

PART I – GENERAL CONDITIONS

Art.I.1 DEFINITIONS

Except where there is further specification aimed at application for the purposes of the present Contract, and without ignoring the stipulations of public order, the concepts defined in the Electricity Act, the electricity decrees and/or ordinances in relation to the organization of the electricity market and/or the various applicable Grid Codes and EU network codes and guidelines, as amended from time to time, are also included for the purposes of the Contract in the sense of these statutory or regulatory definitions.

In addition, the following definitions apply for the purposes of the Contract:

Annex	Any annex to the present Contract.
Article or Art.	Any article of the present Contract.
CACM	The Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 of 24 July 2015 establishing a guideline on capacity allocation and congestion management.
Contract	The present Contract, including its Annexes.
CREG	The Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation, i.e. the Belgian national regulatory authority.
Direct Damage	The damage that is a direct and immediate result of a contractual breach and/or fault of one of the Parties, with the exclusion of Indirect Damage.
EBGL	The Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing.
Electricity Act	The Belgian law of 29 April 1999 concerning the organisation of the electricity market (« Loi du 29 avril 1999 relative à l'organisation du marché de l'électricité, <i>M.B.</i> 11.05.1999 » / « Wet van 29 april 1999 betreffende de organisatie van de elektriciteitsmarkt, <i>B.S.</i> 11.05.1999 »), as amended from time to time.

E&R NC	Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 of 24 November 2017 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration.
General Conditions	Part I to the present Contract. The General Conditions are identical in the following contracts for ancillary services to be concluded by Elia: the contracts for balancing services (BSP – “Balancing Service Provider” contracts for FCR – “Frequency Containment Reserve”, aFRR “automatic Frequency Restoration Reserve” and mFRR – “manual Frequency Restoration Reserve”), the contracts for restoration services (RSP – “Restoration Service Provider”), the contracts for voltage and reactive power control services (VSP – “Voltage Service Provider”) and the contracts for services related to congestion management (OPA – “Outage Planning Agent” and SA – “Scheduling Agent”).
Grid Codes	The Federal Grid Code for Transmission (adopted in the form of royal decree on the basis of article 11 of the Electricity Act – currently the “Arrêté royal du 22 avril 2019 établissant un règlement technique pour la gestion du réseau de transport de l’électricité et l’accès à celui-ci, <i>M.B. 29.04.2019</i> ” / “Koninklijk besluit van 22 april 2019 houdende een technisch reglement voor het beheer van het transmissienet van elektriciteit en de toegang ertoe, <i>B.S. 29.04.2019</i> ”), as amended from time to time, and the grid codes for local and regional transmission, as amended from time to time.
Indirect Damage	Any incidental, consequential damage, loss or injury such as, but not limited to loss of revenue, loss of profit, loss of data, loss of business

	opportunities, loss of (prospective) clients, missed savings.
Law of 2 August 2002	The Law of 2 August 2002 against payment arrears in commercial transactions (“Loi du 2 août 2002 concernant la lutte contre le retard de paiement dans les transactions commerciales, M.B. 7.08.2002” / “Wet betreffende de bestrijding van de betalingsachterstand bij handelstransacties, B.S. 7.08.2002”), as amended from time to time.
Service(s)	The Service(s) as described in the Specific Conditions of the present Contract and as provided by the Service Provider.
Service Provider	The Service Provider as identified on the first page of the present Contract.
SOGL	The Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation.
Specific Conditions	Part II (and, as the case may be, the following parts) of the present Contract.
Terms and Conditions	The terms and conditions as required by, and developed in accordance with, the applicable European regulations. The present Contract constitutes an appendix to the Terms and Conditions as identified in the Whereas section of the present Contract
Working Day	any calendar day except for Saturday, Sunday and Belgian public holidays

Art.I.2 SCOPE OF SERVICES AND CONTRACTUAL STRUCTURE

I.2.1. Scope of services

By the signature of the present Contract, the Service Provider undertakes to provide the Service(s) in accordance with the General and Specific Conditions as provided for in this Contract.

The present Contract between the Parties lays down their mutual rights and obligations in relation to the procurement by Elia from the Service Provider and the eventual provision by the Service Provider to Elia of the Service(s).

