

For Exploitation of own Results:

Access Rights are Needed if, without the grant of such Access Rights, the Exploitation of own Results would be technically or legally impossible.

“Software”

Software means sequences of instructions to carry out a process in, or convertible into, a form executable by a computer and fixed in any tangible medium of expression.

“Work Package Leader”

Work Package Leader means a representative of the Party appointed to lead a work package according to Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement, who shall coordinate the completion of activities for the tasks in the relevant work package.

2 Purpose

The purpose of this Consortium Agreement is to specify with respect to the Project the relationship among the Parties, in particular concerning the organisation of the work between the Parties, the management of the Project and the rights and obligations of the Parties concerning inter alia liability, Access Rights and dispute resolution.

3 Entry into force, duration and termination

3.1 Entry into force

An entity becomes a Party to this Consortium Agreement upon signature of this Consortium Agreement by a duly authorised representative.

This Consortium Agreement shall have effect from the Effective Date identified at the beginning of this Consortium Agreement.

An entity becomes a new Party to the Consortium Agreement upon signature of the accession document (Attachment 2) by the new Party and the Coordinator. Such accession shall have effect from the date identified in the accession document.

3.2 Duration and termination

This Consortium Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties under the Grant Agreement and under this Consortium Agreement.

However, this Consortium Agreement or the participation of one or more Parties to it may be terminated in accordance with the terms of this Consortium Agreement.

If

- the Grant Agreement is not signed by the Granting Authority or a Party, or
- the Grant Agreement is terminated, or
- a Party's participation in the Grant Agreement is terminated,

this Consortium Agreement shall automatically terminate in respect of the Party/ies concerned, subject to the provisions surviving the expiration or termination under Section 3.3 of this Consortium Agreement.

3.3 Survival of rights and obligations

The provisions relating to Access Rights, Dissemination and confidentiality, for the time period mentioned therein, as well as for liability, applicable law and settlement of disputes shall survive the expiration or termination of this Consortium Agreement.

Termination shall not affect any rights or obligations of a Party leaving the Project incurred prior to the date of termination, unless otherwise agreed between the General Assembly and the leaving Party. This includes the obligation to provide all necessary input, deliverables and documents for the period of its participation.

4 Responsibilities of Parties

4.1 General principles

Each Party undertakes to take part in the efficient implementation of the Project, and to cooperate, perform and fulfil, promptly and on time, all of its obligations under the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement as may be reasonably required from it and in a manner of good faith as prescribed by Belgian law.

Each Party undertakes to notify promptly the Granting Authority and the other Parties, in accordance with the governance structure of the Project, of any significant information, fact, problem or delay likely to affect the Project.

Each Party shall promptly provide all information reasonably required by a Consortium Body or by the Coordinator to carry out its tasks and shall responsibly manage the access of its employees to the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

Each Party shall take reasonable measures to ensure the accuracy of any information or materials it supplies to the other Parties.

4.2 Breach

In the event that the General Assembly identifies a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement (e.g. improper implementation of the Project), the Coordinator or, if the Coordinator is in breach of its obligations, the Party appointed by the General Assembly, will give formal notice to such Party requiring that such breach will be remedied within 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the written notice by the Party.

If such breach is substantial and is not remedied within that period or is not capable of remedy, the General Assembly may decide to declare the Party to be a Defaulting Party and to decide on the consequences thereof which may include termination of its participation.

4.3 Involvement of third parties

A Party that enters into a subcontract or otherwise involves third parties (including but not limited to Affiliated Entities or other Participants) in the Project remains responsible for carrying out its relevant part of the Project and for such third party's compliance with the provisions of this Consortium Agreement and of the Grant Agreement. Such Party has to ensure that the involvement of third parties does not affect the rights and obligations of the other Parties under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement.

4.4 Specific responsibilities regarding data protection

Where necessary, the Parties shall cooperate in order to enable one another to fulfil legal obligations arising under applicable data protection laws (the *Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data* and relevant national data protection law applicable to said Party) within the scope of the performance and administration of the Project and of this Consortium Agreement.

4.4.1 Third parties' responsibility with application of Data Protection Legislation

Further and to the extent applicable, each Party must ensure compliance of third parties with applicable Data Protection Legislation.

5 Liability towards each other

5.1 No warranties

In respect of any information or materials (incl. Results and Background) supplied by one Party to another under the Project, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or implied as to the sufficiency or fitness for purpose nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties.

Therefore,

- the recipient Party shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and

- no Party granting Access Rights shall be liable in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from any other Party (or its entities under the same control) exercising its Access Rights.

5.2 Limitations of contractual liability

No Party shall be responsible to any other Party for any indirect or consequential loss or similar damage such as, but not limited to, loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts.

A Party's aggregate liability towards the other Parties collectively shall be limited to once the Party's share of the total costs of the Project as identified in Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement.

A Party's liability shall not be limited under either of the two foregoing paragraphs to the extent such damage was caused by a wilful act or gross negligence or to the extent that such limitation is not permitted by law.

5.3 Damage caused to third parties

Each Party shall be solely liable for any loss, damage or injury to third parties resulting from the performance of the said Party's obligations by it or on its behalf under this Consortium Agreement or from its use of Results or Background.

5.4 Force Majeure

No Party shall be considered to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling its obligations under the Consortium Agreement by Force Majeure.

Each Party will notify the General Assembly of any Force Majeure without undue delay. If the consequences of Force Majeure for the Project are not overcome within 6 weeks after such notice, the transfer of tasks - if any - shall be decided by the General Assembly.

5.5 Export control

No Party shall be considered to be in breach of this Consortium Agreement if it is prevented from fulfilling its obligations under the Consortium Agreement due to a restriction resulting from import or export laws and regulations and/or any delay of the granting or extension of the import or export license or any other governmental authorisation, provided that the Party has used its reasonable efforts to fulfil its tasks and to apply for any necessary license or authorisation properly and in time.

Each Party will notify the General Assembly of any such restriction without undue delay. If the consequences of such restriction for the Project are not overcome within 6 weeks after such notice, the transfer of tasks - if any - shall be decided by the Project Management Board.

6 Governance structure

6.1 General structure

The organisational structure of the consortium shall comprise the following Consortium Bodies:

The **General Assembly** is the decision-making body of the consortium.

The **Coordinator** is the legal entity acting as the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority. The Coordinator shall, in addition to its responsibilities as a Party, perform the tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement.

The **Work Package Leaders Group** is an assessment group of the Consortium without formal decision making power. It shall assess the individual and overall implementation of the Project.

6.2 Members of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall consist of one representative of each Party (hereinafter referred to as "Member").

Each Member shall be deemed to be duly authorised to deliberate, negotiate and decide on all matters listed in Section 6.3.7 of this Consortium Agreement.

The Coordinator shall chair all meetings of the General Assembly, unless decided otherwise by the General Assembly.

The Parties agree to abide by all decisions of the General Assembly.

This does not prevent the Parties from exercising their veto rights, according to Section 6.3.5, or from submitting a dispute for resolution in accordance with the provisions of settlement of disputes in Section 11.8 of this Consortium Agreement.

6.3 Operational procedures for the General Assembly:

6.3.1 Representation in meetings

Any Member:

- should be present or represented at any meeting;
- may appoint a substitute or a proxy to attend and vote at any meeting;
- and shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings.

6.3.2 Preparation and organisation of meetings

6.3.2.1 *Convening meetings*

The chairperson shall convene ordinary meetings of the General Assembly at least once every six months and shall also convene extraordinary meetings at any time upon written request of any Member.

6.3.2.2 *Notice of a meeting*

The chairperson shall give written notice of a meeting to each Member as soon as possible and no later than 14 calendar days preceding an ordinary meeting and 7 calendar days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

6.3.2.3 *Sending the agenda*

The chairperson shall prepare and send each Member an agenda no later than 14 calendar days preceding the meeting, or 7 calendar days before an extraordinary meeting.

6.3.2.4 *Adding agenda items*

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the Members must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any Member may add an item to the original agenda by written notice to all of the other Members no later than 7 calendar days preceding the meeting and 2 days preceding an extraordinary meeting.

6.3.2.5

During a meeting of the General Assembly the Members present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

6.3.2.6

Meetings of the General Assembly may also be held by tele- or videoconference or other telecommunication means.

6.3.2.7

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted according to Section 6.3.6.2.

6.3.3 Decisions without a meeting

Any decision may also be taken without a meeting if

- a) the Coordinator circulates to all Members of the General Assembly a suggested decision with a deadline for responses of at least 10 calendar days after receipt by a Party and
- b) the decision is agreed by 51 % of all Parties.

The Coordinator shall inform all the Members of the outcome of the vote.

A veto according to Section 6.3.5 may be submitted up to 15 calendar days after receipt of this information.

The decision will be binding after the Coordinator sends a notification to all Members. The Coordinator will keep records of the votes and make them available to the Parties on request.

6.3.4 Voting rules and quorum

6.3.4.1

The General Assembly shall not deliberate and decide validly in meetings unless two-thirds (2/3) of its Members are present or represented (quorum).

