



Peak electricity consumption in Belgium 10 to 15% lower than at start of March. Well-functioning of the electricity system guaranteed.

- Each extension of government measures to fight coronavirus leads to lower consumption peak
- Night-time and weekend consumption remains constant
- Grid stability and security of supply guaranteed
- Elia oversees implementation and strict enforcement of preventive measures

BRUSSELS | The measures currently being taken by the government to combat the spread of the coronavirus epidemic are having a noticeable impact on electricity consumption in Belgium. The gradual restriction on activities is leading to a downturn in peak electricity consumption. The decrease has occurred in two stages.

After 12 March 2020, we saw a significant impact on the load, which dropped by 5 to 10% during the day. With the announcement on Tuesday 17 March 2020, the impact increased, leading to a downturn of 10 to 15%. Since Tuesday, the impact on industrial and residential loads is similar to what usually happens on weekends.

The decreases were gradual and punctuated by the announcements of measures, giving the market players time to adjust their forecasts downwards. We can therefore reassure all stakeholders with regard to ensuring balance on the system since the load reduction can be anticipated. In addition, the adjustment margins for balancing the grid both downwards and upwards remain sufficiently available.

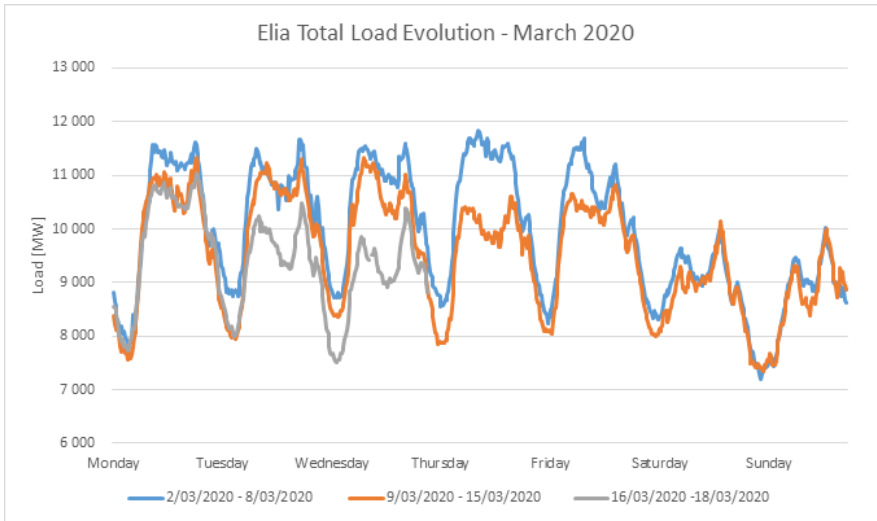
In the graph below, the blue line shows the total load on the Elia grid for the first week of March (2-8 March 2020). Juxtaposed on this is the orange line, which shows the situation from 9-15 March when the initial impact of the measures began to be felt. The grey line shows the impact on consumption from 16-18 March with the advent of the latest measures.



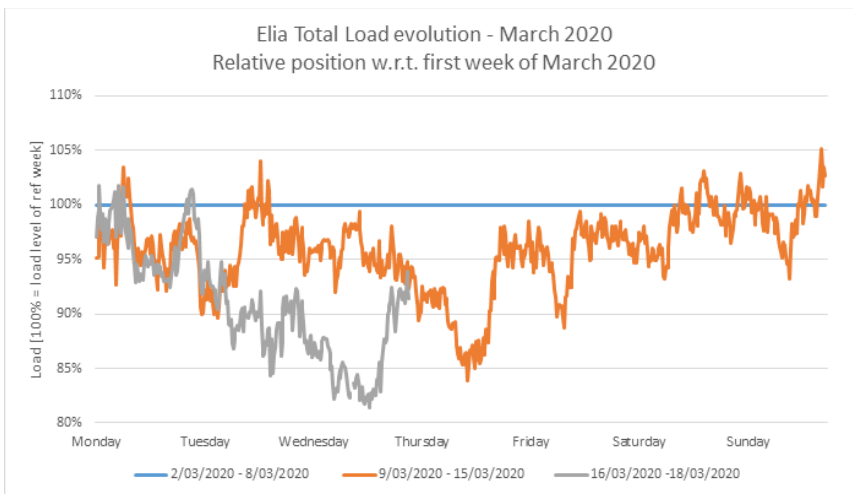
Pour de plus amples informations

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marleen Vanhecke (NDL & ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be



The second graph shows the differences in % for the same reference periods.



Electricity: a critical sector

As requested by the Belgian authorities, Elia is making every effort to guarantee the continuity of its activities. The ministerial decree of Wednesday 18 March announcing new measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus describes the electricity sector as crucial. Elia takes its duty to the community very seriously. Our main priorities are to guarantee security of supply as well as the health and safety of our internal and external staff.



Elia oversees implementation and compliance with enhanced measures

Within the company, the implementation of and compliance with the enhanced measures pertaining to the coronavirus are continuously coordinated between the different departments involved. We are also in continuous consultation with the social partners as well as transmission system operators abroad and other companies in the energy sector in Belgium, such as the distribution system operators and the gas grid operators.

We are adhering strictly to the recommendations issued by the authorities. Even more stringent measures apply to critical jobs that cannot be done from home. The work schedules of response and construction teams have been logically split. Access to national and regional control centres is limited and our operators no longer take public transport. Every critical job also has a back-up.

95% teleworking

We are leveraging telework as much as possible. Currently, 95% of our employees at our five administrative sites (Empereur, Schaerbeek, Monnoyer, Crealys and Merksem) are working from home in a disciplined fashion and work is proceeding as normal as far as possible. Those individuals who do have to go into work (on-call staff, operators, duty roles, etc.) must comply with the enhanced hygiene measures.

Social distancing

Since the announcement of additional social distancing rules (1.5 m), we are now carrying out an in-depth analysis of our construction, maintenance and response activities with the relevant stakeholders. Works are gradually continuing if the rules on social distancing and hygiene can be respected, and provided that there is no problem with getting materials to the site or the availability of contractors and Elia staff. We are prioritising security of supply, grid security and the connections of our industrial customers.

By consistently applying the above measures, we are fully assuming our responsibility to the community as a company and as employees, and in so doing we are protecting not only our families and ourselves, but especially other vulnerable groups. We stand in solidarity with healthcare professionals, victims and all professionals coping with enormous pressure during this crisis.

#wecandothis #letsflattenthecurve #tousensemble

You can consult the load and load forecasts for Elia's transmission system at the following links:

<https://www.elia.be/en/grid-data/load-and-load-forecasts>





About the Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission, ensuring that generation and consumption are balanced at all times. 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 five system operators. 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, 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. In this way, the Elia Group is 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 interests of society. We are constantly adapting our transmission grid to the rapidly changing energy mix, incorporating ever more renewable energy. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget and guarantee maximum 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 help 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 a member of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electricity interconnector between Belgium and Great Britain. The Elia 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)

Contact

Corporate Communication

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be
Marleen Vanhecke (NDL & ENG) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | marleen.vanhecke@elia.be

Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 | Keizerslaan 20 | 1000 Brussels | Belgium