1.2.2. Structure of the Contract

The present Contract is composed of a first part containing the General Conditions and of a second part (and, as the case may be, following parts) containing the Specific Conditions for the Services.

The Parties shall ensure that the proper performance of this Contract is always based on the existence and proper performance of the requisite contractual agreements, if any, with third parties involved.

Art.I.3 ADDITIONAL RULES OF INTERPRETATION

By signing this Contract, the Service Provider explicitly renounces to apply its own general conditions, special or otherwise, regardless of the time when they were issued or the form of their issuance.

The substantiation in this Contract of a specific obligation or stipulation listed in the applicable legislation shall in no way be considered as derogating from the obligations or stipulations which, under the applicable legislation, must be applied to the relevant situation.

In this Contract, including its annexes, unless the context require otherwise:

- The singular indicates the plural and vice versa;
- References to one gender include all other genders;
- The table of contents, titles and headings in this Contract are for convenience only and do not affect their interpretation;
- The word “including” and its variations are to be construed without limitation;
- Any reference to legislation, regulations, directive, order, instrument, code or any other enactment shall include any modification, extension or re-enactment of it then in force.

Art.I.4 ENTRY INTO FORCE AND DURATION OF THIS CONTRACT

1.4.1. Entry into force of this Contract

This Contract shall enter into force once it has been validly signed by all Parties.

Once this Contract has entered into force between the Parties, the Parties shall be bound by the General Conditions as detailed under Part I and the Specific Conditions as detailed under Part II (and the following parts, as the case may be) of this Contract.

Once this Contract has entered into force between the Parties, it supersedes all previous agreements and documents exchanged between the Parties relating to the same subject matter.

I.4.2. Duration of the Contract

Without prejudice to Art. Art.I.11, the duration of this Contract is specified in Part II on the Specific Conditions.

Art.I.5 INVOICING AND PAYMENT

I.5.1. Invoicing matters – General instructions

Without prejudice to specific instructions regarding invoicing matters as may be provided for under the Specific Conditions of this Contract, each invoice sent under this Contract shall include at least the following items:

- i) Full name and address of both the invoicing Party and the invoiced Party;
- ii) VAT number of both the invoicing Party and the invoiced Party;
- iii) Invoiced amount, valued in euro;
- iv) Bank account and bank address (including IBAN and BIC) on which the relevant payment shall be made;
- v) Invoice number;
- vi) Invoice issue date;
- viii) Designation of the Service and the period on the invoice;
- ix) Tax rate and tax amount separately, if any;
- x) Specific constraint for invoicing, required by article 226 of Directive 2006/112/CE, if any, e.g. indication of the reference to the applicable provision of the Directive where the supply of services is subject to the VAT reverse charge procedure;
- xi) Reference if required by the invoiced Party;
- xii) Payment term in accordance with paragraph 5.2 hereafter; and
- xiii) Specific items as listed in any invoicing section provided for under the Specific Conditions of this Contract.

The absence of one of the abovementioned stipulations shall nullify the invoice and render it valueless. In such a case, the invoiced Party reserves the right to return the invoice to the invoicing

Party within a period of 15 (fifteen) Working Days. Returning the invoice in this way shall constitute rejection of the invoice, without any other reaction from the invoiced Party being necessary. Failure by the invoicing Party to observe the abovementioned stipulations regarding invoicing will give rise to an incorrect invoice, which will be the subject of a credit note to invoiced Party. The invoicing Party may then send a new and corrected invoice.

1.5.2. Payment matters

Payments will be made within 30 calendar days following the end of the month in which the invoice is received (this is the due date of the invoice). The invoiced Party shall pay the invoicing Party by direct transfer to the stated bank account. Within the scope of this Article, an invoice will be considered received on the third Working Day following the date when the invoice was sent (postmark will serve as proof in case of a paper invoice sent by post – in case of an electronic invoice the date the invoice was submitted in the electronic system or sent by email will apply).

