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## ***Elia Group hosts the 2017 Annual Meeting of the GO15 organization***

**The Elia Group hosted the 2017 Annual Meeting of the GO15 organisation on October 22 - 24 in Brussels. GO15 is a voluntary initiative of the world's 19 largest Power Grid Operators representing together more than 70% of the world's electricity demand, providing electricity to 3.4 billion consumers on the 6 continents.**

**The 2017 Annual Meeting in Brussels was the opportunity for the CEOs to further discuss the future of power grids and renew their commitment to the success of the energy transition.**

The Elia Group joined in 2011 the organisation that includes Grid operators from Asia, Mexico, Russia, Brazil, Africa, USA, Middle East, Australia and from Europe. GO15 intends to be a leader and a catalyst in the transition of the electric power industry to the power grid of the 21st century.

"This is an incredible opportunity to develop a common vision, exchange expertise and best of breed practices, and leverage international cooperation", declared Chris Peeters, CEO of the Elia Group. "We share a common interest in further developing and operating power grids in a reliable and efficient manner. Through our cooperation we can even better serve our respective communities by providing affordable, sustainable and reliable electricity to our citizens".

"Grid operators globally are asking themselves three core questions: how do we manage a secure system with increasing variability; how do we manage a network that is highly susceptible to climate change; and what is the business model of the future for grid operators", said Audrey Zibelman – GO15 President and Managing director and Chief Executive Officer for the Australian Energy Market Operator.

"Balanced, secure and efficient grid operation can be achieved with a varied portfolio of resources, with services that are essential to the security of the power system needing to be truly valued", said Ms Zibelman.

Alain Steven, GO15 Secretary-General, concurred: "We face an unprecedented evolution of the power supply system, as the world moves to a carbon free society. By bundling their forces, our members intend to contribute to reliable and sustainable power grids at an affordable cost."

"By scope and role, GO15 has a significant responsibility in the energy value chain as we accommodate new thinking and technologies, as the fourth industrial revolution beckons organisations to be disruptors in their industries by 'being fast, agile, and digitise or live with the risk of failing', added Thava Govender, the incoming GO15 President for 2017/2018 and Group Executive: Transmission and Acting Group Executive for Risk and Sustainability at Eskom, South Arica's energy utility.

#### About Elia:

*The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators: Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with Industry Funds Management) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With more than 2,100 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 five 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.*

#### About GO15:

*Reliable and Sustainable Power Grids (formerly VLPGO) is a voluntary initiative of the world's 19 largest Power Grid Operators (PGOs) representing together more than 70% of the world's electricity demand and providing electricity to over 3 billion consumers. GO 15 was created in 2004 following several blackouts across the world to investigate fundamental issues of common interest to its members and to develop joint action plans addressing improvement of power system security. In 2009, GO 15 became a formal organization.*

*GO 15 Vision: To be a leader and a catalyst in the transition of the electric power industry to the power grid of the 21st century.*

*GO 15 Mission: 1. Reach international consensus on strategic issues, which are unique to the large power grids and PGOs. 2. Develop a common vision with respect to the technologies and best practices required to address those issues 3. Facilitate implementation of the vision through informational exchanges, joint projects and cooperation with other international organizations in the industry.*