

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 8 October 2019

## Quevaucamps-Harchies: route improved thanks to Impact Study

**After six months of analysis, CSD Engineers has put forward its findings and recommendations concerning the Quevaucamps-Harchies project. Elia will present the results of the independent accredited consultancy's Environmental Impact Study to residents of Bernissart and Beloeil on 3 October.**

Elia, Belgium's high-voltage transmission system operator, intends to reconstruct a section of the 2x70 kV high-voltage overhead line (150 kV line) between the Quevaucamps and Harchies substations along a new, improved route. This new line section comprises 14 pylons and will run through the municipalities of Bernissart and Beloeil. Following this reconstruction, Elia also plans to dismantle the existing section.

This project is an investment for the future, both guaranteeing grid reliability in the region and enabling the integration of renewable energy. The energy transition is under way, so our grid must be able to accommodate peaks in renewable energy generation and offer sufficient capacity all along the Quevaucamps-Elouges-Pâturages-Baudour line.

### Study conducted by an independent consultancy

As part of the statutory permit application process, Elia officially presented its draft project plan to residents during the advance public information meeting on 19 March, where residents were able to ask questions and make suggestions about the proposed project plan. Bernissart and Beloeil residents could also submit their questions and recommendations in writing in the two weeks following the meeting.

CSD Engineers, an independent consultancy accredited by the Walloon authorities, used this information as a basis for its Environmental Impact Study (EIS), which is a necessary component of the planning permit application for projects like Quevaucamps-Harchies. This study was intended to analyse the project's potential impact in a number of areas (ground, air, climate, landscape, heritage, waste, health, noise and socio-economic aspects).

#### Contact

#### Community Relations

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## Recommendations incorporated into Elia's final project

In addition to putting forward recommendations concerning the environment, site management, health, heritage, safety, and so on, CSD Engineers studied four alternatives to Elia's draft project plan. One improvement in particular was highly recommended, namely moving pylon Q13N, located on the northern part of the route, towards the motorway. By adopting the recommendations made by CSD Engineers, Elia has improved the final route. Moving pylon Q13N 120 metres closer to the motorway shifts the route even further away from residential areas while keeping the number of pylons the same. Moreover, the route is still far enough away from the motorway that the pylons do not have to be painted red and white.

As well as changing the route, Elia is analysing all the consultancy's recommendations with a view to including them in the next planning permit application, which should be submitted by November 2019. This will be followed by the official consultation procedure, which will give residents of Bernissart and Beloeil the chance to consult Elia's permit application and the full EIS report from CSD Engineers.

## Elia listens to municipal authorities and residents

Elia has strived to communicate proactively and transparently from the start of the project, and so has worked closely with the local authorities in Bernissart and Beloeil. Elia has also rolled out a range of communication initiatives (including the information meeting, Q&A sessions and brochures) to ensure that residents are as well informed as possible.

Elia and CSD Engineers are holding an information session on Thursday 3 October (6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. at the Maison rurale in Blaton), where they will present the EIS findings and recommendations and the chosen final project.

Our teams are also on hand to answer any questions. Simply call the freephone number 0800 19 002 or send an email to [riversains@elia.be](mailto:riversains@elia.be). Visit our dedicated project web page at [www.elia.be](http://www.elia.be) or keep up with all our infrastructure projects via our Facebook page (@EliaProjectsBelgium).

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## About the 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 around the clock, 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. The Elia Group is also 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.

### 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 from the outset. 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 operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain. The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information, visit [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)

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