

## Elia upgrades north-south axis of Belgian high-voltage grid between Kruibeke and Dilbeek

Elia, the Belgian high-voltage grid operator, is upgrading the north-south axis of the Belgian electricity grid between the Mercator and Bruegel high-voltage stations in Kruibeke and Dilbeek, respectively. The existing overhead line will be equipped with a new type of conductor that can transport more power. This will allow Elia to better distribute and transmit increased electricity flows throughout the country in the future. This is necessary to continue ensuring security of supply for the country. On Tuesday, 2 February 2021, Elia is organising a digital information session where the project will be presented. Registration is mandatory and can be done via [www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be).

### North-south axis upgrade

With the Mercator-Bruegel project Elia is upgrading the north-south axis of the Belgian high-voltage grid. This north-south axis is part of the backbone of the 380-kV electricity grid. This voltage level enables Elia to transmit large volumes of electricity quickly and efficiently throughout the country. Upgrading the existing overhead line to a transmission capacity of 5 GW is needed in order to better distribute and transmit power.

*"The energy transition will lead to more internal electricity flows in Belgium and more electricity exchanges with neighbouring countries. A strong high-voltage grid is necessary to continue ensuring security of supply for the country."* – **Didier Meerts**,  
**Programme Manager**



### New type of conductor

Elia is upgrading the 380-kV overhead line between the Mercator and Bruegel high-voltage substations in Kruibeke and Dilbeek, respectively. This involves replacing the existing conductors with a new type capable of transmitting more current. Since the new conductors are heavier, the foundations and ironwork of 64 pylons will have to be reinforced. Elia will also replace six pylons. The route for the high-voltage line is 32 kilometres long and runs through the towns of Kruibeke, Temse, Bornem, Puurs-Sint-Amands, Buggenhout, Londerzeel, Merchtem, Asse and Dilbeek. In 2021 Elia will apply for the necessary permits. Work is scheduled to start in early 2022. The upgraded high-voltage line is scheduled to enter service by the end of 2026.

## Digital information session on 2 February

Under normal circumstances, Elia organises live information sessions in locations near project sites, but this is not possible due to the current coronavirus (COVID-19) measures. So, in this instance, Elia will hold a digital information session for local residents from all the municipalities involved on Tuesday, 2 February 2021. During the digital information session, Elia will provide more information about the project: purpose, timeframe, nature of the work and the inconvenience it might cause. Registration is mandatory and can be done via [www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be).

*“The coronavirus measures pose an extra challenge when it comes to informing local residents about the project. During the digital information sessions local residents can ask our employees questions using the chat function. The recording will be uploaded to our website afterwards. That way everyone can review everything at their own pace.”*

**– Pieter Verlaak, Project Communication Officer**

## About Elia Group

### One of Europe's top five players

Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,271 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

### We make the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy generation, Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, Elia Group is innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

### In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

### International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

Elia Group is a listed holding company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

**More information: [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)**

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