If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the General Assembly shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached once more, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of Members is present or represented.

6.3.4.2

Each Member present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.

6.3.4.3

A Party which the General Assembly has declared according to Section 4.2 to be a Defaulting Party may not vote.

6.3.4.4

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

6.3.5 Veto rights

6.3.5.1

A Party which can show that its own work, time for performance, costs, liabilities, intellectual property rights or other legitimate interests would be severely affected by a decision of the General Assembly may exercise a veto with respect to the corresponding decision or relevant part of the decision.

6.3.5.2

When the decision is foreseen on the original agenda, a Party may only veto such a decision during the meeting.

6.3.5.3

When a decision has been taken on a new item added to the agenda before or during the meeting, a Party may veto such decision during the meeting or within 15 calendar days after receipt of the draft minutes of the meeting.

6.3.5.4

When a decision has been taken without a meeting a Party may veto such decision within 15 calendar days after receipt of the written notice by the chairperson of the outcome of the vote.

6.3.5.5

In case of exercise of veto, the Parties shall make every effort to resolve the matter which occasioned the veto to the general satisfaction of all Parties.

6.3.5.6

A Party may neither veto decisions relating to its identification to be in breach of its obligations nor to its identification as a Defaulting Party. The Defaulting Party may not veto decisions relating to its participation and termination in the consortium or the consequences of them.

6.3.5.7

A Party requesting to leave the consortium may not veto decisions relating thereto.

6.3.6 Minutes of meetings

6.3.6.1

The chairperson shall be responsible for taking minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. He/she shall send draft minutes to all Members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

6.3.6.2

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no Party has sent an objection to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes by written notice.

6.3.6.3

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the Members, and to the Coordinator, who shall retain copies of them.

6.3.7 Decisions of the General Assembly

The General Assembly, shall be free to act on its own initiative to formulate proposals and take decisions in accordance with the procedures set out herein.

The following decisions shall be taken by the General Assembly:

Content, finances and intellectual property rights

- Proposals for changes to Annexes 1 and 2 of the Grant Agreement to be agreed by the Granting Authority
- Changes to the Consortium Plan
- Modifications or withdrawal of Background in Attachment 1 (Background Included)
- Additions to Attachment 3 (List of Third Parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)
- Additions to Attachment 4 (Identified entities under the same control)

Evolution of the consortium

- Entry of a new Party to the Project and approval of the settlement on the conditions of the accession of such a new Party
- Withdrawal of a Party from the Project and the approval of the settlement on the conditions of the withdrawal
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for a change of the Coordinator
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for suspension of all or part of the Project
- Proposal to the Granting Authority for termination of the Project and the Consortium Agreement

Breach, defaulting party status and litigation

- Identification of a breach by a Party of its obligations under this Consortium Agreement or the Grant Agreement
- Declaration of a Party to be a Defaulting Party
- Remedies to be performed by a Defaulting Party
- Termination of a Defaulting Party's participation in the consortium and measures relating thereto

- Steps to be taken for litigation purposes and the coverage of litigation costs in case of joint claims of the parties of the consortium against a Party (e.g. Section 7.1.4)

In the case of abolished tasks as a result of a decision of the General Assembly, Members shall rearrange the tasks of the Parties concerned. Such rearrangement shall take into consideration any prior legitimate commitments which cannot be cancelled.

6.4 Coordinator

6.4.1

The Coordinator shall be the intermediary between the Parties and the Granting Authority and shall perform all tasks assigned to it as described in the Grant Agreement and in this Consortium Agreement.

6.4.2

In particular, the Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- monitoring compliance by the Parties with their obligations under this Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement
- keeping the address list of Members and other contact persons updated and available
- collecting, reviewing to verify consistency and submitting reports, other deliverables (including financial statements and related certification) and specific requested documents to the Granting Authority
- preparing the meetings, proposing decisions and preparing the agenda of General Assembly meetings, chairing the meetings, preparing the minutes of the meetings and monitoring the implementation of decisions taken at meetings
- transmitting promptly documents and information connected with the Project to any other Party concerned
- administering the financial contribution of the Granting Authority and fulfilling the financial tasks described in Section 7.2
- providing, upon request, the Parties with official copies or originals of documents that are in the sole possession of the Coordinator when such copies or originals are necessary for the Parties to present claims.

If one or more of the Parties is late in submission of any Project deliverable, the Coordinator may nevertheless submit the other Parties' Project deliverables and all other documents required by the Grant Agreement to the Granting Authority in time.

6.4.3

If the Coordinator fails in its coordination tasks, the General Assembly may propose to the Granting Authority to change the Coordinator.

