

PRESS INVITATION | BRUSSELS, 24 August 2020



Hainaut Loop

Project presentation and start of the procedure to apply for a sector plan revision

Elia, the Belgian high-voltage transmission system operator, is planning to build the Hainaut Loop in order to meet the challenges raised by the energy transition. The project involves building a high-voltage line between the Avelgem and Courcelles substations.

Hainaut Loop

This project addresses four major objectives:

- Ensuring competitive and affordable access to electricity;
- Increasing the accommodation capacity for all renewable energies;
- Boosting the economic attractiveness of Wallonia, more specifically Hainaut Province;
- Increasing security of supply for consumers.

More specifically, the project involves connecting the Avelgem high-voltage substation (in Flanders) to the Courcelles high-voltage substation. In Wallonia, the project will run through the municipalities of Mont-de-l'Enclus, Celles, Frasnes-les-Anvaing, Leuze-en-Hainaut, Ath, Chièvres, Brugelette, Lens, Soignies, Braine-le-Comte, Ecaussinnes, Seneffe, Pont-à-Celles and Courcelles.

Application to revise the sector plan

Since this is a high-voltage connection (380 kV), it is considered a key piece of electricity transmission infrastructure. Accordingly, Elia is required to apply for a revision to the sector plan before launching the procedure to apply for the planning permit that will ultimately enable the infrastructure to be built. This is a multi-year process that Elia would like to start this 7 September by submitting the application to the relevant authorities.

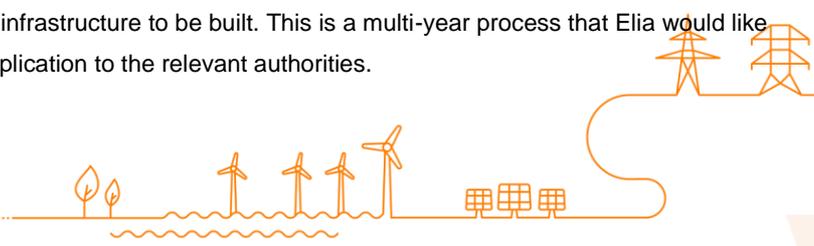
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For a more detailed presentation of the project and how it will proceed, we would like to invite you to the press conference scheduled for Friday, 4 September at 10 a.m. at the Maison de la Réunion (rue de la Réunion 5, 7000 Mons).

Programme:

- Introduction by Mr Tommy Leclercq, Governor of Hainaut Province;
- Presentation of the Hainaut Loop by the Elia project team;
- Question and answer session;
- Radio/TV interviews for those who so wish;
- The event will conclude with free time for everyone to chat and enjoy sandwiches and drinks.

To help us organise the event as efficiently as possible, especially in view of the current public health situation and the relevant hygiene rules, please confirm whether or not you will be attending.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Mélanie Laroche

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