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## ENTSO-E Winter Outlook: winter 2013-2014 forecast positive for Belgium

ENTSO-E, the association of European transmission system operators, today published its **Winter Outlook for 2013-2014**, a report consolidating European transmission system operators' forecasts for the upcoming winter period. These studies, covering various time-frames, are designed to check whether production capacity and the grid can cope with demand (save for unforeseen incidents). In other words, the study verifies the adequacy of the system but does not take account of the economic context.

The study stresses that **security of supply in Europe under normal and severe winter conditions is assured**. Some countries will have to resort to imports to cope with expected demand, but the relevant border capacity is sufficient.

### In Belgium

The situation regarding production in Belgium for the coming winter will be less precarious compared to winter 2012-2013. This can be explained by the renewed availability of two nuclear generation units – Doel 3 and Tihange 2 – which were unavailable last year. These units together account for 2000 MW. The increase in capacity is somewhat offset by the decommissioning of 800 MW of thermal production, that were still available as production reserve during last year ( Ruien power station and Les Awirs power station in Liège). An additional 400 MW of thermal production will be mothballed in January 2014.

In the event of cold temperatures, together with low wind and sunlight levels, our import capacity of approximately 3500 MW with neighbouring countries will be enough to meet electricity demand. The most critical periods are January and February due to the higher level of electricity consumption.

Holiday periods combined with a high infeed of energy generated from renewable energy sources (solar and wind) could make it necessary to export energy. The available border capacity makes this possible too.

The ENTSO-E report once again shows just how important interconnections are in ensuring the correct operation of the Belgian electricity system.

Like last year, the homepage of the Elia website will feature an indicator of the balance between supply and demand in Belgium (starting on 2 December). The indicator will take the form of a traffic light showing green, orange or red depending on the situation for today and tomorrow. It will also give a forecast for the next five days.

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### **About Elia**

*The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with IFM, Industry Funds Management) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With more than 1,900 employees and a transmission grid comprising some 18,300 km of high-voltage connections serving 30 million consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe's top 5 TSOs. It efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is a driving force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.*

*In addition to its system operator activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services.*

*The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose reference shareholder is municipal holding company Publi-T.*