

PRESS RELEASE

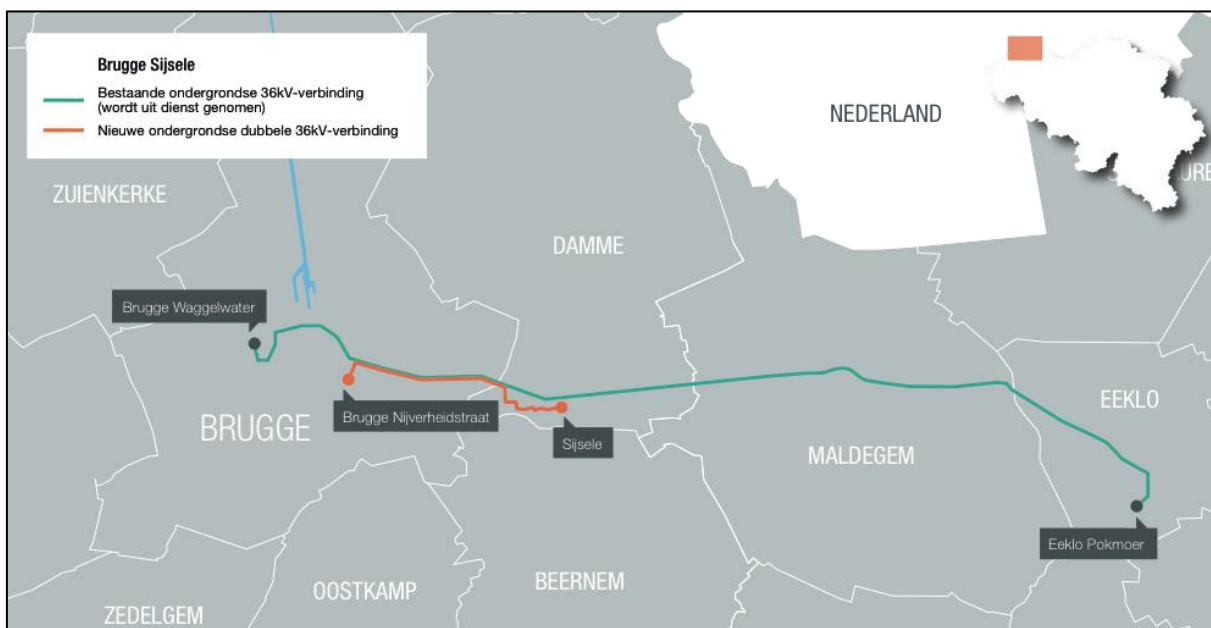
1 June 2018

Elia plans to replace the underground cable connection between Bruges and Sijsele in 2020

- Elia plans to work on the underground cable connection between Bruges and Sijsele from March 2020 onwards.
- The existing connection between Bruges and Eeklo has come to the end of its service life and will be replaced by a new double 36-kV underground cable connection that is four times shorter.
- Elia is holding an information session for local residents on Monday 4 June.

A new, shorter connection

The new double underground cable connection will be laid between Bruges and Sijsele and is approximately eight kilometres long, four times shorter than the existing connection between Bruges and Eeklo. "Laying a double cable connection eliminates the need to replace the line between Sijsele and Eeklo. In doing so, Elia is trying to limit disruption in the area. Once the new cables have been installed, the old ones will be taken out of service," says Elia Programme Manager Steven Rawoe.





Guaranteeing reliability and safety

The existing 36-kV underground supply cables from Eeklo and Bruges date from 1937 and need to be replaced. These changes are key to securing the area's energy supply in the future.

Plans explained at the information session

On Monday 4 June, Elia is holding an information session to present the project to local residents. "We use information panels and detailed plans to give visitors more information about our approach to the work, the measures we will take to minimise disruption, and the planned schedule. The information session is also an opportunity to talk to locals to spotlight any concerns among them," adds Steven van Muylder, a Public Acceptance Officer at Elia. Those interested can attend the information session at any time between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 't Couvent, Kanunnik Decoeneplein 1, Sint-Kruis, Bruges. More information about the project is available [here](#). If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Elia via email (omwonenden@elia.be) or on the toll-free hotline +32 (0)800 11 089 (during office hours).

About Elia:

Elia operates Belgium's high-voltage (30,000 to 380,000 volt) transmission system and is responsible for transmitting electricity in Belgium. The company has 1,350 active employees. Elia runs a grid consisting of overhead lines and underground cable connections extending over a total distance of more than 8,495 km. This grid is considered to be one of the most reliable in Europe and plays an essential role in the community, since large industrial customers are connected to it and it transmits electricity from generating facilities to distribution systems.

For further information, please contact:

Media – Anne Laure Mouligneaux – +32 (0)497 47 16 08 – annelaure.mouligneaux@elia.be
Steven Van Muylder – +32 (0)472 50 31 83 - steven.vanmuylder@elia.be

