



Response to the public consultation on the Federal Development Plan for the Belgian transmission system 2024-2034

In this joint statement, five Belgian energy federations (FEBEG, EDORA, ODE, COGEN Vlaanderen and BOP) would like to respond to the public consultation on the draft Federal Development Plan for the Belgian transmission system 2024-2034 as proposed by Elia on 2nd of November 2022.

Joint Statement

Electricity grid reinforcement across Europe is a crucial factor to enable Belgium's energy and climate ambitions and to be able to integrate the fast and large-scale developments in renewable energy and decentralised generation into the energy system while guaranteeing the security of supply and enhancing the energy-independence of Europe.

In our view, the proposed development plan should focus on a fast realisation of the energy transition for our country, including the integration of additional renewable capacities and low-carbon technologies such as batteries... A further delay of the essential reinforcements can no longer be afforded given the urgency of the climate crisis and the energy security and adequacy concerns.

Given the many political initiatives and announcements made to accelerate the offshore wind developments, such as the decision of the federal government of March 2022, especially the integration of offshore energy from the Belgian part of the North Sea and from further abroad will require adequate and timely investments in the offshore and onshore grids. In the coming years, 5,8GW of additional offshore capacity is to be installed in the Belgian waters and a total of 8GW is envisioned. In the FDP, currently a mere 3.5GW of additional connection capacity to the Belgian shore is planned for. The FDP does not evaluate different grid design options, such as a hybrid project with more capacity towards Belgium. It is for the stakeholders not clear what would be the most cost-effective solution for a proper integration of the additional offshore wind production in the Belgian grid. Therefore, stakeholders would welcome an improved cost-benefit-analysis that transparently identifies different grid design options and includes the indirect impacts on, for example, support schemes (CfD) and adequacy.

Furthermore, the Belgian authorities should ensure that the new interconnection projects will actually benefit the Belgian consumers, which was not sufficiently demonstrated in the proposed plan.

In addition, we fear that the development plan does not contribute to the connectivity of mid-scale decentralised generation projects (>20 MW) as it no longer considers tension levels <150 kV.

Therefore we ask for a more proactive and transparent approach with anticipatory investments to fully enable the acceleration of the energy transition. The energy transition, and grid development in particular, will for sure come with a certain investment cost. It is therefore essential to ensure that these investments will generate long term benefits for the Belgian society.

www.febeg.be

www.edora.be

www.ode.be

www.cogenvlaanderen.be

www.belgianoffshoreplatform.be

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