Any objection regarding the amount of an invoice must, in order to be admissible, be sent by registered letter to the invoicing Party before the due date of the disputed invoice as set above. The reasons for the objection shall be described as comprehensibly and in as much detail as is reasonably possible. If the value of the invoice is disputed, the undisputed part of the invoice shall still be paid. The Parties will discuss in good faith in order to reach an agreement on the disputed amount of the invoice within thirty (30) Working Days of the receipt of the registered letter, failure of which Art. 1.13 will apply.

The amount subject of an objection shall be paid within 30 calendar days following the end of the month in which 1) the agreement is reached in respect of the dispute or 2) the decision has been adopted by which the dispute is definitively settled between the Parties according to Art. 1.13. The Parties undertake not to invoke the exception of non-performance (“*exceptio non adimpleti contractus*”) in order to suspend the performance of their respective obligations during the dispute.

1.5.3. Interest for delayed payment

Late payment will automatically and without notice of default incur interest on the total amount of the invoice as specified in article 5 of the Law of 2 August 2002 from the day following the due date, up to and including the day when payment in full is made.

Art.I.6 LIABILITY

1.6.1. General principles

Without prejudice to any obligation of result provided for under this Contract (such as confidentiality and payment obligations), as the case may be, and without prejudice to the application of a penalty system as provided by the Contract, the provision of the Services by the Service Provider is an obligation of means (“middelenverbintenis – obligation de moyens”).

The Parties shall do their utmost effort, during the lifetime of the Contract, to prevent damage by one Party to the other and, as the case may be, to limit it.

1.6.2. Direct Damages

The Parties to this Contract shall be liable to one another for any damage directly resulting from any contractual breach and/or fault. The said fault being one, which under similar circumstances, an experienced, professional Service Provider or TSO, respectively, acting according to the rules and taking all reasonable precautions would in no case have committed. The Party in breach and/or at fault will indemnify the other Party and compensate it for any Direct Damage, including for claims by third parties in relation to such Direct Damage. Except in a case of deception or deliberate fault, the Parties will under no circumstances be liable to the other Party for compensating or indemnifying the other Party, including for claims by third parties, for Indirect Damage.

1.6.3. Process

As soon as one of the Parties has knowledge of any claim to pay compensation, including a claim for compensation arising from a claim by a third party, for which the latter might institute proceedings against the other Party, that Party shall inform the other Party thereof without delay. This notification shall be made by means of a registered letter, mentioning the nature of the claim, the amount thereof (if known) and the method of calculation – all in reasonable detail and with reference to the legislative, regulatory or contractual provisions on which the claim might be based. In case of third party claim, the defaulting Party shall fully cooperate with the defending Party in such response and defense as reasonably required.

1.6.4. Caps

Any compensation due, as the case may be, by any Party is in any case limited to a maximum of twice the value of the Contract per year irrespective of the number of claims, the amount of which

cannot exceed €12.5 million (twelve and a half million Euro) per year and per Party. This cap is without prejudice to the caps applicable for contractual third party claims.

The Specific Conditions of this Contract may foresee additional specific caps applicable to certain penalties.

Art.I.7 EMERGENCY AND FORCE MAJEURE

1.7.1. Emergency Situation

In case of an emergency situation (as defined in the applicable legislation and regulations¹), Elia is entitled and/or obliged to take all the measures provided for in the applicable legislation and regulations. In case of contradictions with the provisions of this Contract, such measures as foreseen in the applicable legislation and regulations shall prevail on the rights and obligations of this Contract.

1.7.2. Alert, Emergency, Black-out and Restoration state

When the system is in alert, emergency, black-out or restoration state (as defined in the applicable legislation and regulations), Elia is entitled and/or obliged to take all the measures provided for in the applicable legislation and regulations, including under certain circumstances the suspension of market activities as provided for in the applicable legislation and regulations. In case of contradictions with the provisions of this Contract, such measures as foreseen in the applicable legislation and regulations shall prevail on the rights and obligations of this Contract.

1.7.3. Force Majeure

Without prejudice to the rights and obligations of the Parties in the cases as referred to under Art. 1.7.1 and 1.7.2, and as defined in the applicable legislation and/or regulations, and without prejudice to the application of the rescue and restoration provisions, as defined in the applicable legislation and/or regulations, the Parties will be discharged of their respective obligations under this Contract in a case of force majeure that prevents the performance of their obligations under this Contract, either partly or entirely, with the exception of the financial obligations that arose before the force majeure event. This suspension of the obligations will only last as long as the force majeure event.