6.4.4

The Coordinator shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium, unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement.

6.4.5

The Coordinator shall not enlarge its role beyond the tasks specified in this Consortium Agreement and in the Grant Agreement.

6.5 Work Package Leaders Group

6.5.1. Members of the Work Package Leaders Group

The Work Package Leaders Group shall consist of the Coordinator and Work Package Leaders.

6.5.2. Meetings

The Coordinator shall chair all meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group, unless decided otherwise by a majority of the Work Package Leaders Group.

The chairperson shall convene meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group at any time if needed for Project implementation.

Meetings of the Work Package Leaders Group are usually held by tele- or videoconference or other telecommunication means.

The chairperson of the Work Package Leaders Group meetings shall be responsible for taking minutes of each meeting. The chairperson shall send draft minutes to all members within 10 calendar days of the meeting.

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 15 calendar days from receipt, no member has sent an objection to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes by written notice.

Minutes of Work Package Leaders Group meetings, once accepted, shall be sent by the Coordinator to the General Assembly Members for information.

6.5.3. Responsibilities

The Work Package Leaders Group shall be responsible for:

- Evaluating suggestions of the Work Package Leaders for the reallocation of tasks and budget in work packages;
- Making suggestions for amendments to Annex 1 and Annex 2 of the Grant Agreement to the General Assembly, especially if restructuring is required to enable the finalisation of non-completed work packages or in case of termination of a Party;
- Assessing reports presented by each Work Package Leader, which have been compiled by the Work Package Leader based on the Internal Progress Reports;
- Assessing the status or completion of each work package and preparing the periodic reporting for the work packages together with the Coordinator;
- Proposing payment instalments to the Coordinator according to the outcomes of these assessments (see Section 7.2.2);

- Supporting the Coordinator in preparing meetings with the Granting Authority and in preparing related information and deliverables;
- Supporting the Coordinator in the collection of information regarding the termination report and amendment procedures in case of termination of a Party's participation;

7 Financial provisions

7.1 General Principles

7.1.1 Distribution of Financial Contribution

The financial contribution of the Granting Authority to the Project shall be distributed by the Coordinator according to:

- the approval of reports by the Granting Authority, and
- the provisions of payment in Section 7.2.

7.1.2 Justifying Costs

[Actual Cost Grant]

In accordance with its own usual accounting and management principles and practices, each Party shall be solely responsible for justifying its costs (and those of its Affiliated Entities, if any) with respect to the Project towards the Granting Authority. Neither the Coordinator nor any of the other Parties shall be in any way liable or responsible for such justification of costs towards the Granting Authority.

7.1.3 Funding Principles

[Actual Cost Grant]

A Party that spends less than its allocated share of the budget as set out in the Consortium Plan or – in case of reimbursement via unit costs - implements less units than foreseen in the Consortium Plan will be funded in accordance with its units/actual duly justified eligible costs only.

A Party that spends more than its allocated share of the budget as set out in the Consortium Plan will be funded only in respect of duly justified eligible costs up to an amount not exceeding that share.

7.1.4 Excess payments

A Party has received excess payment

- a) if the payment received from the Coordinator exceeds the amount declared

[Actual Cost Grant]

- b) if a Party has received payments but, within the last year of the Project, its real Project costs fall significantly behind the costs it would be entitled to according to the Consortium Plan.

In case a Party has received excess payment, the Actual Cost Grant: Party has to inform the Coordinator and the Party has to return the relevant amount to the Coordinator without undue delay. In case no

refund takes place within 30 days upon request for return of excess payment from the Coordinator, the Party is in substantial breach of the Consortium Agreement.

Amounts which are not refunded by a breaching Party and which are not due to the Granting Authority, shall be apportioned by the Coordinator to the remaining Parties pro rata according to their share of total costs of the Project as identified in the Consortium Budget, until recovery from the breaching Party is possible.

[Actual Cost Grant] Revenue

In case a Party earns any revenue that is deductible from the total funding as set out in the Consortium Plan, the deduction is only directed toward the Party earning such revenue. The other Parties' financial share of the budget shall not be affected by one Party's revenue. In case the relevant revenue is more than the allocated share of the Party as set out in the Consortium Plan, the Party shall reimburse the funding reduction suffered by other Parties.

7.1.5 Financial Consequences of the termination of the participation of a Party

[Actual Cost Grant]

A Party leaving the consortium shall refund to the Coordinator any payments it has received except the amount of contribution accepted by the Granting Authority [or another contributor].

