



PRESS RELEASE

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Taking down the Ciplý-Pâturages connection

The overhead line linking the Ciplý and Pâturages substations dates from 1932. Comprising 66 pylons over a distance of 8.1 km, it is showing significant signs of wear. Since this makes it no longer fit for purpose, and to guarantee public safety, Elia decided to fully dismantle the connection.

A multi-stage project

As you may recall, the current 70 kV overhead line, equipped with two three-phase transmission lines, crosses the municipalities of Mons, Quévy, Frameries and Colfontaine.

Elia has broken down the project to dismantle the line into several stages:

1. August to September 2017: work to improve the line's reliability.
2. May 2018: the erection of wooden frames on either side of the line's route to support the conductors during the dismantling process.
3. Mid-June 2018: full removal of the conductors (work that is scheduled to continue for completion by the end of July) and dismantling of the line's pylons and foundations.
4. End of October 2018: end of the project (based on the provisional work schedule).

Proactive communication

Elia is committed to maintaining proactive communication throughout the project. There will be regular contacts with the municipalities to keep them informed of the stages of the work and progress made. In June, a brochure will be distributed to the local residents affected by the dismantling operation to explain what it is all about and present the methods used and a provisional schedule for the work involved.

In addition, the project's web page (see www.elia.be) will be regularly updated and a toll-free number (0800 18 002) and dedicated e-mail address (riverains@elia.be) will also be available to answer any questions about the project.

Essential reconstruction work

Thanks to Elia's close collaboration with Ores, which is putting the finishing touches to its grid consolidation work, the connection can be dismantled without jeopardising the region's power supply. The work done on Ores' grid will guarantee security of supply in the short term. Nevertheless, Elia reiterates that a new underground electrical connection between Ciplý and Pâturages remains vital, both to guarantee security of supply and to respond to the region's future economic development, including the integration of renewable energies. A new team is currently assessing the various alternatives. Elia's ultimate objective is to propose a solution that has the backing of all the stakeholders involved in the project.

For more information, contact:

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About Elia Group

ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced at all times, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy generation, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. At the same time, the Elia Group is innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

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IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

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

www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu