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Elia maintains the outage plan but proposes an amendment to the activation procedures

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On Friday, Elia provided the Secretary of State for Energy with the requested clarifications concerning the outage plan. Elia confirmed the legality of the plan but suggested a possible improvement to the activation procedures.

The procedures for implementing the outage plan are legal. However, Elia acknowledges that, although they comply with the various criteria set out in the ministerial decree establishing the outage plan, the procedures could be improved in order to better fulfil the indicative and non-restrictive criterion under point 4.2 of the decree, according to which the outage power per electrical sub-zone should work out at roughly 5% of the consumption of the zones concerned.

In its activation procedures for the outage plan, Elia has always made it clear to the public authorities that the interruptible tranches were established based on tranches of equal power per electrical zone.

If the interruptible tranches are viewed in terms of the actual consumption in these zones, this ratio for the south-west and south-east zones could be considered as relatively far from the indicative target of 5%.

For the purposes of power shortage management, Elia proposes to subdivide these two zones into two separate interruptible units to ensure stricter compliance with the target. The substations affected remain the same as before, as does the tranche structure.

The Secretary of State has taken into account this proposal to amend the implementation procedures for the outage plan.

Elia points out that the outage plan implementation procedures require coordination with the distribution system operators to restore supply to priority customers and re-establish grid operation after a planned outage as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Elia will review the procedures after the winter to assess if and how they can be further improved.

Elia stresses that the transmission grid is perfectly capable of transmitting the electricity required to supply all users, even in winter. However, Elia's job is to transmit the electricity generated or bought by generators and suppliers. It is therefore the responsibility of these parties to generate or buy enough electricity to supply their customers and the responsibility of the public authorities to take measures to support that objective, as and when necessary. Only if the electricity generated or purchased was insufficient to meet power needs would Elia be obliged to ask the relevant ministers to activate the outage plan and the resulting procedures. The top priority must therefore remain to do everything possible to prevent the need for the outage plan to be activated.

About Elia

The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators (TSOs): Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with Industry Funds Management (IFM)) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With over 1,900 employees and a grid comprising some 18,300 km of high-voltage lines serving 30 million end consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe's top five TSOs.

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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 TSO activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI).

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