¹ Including article 72 of CACM; article 16.2 of the Regulation (EC) No 714/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1228/2003 and article 16.2 of the Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity.

The term “force majeure” shall mean, without prejudice to the definition of force majeure in applicable legislation and/or regulations, any unforeseeable or unusual event or situation beyond the reasonable control of a Party, and not due to a fault of the Party, which cannot be avoided or overcome with reasonable foresight and diligence, which cannot be solved by measures which are from a technical, financial or economic point of view reasonably possible for the Party, which has actually happened and is objectively verifiable, and which makes it impossible for the Party to fulfil, temporarily or permanently, its obligations in accordance with this Contract and which occurred after conclusion of the Contract.

The application of market mechanisms, such as imbalance prices or the application of high prices in a normal market state, cannot be qualified as force majeure.

The following situations, among others, will be considered as force majeure, if they comply with the conditions provided for in the second paragraph of Art. 1.7.3. The Parties agree that following situations will not automatically constitute force majeure, but will only constitute force majeure when they fulfil the conditions of force majeure as provided for in the second paragraph of Art. 1.7.3:

- natural disasters arising from earthquakes, floods, storms, cyclones or other climatologically exceptional situations recognized as such by a public authority habilitated for this;
- a nuclear or chemical explosion and its consequences;
- exceptional hazards (or “hors catégorie” hazards) during which the sudden unavailability of elements of the grid or of an electricity production unit is caused by reasons other than aging, lack of maintenance or qualification of the operators; including the unavailability of the IT system, whether or not caused by a virus, when all preventive measures have been taken considering the state of the art ;
- the temporary or continuing technical impossibility for the grid to exchange electricity because of disruptions within the control area caused by electrical currents resulting from energy exchanges within another control area or between two or more other control areas and of which the identity of the market participants involved in those energy exchanges is unknown by Elia and which Elia could not reasonably be expected to know;

- the impossibility to operate the grid or installations that from a functional point of view are part of it due to a collective dispute that gives rise to a unilateral measure by employees (or groups of employees) or any other labour dispute;
- fire, explosion, sabotage, acts of terrorism, acts of vandalism, damage caused by criminal acts, criminal coercion and threats of a similar nature or acts having the same consequences;
- state of war (declared or not), threat of war, invasion, armed conflict, blockade, revolution or uprising; and
- The situation in which a competent authority invokes urgency and imposes exceptional and temporary measures on the system operators and/or grid users, such as measures needed in order to maintain or restore the safe and efficient operation of the grids, including the order to shed load in case of a shortage.

The Party that invokes a situation of force majeure shall inform the other Party as soon as possible, by phone and/or by mail, of the circumstances following which it cannot fulfil its obligations, either wholly or in part, how long such non-fulfilment might reasonably be expected to last, and of the measures it has taken to counteract the situation.

Nevertheless, the Party that invokes a situation of force majeure shall do everything possible to limit the consequences of the non-fulfilment of its obligations towards the other Party, the transmission system and third parties and to once again fulfil its obligations.

If the period of force majeure persists for 30 (thirty) successive days or more, and a Party, as a result of the force majeure situation acknowledged by both Parties, is unable to fulfil its essential obligations of the Contract, the other Party may terminate the Contract with immediate effect by a reasoned registered letter.

