

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 6 May 2020

## Elia supports King Baudouin Foundation's anti-poverty COVID-19 Fund

**BRUSSELS | The members of Elia's Management Committee have decided to contribute their entire salary for the month of May to the King Baudouin Foundation in support of its COVID-19 Fund to combat poverty. If they so wish, company personnel can also take part in this campaign by making a contribution to the Fund. Elia pledges to match all employee donations (up to a maximum of €75,000).**

The current health crisis is also having disastrous social repercussions. People who were already living in difficult situations before the crisis now find themselves even more vulnerable and weakened. Numerous solidarity initiatives have emerged since the start of the crisis to come to the aid of these people in difficulty.

Back in April, Elia decided to contribute the budget set aside for the organisation of the Annual General Meeting (the amount was even increased to a total contribution of €100,000) to three King Baudouin Foundation Solidarity Funds. Due to the coronavirus measures, this year's Annual General Meeting will be held in writing.

Today, it is the Management Committee's turn to make a major gesture of solidarity. All the members of Elia's Management Committee have decided to contribute their entire salary for the month of May to the King Baudouin Foundation to finance a special fund to fight poverty in the current context of the coronavirus pandemic.

“ Since confinement began we have been seeing signs that people living in poverty, and the homeless in particular, are seriously impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Many organisations immediately mobilised and reinvented themselves to support these people in terms of accommodation, distribution of food, protective equipment and emotional support. Thanks to the resources made available, many humanitarian workers and volunteers can continue working to support their target group, so we are very grateful to Elia and its employees for this kind gesture. ”

**Françoise Pissart, King Baudouin Foundation**

If they so wish, Elia staff will also have a chance to support the initiative by making a donation in the amount of their choice. The company pledges to match the amount of each donation up to a ceiling of €75,000. The campaign will run from 4 May to 15 May 2020.

The Foundation's anti-poverty COVID-19 Fund supports various projects. The funds collected may be used in the short term for various purposes, such as buying essential protective equipment for the most vulnerable and health care providers, buying and distributing food and staples, hiring additional social workers, and so on.

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## 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. 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 19,271 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 is a listed holding company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information, visit [elia.be](https://www.elia.be)

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