In addition, a Defaulting Party shall, within the limits specified in Section 5.2 of this Consortium Agreement, bear any reasonable and justifiable additional costs occurring to the other Parties in order to perform the leaving Party's task and necessary additional efforts to fulfil them as a consequence of the Party leaving the consortium. The General Assembly should agree on a procedure regarding additional costs which are not covered by the Defaulting Party or the Mutual Insurance Mechanism.

7.2 Payments

7.2.1 Payments to Parties are the exclusive task of the Coordinator

In particular, the Coordinator shall:

- notify the Party concerned promptly of the date and composition of the amount transferred to its bank account, giving the relevant references
- perform diligently its tasks in the proper administration of any funds and in maintaining financial accounts
- undertake to keep the Granting Authority's financial contribution to the Project separated from its normal business accounts, its own assets and property, except if the Coordinator is a Public Body or is not entitled to do so due to statutory legislation.

With reference to Article 22 of the Grant Agreement, no Party shall before the end of the Project receive more than its allocated share of the maximum grant amount less the amounts retained by the Granting Authority for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism and for the final payment.

7.2.2 Payment mode

The Coordinator is responsible for notifying each Party promptly of the date and composition of the amounts transferred to their bank accounts, providing the relevant references. The Coordinator must diligently manage the administration of funds, maintain proper financial accounts, and ensure that the

Granting Authority's contribution to the Project remains separate from its regular business accounts, assets, and property, unless statutory legislation or public body status permits otherwise.

No Party shall receive more than its allocated share of the maximum grant amount before the end of the Project, after deducting amounts retained by the Granting Authority for the Mutual Insurance Mechanism and the final payment. The Parties will receive funding for their activities directly from the Coordinator, following the terms outlined in notification letters, which reflect the provisions of the Grant Agreement. Each Party is individually responsible for securing additional financing required for their activities.

The transfer of pre-financing, additional pre-financing (if applicable), and interim payments will follow the agreed payment schedule. Initially, 30% of the EC contribution for each partner will be distributed as pre-financing. The remaining 50% of the pre-financing will be transferred at Month 22 or once the Coordinator receives the remaining pre-financing quota from the EU, whichever comes first, based on the Grant Agreement's reporting schedule and after submission of actual cost details by each Party.

Further funding will be transferred to the Parties without undue delay once the Coordinator receives payments from the Granting Authority. Payments will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement and will only cover costs approved by the Granting Authority.

The Coordinator may withhold payments from a Party identified as breaching its obligations under the Consortium Agreement or Grant Agreement or if the Party has not signed the Consortium Agreement. Additionally, the Coordinator can recover payments already made to a Defaulting Party, excluding costs already claimed and accepted by the Granting Authority. Payments may also be withheld if suggested by or agreed upon with the Granting Authority.

8 Results

8.1 Ownership of Results

Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

8.2 Joint ownership

Joint ownership is governed by Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Ownership of results, with the following additions:

In case of joint ownership, each of the joint owners shall be entitled to Exploit the joint Results as it sees fit, and to grant non-exclusive licenses, without obtaining any consent from, paying compensation to, or otherwise accounting to any other joint owner, unless otherwise agreed between the joint owners.

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures and the division of related cost in advance.

8.3 Transfer of Results

8.3.1

Each Party may transfer ownership of its own Results, including its share in jointly owned Results, following the procedures of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Transfer and licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership".

8.3.2

Each Party may identify specific third parties it intends to transfer the ownership of its Results to in Attachment (3) of this Consortium Agreement. The other Parties hereby waive their right to prior notice and their right to object to such a transfer to listed third parties according to the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section Transfer of licensing of results, sub-section "Transfer of ownership", 3rd paragraph.

8.3.3

The transferring Party shall, however, at the time of the transfer, inform the other Parties of such transfer and shall ensure that the rights of the other Parties under the Consortium Agreement and the Grant Agreement will not be affected by such transfer. Any addition to Attachment (3) after signature of this Consortium Agreement requires a decision of the General Assembly.

8.3.4

The Parties recognise that in the framework of a merger or an acquisition of an important part of its assets, it may be impossible under applicable EU and national laws on mergers and acquisitions for a Party to give at least 45 calendar days prior notice for the transfer as foreseen in the Grant Agreement.

8.3.5

The obligations above apply only for as long as other Parties still have - or still may request - Access Rights to the Results.

8.4 Dissemination

8.4.1

For the avoidance of doubt, the confidentiality obligations set out in Section 10 apply to all dissemination activities described in this Section 8.4 as far as Confidential Information is involved.

