

**15 October 2018**

Elia launches the public consultation for its 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan

- **Belgium needs a transmission grid that is able to adapt quickly to the rapid changes triggered by the energy transition;**
- **The Plan identifies the investments required to meet future needs;**
- **The public consultation for the Plan will run from 15 October to 15 December 2018.**

The public consultation for the 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan begins today, Monday 15 October 2018, and will run for two months. Elia has the statutory duty to draw up a Federal Network Development Plan every four years. This Plan closely reflects the Ten-Year Network Development Plan produced by ENTSO-E, the European Network of Transmission System Operators. The 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan identifies the investments required to meet future needs and pinpoints the measures that must be taken to make the energy transition a success in the short and medium term. The Federal Development Plan is approved by the federal energy minister.

BACKGROUND

The Belgian energy system is undergoing a series of radical changes. The energy transition is becoming more visible by the day. In response, Elia must adjust the management of the electricity system, work even more closely with its European neighbours and reconfigure its grid. The European climate targets for 2020-2030 are bringing us up against new challenges linked to a number of developments, such as the rise in renewable energy generation and the massive increase in international energy flows, which are often hard to predict and extremely volatile. If Belgium is to respond effectively to these challenges, the transmission system must be developed in a way that anticipates and takes account of rapid changes on the market and helps us to move towards a sustainable, reliable and affordable electricity system.

THE 2020-2030 FEDERAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan identifies the investments that must be made over the period in order to meet the future needs of our electricity system. The Plan put forward by Elia focuses on developing the very-high-voltage 380 kV grid by concentrating on three key areas: upgrading Belgium's power grid, integrating additional offshore wind power generation and continuing to develop interconnectors. It also entails upgrading, adapting and extending the 220 to 110 kV grid to enable the integration of more renewable energy generation and cope with increasing energy flows. Some of the investments set out in the Plan for the period beyond 2025 are still indicative and depend on the findings of further studies.

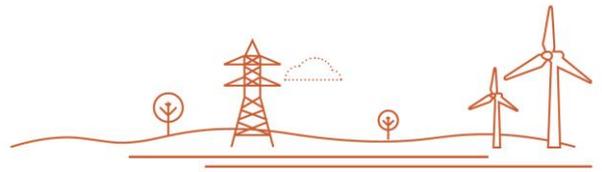
PRINCIPLES

The electricity grid makes a vital contribution to Belgium's social well-being, decarbonisation and socio-economic development. Elia always puts society's interests first when making investment decisions. We kept three general principles in mind when preparing the plan:

- limiting the construction of new infrastructure as much as possible and prioritising the optimisation and enhancement of existing infrastructure;
- communicating and collaborating openly throughout the development process;
- respecting citizens and the environment, both as we build our infrastructure and as we operate it afterwards.

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Given the scale and impact of the 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan, it is crucial that there is a general social consensus about the importance of future infrastructure projects. To secure this broad consensus, Elia is counting on support from various authorities and federations and from the public at large. With this in mind, we have consulted a number of authorities and regulators about the Plan and a detailed report on its environmental impact has been produced. We are also conducting a public consultation, which begins on Monday 15 October and will run until 15 December 2018. The consultation period is an opportunity for people to ask questions and share their opinions and comments about the Plan.

You can consult the 2020-2030 Federal Development Plan on the website:

<https://eliafederaldevelopmentplan.be/>



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-west 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. 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 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

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