Art.I.8 CONFIDENTIALITY

I.8.1 No divulgation of confidential information

The Parties and/or their employees shall treat any information that they exchange with one another within the framework or in relation to the Contract in the strictest confidence and not divulge it to third parties unless at least one of the following conditions is met:

- if Elia and/or the Service Provider is called to give evidence in court or in their relations with the competent regulatory, administrative and judicial authorities. The Parties shall, as far as possible, inform each other of the situation in advance, and will reach an agreement concerning the form and content of the communication of this information;
- if a prior written agreement has been obtained from the Party issuing the confidential information;
- with regard to Elia, in consultation with operators of other grids or within the framework of contracts and/or rules with the foreign grid operators or regional security coordinators/regional coordination centers, insofar as the addressee of that information undertakes to accord the same degree of confidentiality to that information as that accorded by Elia;
- if such information is easily and normally accessible or available to the public;
- if the divulgation of such information by Elia and/or the Service Provider to persons such as subcontractors and/or their employees and/or their representatives and/or regional security coordinators/regional coordination centers is essential for technical or safety reasons, insofar as those addressees are bound by rules of confidentiality that appropriately guarantee the protection of confidentiality;
- if the information is already legally known by Elia and/or the Service Provider and/or their employees and work agents at the time of transmission, and which has not been communicated by the notifying Party, prior to the transmission, directly, indirectly, or by a third party by breaching an obligation of confidentiality;

- the information which, after transmission, has been brought to the attention of the recipient Party and/or its staff and work agents via a third party, without breaching an obligation of confidentiality with regard to the notifying Party;
- the divulgation of the information is foreseen by applicable legislation and/or regulation;
- the divulgation of aggregated and anonymized information and data.

This Article is without prejudice to the specific provisions on confidentiality obligations regarding the operator of the Belgian electricity transport network (at both federal and regional levels) imposed by the applicable legislation and regulation.

A Party must not, for reasons of confidentiality, refuse to divulge information that is essential and pertinent to the implementation of the Contract. The other Party to whom such information is communicated guarantees that it will maintain the confidential nature thereof.

The Service Provider declares and guarantees that the confidential information will only be used for the purposes of establishing the bid/performance of the Services and not for other purposes.

Both Parties shall take the requisite measures to ensure that this confidentiality obligation shall also be strictly observed by their employees, as well as any person who, without being an employee of one of the Parties but for whom that Party is nonetheless responsible, might properly receive such confidential information. In addition, confidential information shall only be divulged on a “need-to-know” basis, and reference will always be made thereby to the confidential nature of the information.

1.8.2. Infringements to confidentiality obligations

Any infringement to this confidentiality obligation shall be considered as serious misconduct by the Party that violates that obligation. Such infringement shall give rise to the payment of compensation for any Direct and Indirect, material and immaterial damage (in deviation from Art. 1.6.2) that the other Party can reasonably demonstrate, subject to the caps of Art. 1.6.4.

1.8.3 Ownership

Each of the Parties shall maintain full ownership of that confidential information, even when it has been divulged to other Parties. The transmission of the confidential information does not entail any transfer of property nor of any other right other than those mentioned in the Contract.

1.8.4. Duration

Without prejudice to the applicable legislation and regulations, the aforementioned confidentiality obligations remain in force for a period of 5 (five) years after termination of the Contract or in the event that the Contract is not concluded, after the notification of the confidential information.

1.8.5. Phone recordings

The Parties agree that real-time telephone communications will be recorded at their respective dispatching centers. The Parties accept the need for this communication to be recorded and the principle underpinning it. As regards probative value, the Parties acknowledge that the recordings of these communications shall be admissible as proof in the event of a dispute settlement relating to this Contract. Both Parties shall notify their respective staff about the existence and/or possibility of recordings as well as about the existence and/or possibility of recordings by the other Party.

Art.I.9 OBLIGATION OF INFORMATION

The Parties undertake, for the duration of this Contract, to inform one another as soon as possible of any event or information that the Party who has knowledge thereof must reasonably consider as an event or information that might have a detrimental effect on the Contract or on the fulfilment of the obligations specified in the Contract towards the other Party.

Art.I.10 REVIEW

1.10.1. Amendments to the main body of this Contract (General and Specific Conditions) and generally applicable Annexes

This Contract can only be modified in the course of the process for amendments to the Terms and Conditions to which it relates and following the processes foreseen therefor in the applicable regulations and legislations.

After approval by the CREG of the amendments to the Contract, including the proposed date of entry into force, these amendments shall enter into force, as will be indicated in the implementation plan of the amended Terms and Conditions and as confirmed in the notification via registered mail with acknowledgement of receipt, sent by Elia to the Service Provider in case the amendments would apply to existing contractual relationships for the subject matter which is ruled by this Contract, but however not earlier than 14 days after such notification.