8.4.2 Dissemination of own (including jointly owned) Results

8.4.2.1

During the Project and for a period of 1 year after the end of the Project, the dissemination of own Results by one or several Parties including but not restricted to publications and presentations, shall be governed by the procedure of Article 17.4 of the Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section Dissemination, subject to the following provisions.

Prior notice of any planned publication shall be given to the other Parties at least 45 calendar days before the publication. Any objection to the planned publication shall be made in accordance with the Grant Agreement by written notice to the Coordinator and to the Party or Parties proposing the dissemination within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice. If no objection is made within the time limit stated above, the publication is permitted.

8.4.2.2

An objection is justified if

- a) the protection of the objecting Party's Results or Background would be adversely affected, or
- b) the objecting Party's legitimate interests in relation to its Results or Background would be significantly harmed, or
- c) the proposed publication includes Confidential Information of the objecting Party.

The objection has to include a precise request for necessary modifications.

8.4.2.3

If an objection has been raised the involved Parties shall discuss how to overcome the justified grounds for the objection on a timely basis (for example by amendment to the planned publication and/or by protecting information before publication) and the objecting Party shall not unreasonably continue the opposition if appropriate measures are taken following the discussion.

8.4.2.4

The objecting Party can request a publication delay of not more than 90 calendar days from the time it raises such an objection. After 90 calendar days the publication is permitted, provided that the objections of the objecting Party have been addressed.

8.4.3 Dissemination of another Party's unpublished Results or Background

A Party shall not include in any dissemination activity another Party's Results or Background without obtaining the owning Party's prior written approval, unless they are already published.

8.4.4 Cooperation obligations

The Parties undertake to cooperate to allow the timely submission, examination, publication and defence of any dissertation or thesis for a degree that includes their Results or Background subject to the confidentiality and publication provisions agreed in this Consortium Agreement.

8.4.5 Use of names, logos or trademarks

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be construed as conferring rights to use in advertising, publicity or otherwise the name of the Parties or any of their logos or trademarks without their prior written approval.

9 Access Rights

9.1 Background included

9.1.1

In Attachment 1, the Parties have identified and agreed on the Background for the Project and have also, where relevant, informed each other that Access to specific Background is subject to legal restrictions or limits.

Anything not identified in Attachment 1 shall not be the object of Access Right obligations regarding Background.

9.1.2

Any Party may add additional Background to Attachment 1 during the Project provided they give written notice to the other Parties. However, approval of the General Assembly is needed should a Party wish to modify or withdraw its Background in Attachment 1.

9.2 General Principles

9.2.1

Each Party shall implement its tasks in accordance with the Consortium Plan and shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the Project do not knowingly infringe third party property rights.

9.2.2

Any Access Rights granted exclude any rights to sublicense unless expressly stated otherwise.

9.2.3

Access Rights shall be free of any administrative transfer costs.

9.2.4

Access Rights are granted on a non-exclusive basis.

9.2.5

Results and Background shall be used only for the purposes for which Access Rights to it have been granted.

9.2.6

All requests for Access Rights shall be made in writing. The granting of Access Rights may be made conditional on the acceptance of specific conditions aimed at ensuring that these rights will be used only for the intended purpose and that appropriate confidentiality obligations are in place.

9.2.7

The requesting Party must show that the Access Rights are Needed.

9.3 Access Rights for implementation

Access Rights to Results and Background Needed for the performance of the own work of a Party under the Project shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed for Background in Attachment 1.

9.4 Access Rights for Exploitation

9.4.1 Access Rights to Results

Access Rights to Results if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions.

Access rights to Results for internal research and for teaching activities shall be granted on a royalty-free basis.

9.4.2

Access Rights to Background if Needed for Exploitation of a Party's own Results, shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions.

9.4.3

A request for Access Rights may be made up to twelve (12) months after the end of the Project or, in the case of Section 9.7.2.1.2, after the termination of the requesting Party's participation in the Project.

9.5 Access Rights for entities under the same control

Entities under the same control have Access Rights under the conditions of the Grant Agreement Article 16.4 and its Annex 5, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for entities under the same control".

Such Access Rights must be requested by the entity under the same control from the Party that holds the Background or Results. Alternatively, the Party granting the Access Rights may individually agree with the Party requesting the Access Rights to have the Access Rights include the right to sublicense to the latter's entity under the same control. Access Rights to an entity under the same control shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions and upon written bilateral agreement.

Entities under the same control which obtain Access Rights in return fulfil all confidentiality obligations accepted by the Parties under the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement as if such entities were Parties.

Access Rights may be refused to entities under the same control if such granting is contrary to the legitimate interests of the Party which owns the Background or the Results.

