



2 October 2018

## Winter outlook 2018-2019

# Favourable developments for November, but additional efforts required for January and February

- The need for additional capacity to maintain security of supply throughout the winter is down from 1,600-1,700 MW to 700-900 MW
- While the 750 MW of announced additional measures and the bringing forward of the maintenance of Tihange 1 have not quite allowed the legal criteria to be met, the risk of load shedding has been reduced substantially.

**BRUSSELS – Today Elia was invited to a meeting of the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Business to give an update on the outlook for winter 2018-2019. With just a few weeks to go before winter started, Belgium was faced with the unexpected unavailability of several nuclear power plants (Doel 1, Doel 2, Tihange 2 and Tihange 3), in response to which Elia announced on 24 September that the legal criteria for security of supply had not been met. One week on, the outlook for Belgium has improved: instead of an extremely difficult winter, the country can now expect shorter periods of supply difficulties and a lower risk of load shedding.**

### APPEAL TO THE GOVERNMENT AND THE MARKET PARTIES FOR MORE MEGAWATTS

According to Elia's latest analysis, another 700-900 MW of capacity is needed to ensure that security of supply can be maintained throughout the winter. Last week, at the initiative of Federal Energy Minister Marghem, a number of options were presented that could make a positive contribution to the situation. But even with the 750 MW of announced additional measures and the bringing forward of the maintenance of Tihange 1, the legal criteria for security of supply have not quite been met. The risk of load shedding is nonetheless considerably lower than it was.

Elia urges the government and the market parties to continue seeking ways of providing additional capacity. In January and February in particular, the market situation is more difficult because the import options are more limited.

Looking ahead to **early 2019**, certainty is needed about the expected return to service of several nuclear power plants (Doel 1, Doel 2 and Doel 4) in December. The task force led by Minister Marghem, which is working on the government's behalf, is also examining the feasibility of adjusting the unavailability programme to allow one of the nuclear power plants that was supposed to be offline until after the winter to return to service safely from January. This would have a positive impact on security of supply.

Every megawatt is welcome for **November** too. There has been one positive development for that month though: an additional analysis conducted by French system operator RTE has confirmed that the French grid may well have over 1,000 MW of energy available for the Belgian market, even if the weather is very cold (i.e. the kind of conditions seen once every ten years).

Starting in mid-October, Elia will run a weekly operational process that will include reviewing the outlook for the week. Any additional measures required can then be examined in consultation with the relevant government departments.

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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 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 99.99%, 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](http://www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu)