Without prejudice to the competences of the competent authorities, in case the Service Provider does not agree with the amendments that would be applicable to the Contract currently in force, the Service Provider may terminate the Contract if it can demonstrate that the amendments have a significant impact on the contractual equilibrium.

1.10.2. Amendments to party-specific Annexes

Without prejudice to obligations imposed by the applicable legislation and regulations, any Annex containing party-specific information can be modified in writing after agreement by both Parties (but only for the party-specific information itself).

Any modification to the contact information taken up under the relevant Annex to this Contract (i.e. contact person, address, e-mail, phone and fax numbers) must be communicated to the other Party no later than 7 (seven) Working Days before the date on which that modification comes into effect. Both Parties shall keep the contact details as provided for under that Annex up to date throughout the validity of the Contract. These exchanges and updates can be done via e-mail and do not require a formal written amendment process of the Contract.

Art.I.11 PREMATURE DISSOLUTION IN CASE OF SERIOUS DEFAULT

The Contract may be suspended or terminated unilaterally by one of the Parties (the 'impacted Party') without judicial intervention if the other Party (the 'defaulting Party') does not rectify a serious breach or fault within 15 (fifteen) Working Days after the defaulting Party has received a registered letter with proof of receipt in which the serious breach or fault is mentioned and in which that Party was notified that the Contract would be suspended or terminated without any further notice if the aforementioned serious breach or fault is not fully rectified within the stated deadline. The deadline of 15 (fifteen) Working Days can be extended by the impacted Party. The Contract will be suspended or terminated subject to the reserve of any legal action available to the Party not in default against the defaulting Party, including a claim for damages.

Art.I.12 MISCELLANEOUS CLAUSES

I.12.1. Waiver

The fact that one of the Parties renounces permanently or temporarily to the application of one or more clauses of the Contract may under no circumstances be considered as a renunciation of the rights of that Party arising from that particular clause or those clauses.

I.12.2. Entire agreement

Without prejudice to the application of the relevant legislation and regulations, the Contract comprises the entire agreement concluded between the Parties and includes all the agreements made by the Parties regarding the subject matter thereof.

I.12.3. Notices

Any notification, as required under the Contract, will be made in writing (including e-mail) except if otherwise provided for in accordance with the provisions of this Contract.

The exchange of information for the performance of the Contract shall be directed to the respective contact persons of the Parties as provided for under the relevant Annex.

I.12.4. Transfer of rights

The rights and obligations specified in the Contract may under no circumstances be transferred, either wholly or in part, without the prior written permission of the other Party (except for transfers to undertakings affiliated to Elia in the sense of article 1:20 of the Belgian Code of Companies and Associations for which no such permission shall be required). That permission shall not be refused or postponed unreasonably.

I.12.5. Severability

On condition that this has no effect on the subject of the Contract itself, the invalidity of one or more clauses in the Contract shall not affect the validity, interpretation and/or implementation of the other clauses of the Contract.

If one or more clauses of the Contract have to be declared invalid or impossible to implement, the review process foreseen under Art. I.10 shall be followed.

Art.I.13 APPLICABLE LAW – RULES REGARDING DISPUTES

The Contract is governed by and interpreted according to Belgian law.

Any dispute relating to the conclusion, validity, interpretation or execution of the Contract or of any subsequent contracts or operations that may arise therefrom, as well as any other dispute concerning or in relation to the Contract shall, at the discretion of the more diligent Party, be presented to:

- the jurisdiction of the Brussels Enterprise Court; or
- the mediation/conciliation and arbitration service organized by the regulator concerned in accordance with the applicable legislation and regulations; or
- an ad hoc arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Belgian Judicial Code.

In view of the complex relationships, the Parties hereby agree, in order to facilitate the application of the rules regarding coherence or intervention, either – in the case of related disputes – to renounce any arbitration proceedings for the purpose of intervening in another judicial procedure, or – conversely – to renounce a judicial procedure for the purpose of taking part in multi-party arbitration. In the case of dissension, preference will be given to the procedure introduced first.

PART II – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR [...]