Access Rights granted to any entity under the same control are subject to the continuation of the Access Rights of the Party with whom it is under the same control, and shall automatically terminate upon termination of the Access Rights granted to such Party.

Upon cessation of the status as an entity under the same control, any Access Rights granted to such former entity under the same control shall lapse.

Further arrangements with entities under the same control may be negotiated in separate agreements.

9.6 Additional Access Rights

For the avoidance of doubt any grant of Access Rights not covered by the Grant Agreement or this Consortium Agreement shall be at the absolute discretion of the owning Party and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the owning and receiving Parties.

9.7 Access Rights for Parties entering or leaving the consortium

9.7.1 New Parties entering the consortium

As regards Results developed before the accession of the new Party, the new Party will be granted Access Rights on the conditions applying for Access Rights to Background.

9.7.2 Parties leaving the consortium

9.7.2.1 Access Rights granted to a leaving Party

9.7.2.1.1 Defaulting Party

Access Rights granted to a Defaulting Party and such Party's right to request Access Rights shall cease immediately upon receipt by the Defaulting Party of the formal notice of the decision of the General Assembly to terminate its participation in the consortium.

9.7.2.1.2 Non-defaulting Party

A non-defaulting Party leaving voluntarily and with the other Parties' consent shall have Access Rights to the Results developed until the date of the termination of its participation.

It may request Access Rights within the period of time specified in Section 9.4.3.

9.7.2.2 Access Rights to be granted by any leaving Party

Any Party leaving the Project shall continue to grant Access Rights pursuant to the Grant Agreement and this Consortium Agreement as if it had remained a Party for the whole duration of the Project.

9.8 Specific Provisions for Access Rights to Software

For the avoidance of doubt, the general provisions for Access Rights provided for in this Section 9 are applicable also to Software.

Parties' Access Rights to Software do not include any right to receive source code or object code ported to a certain hardware platform or any right to receive respective Software documentation in any particular form or detail, but only as available from the Party granting the Access Rights.

10 Non-disclosure of information

10.1

All information in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party (the "Disclosing Party") to any other Party (the "Recipient") in connection with the Project during its implementation and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" or "sensitive" at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure at the latest as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

10.2

The Recipient hereby undertakes in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on non-disclosure under the Grant Agreement, for a period of 5 years after the final payment of the Granting Authority:

- not to use Confidential Information otherwise than for the purpose for which it was disclosed;
- not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party;
- to ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis; and
- to return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on request all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipient including all copies thereof and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipient may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy.

10.3

The Recipient shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of its employees or third parties involved in the Project and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end of the Project and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party.

10.4

The above shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations;
- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential;
- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party;
- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement;
- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party;
- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure, or
- the Recipient is required to disclose the Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, subject to the provision Section 10.7 hereunder.

10.5

The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care with regard to the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care.

10.6

Each Recipient shall promptly inform the relevant Disclosing Party by written notice of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

10.7

If any Recipient becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it shall, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so, prior to any such disclosure.

- notify the Disclosing Party, and
- comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

11 Miscellaneous

11.1 Attachments, inconsistencies and severability

This Consortium Agreement consists of this core text and:

- Attachment 1 (Background included)
- Attachment 2 (Accession document)
- Attachment 3 (List of third parties for simplified transfer according to Section 8.3.2)
- Attachment 4 (Identified entities under the same control)
- Attachment 5 (NDA for External Expert Advisory Board agreed under Section 6)

In case the terms of this Consortium Agreement are in conflict with the terms of the Grant Agreement, the terms of the latter shall prevail. In case of conflicts between the attachments and the core text of this Consortium Agreement, the latter shall prevail.

Should any provision of this Consortium Agreement become invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Consortium Agreement. In such a case, the Parties concerned shall be entitled to request that a valid and practicable provision be negotiated that fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

11.2 No representation, partnership or agency

Except as otherwise provided in Section 6.4.4, no Party shall be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party or of the consortium. Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

11.3 Formal and written notices

Any notice to be given under this Consortium Agreement shall be addressed to the recipients as listed in the most current address list kept by the Coordinator.

Any change of persons or contact details shall be immediately communicated to the Coordinator by written notice. The address list shall be accessible to all Parties.

Formal notices:

If it is required in this Consortium Agreement (Sections 4.2, 9.7.2.1.1, and 11.4) that a formal notice, consent or approval shall be given, such notice shall be signed by an authorised representative of a Party and shall either be served personally or sent by mail with recorded delivery with acknowledgement of receipt.

Written notice:

Where written notice is required by this Consortium Agreement, this is fulfilled also by other means of communication such as e-mail with acknowledgement of receipt.

11.4 Assignment and amendments

Except as set out in Section 8.3, no rights or obligations of the Parties arising from this Consortium Agreement may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, to any third party without the other Parties' prior formal approval.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Consortium Agreement not explicitly listed in Section 6.3.7 (SP)/ Section 6.3.1.2 (LP) require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties.

11.5 Mandatory national law

Nothing in this Consortium Agreement shall be deemed to require a Party to breach any mandatory statutory law under which the Party is operating.

11.6 Language

This Consortium Agreement is drawn up in English, which language shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, arbitral proceedings and processes relative thereto.

11.7 Applicable law

This Consortium Agreement shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium excluding its conflict of law provisions.

11.8 Settlement of disputes

The Parties shall endeavour to settle their disputes amicably.

Any dispute, controversy or claim arising under, out of or relating to this contract and any subsequent amendments of this contract, including, without limitation, its formation, validity, binding effect, interpretation, performance, breach or termination, as well as non-contractual claims, shall be submitted to mediation in accordance with the WIPO Mediation Rules. The place of mediation shall be Brussels unless otherwise agreed upon. The language to be used in the mediation shall be English unless otherwise agreed upon.

WIPO Mediation Followed, in the Absence of a Settlement, by Court Litigation

If, and to the extent that, any such dispute, controversy or claim has not been settled pursuant to the mediation within 60 calendar days of the commencement of the mediation, the courts of Brussels shall have exclusive jurisdiction.

12 Signatures


AS WITNESS:

The Parties have caused this Consortium Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives in separate signature pages the day and year first above written.

1. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energie-Environnement (AURA-EE)

Name of Legal Representative: Catherine Staron

Functions: President


Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

2. Association pour une Gestion Durable de l'énergie (AGEDEN)

Name of Legal Representative: Evelyne Collet

Functions: President


Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

3. Cyprus Energy Agency (CEA)

Name of Legal Representative: Savvas Vlachos

Functions: Director

Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

4. Ente Vasco de la Energia (EVE)

Name of Legal Representative: Mikel Amundarain Leibar

Functions: President


Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

5. Federation Européenne des Agences et des Regions pour l'Energie et l'Environnement (FEDARENE)

Name of Legal Representative: Seamus Hoyne

Functions: General Secretary

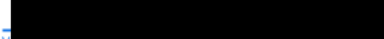
Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

6. Energy Centre of the Usti Region (ECUK)

Name of Legal Representative: Vladimir Skalnik

Functions: Director

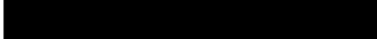
Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

7. Consorcio Agencia Extremeña de la Energia (AGENEX)

Name of Legal Representative: Lidia Calderón Sierra

Functions: Managing Director

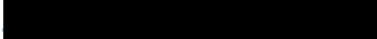
Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

8. Mazowiecka Agencja Energetyczna Spzoo (MAE)

Name of Legal Representative: Bartosz Dubinski

Functions: President

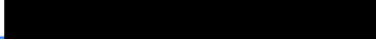
Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

9. Sociedad publica de gestion ambiental (IHOBE)

Name of Legal Representative: Alexander Boto

Functions: General Director


Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

10. Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy Stichting (IEECP)

Name of Legal Representative: Vlasios Oikonomou

Functions: Managing Director

Signature(s) 

Date 3 janv. 2025

Attachment 1: Background included

According to the Grant Agreement (Article 16.1) Background is defined as “data, know-how or information (...) that is (...) needed to implement the Action or exploit the results”. Because of this need, Access Rights have to be granted in principle, but Parties must identify and agree amongst them on the Background for the Project. This is the purpose of this attachment.

PARTY 1

As to AURA-EE, it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge,

No data, know-how or information of AURA-EE is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of AGEDEN is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of CEA is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of EVE is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of FEDARENE is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of ECUK is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or Exploitation of that other Party’s Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”).

No data, know-how or information of AGENEX is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the action”) or

Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results").

No data, know-how or information of MAE is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results").

No data, know-how or information of IHOBE is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results").

No data, know-how or information of IEECP is Needed by another Party for implementation of the Project (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights to background and results for implementing the action") or Exploitation of that other Party's Results (Article 16.1 and its Annex 5 Grant Agreement, Section "Access rights to results and background", sub-section "Access rights for exploiting the results").



OCTOPUS_Consortium Agreement


Rapport d'audit final


2025-01-27

Créé le :	2025-01-03
De :	Info1 AURA-EE (info1@auvergnerhonealpes-ee.fr)
État :	Signé
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✓ Accord terminé

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