

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 27 May 2020

## Elia donates €255,000 to the King Baudouin Foundation's anti-poverty COVID-19 fund

**BRUSSELS | Over the past few weeks, the management, employees and directors of system operator Elia have taken part in an in-house solidarity drive, ultimately raising a total of €255,000. In early May, the members of Elia's Management Committee unanimously decided to contribute their entire salary for that month to the King Baudouin Foundation in support of its COVID-19 fund to combat poverty. The Board of Directors and company staff voluntarily followed suit.**

The ongoing epidemic is having disastrous social repercussions, making life even harder for the most vulnerable.

Back in April, Elia contributed the budget set aside for the organisation of its Annual General Meeting to three King Baudouin Foundation solidarity funds, even increasing the amount to a total of €100,000. Since the measures enacted to combat the spread of the coronavirus prevented shareholders from physically attending the Annual General Meeting, they instead submitted their votes by post.

The Elia Management Committee made a major gesture of solidarity in early May, when all its members decided to donate their entire salary for the month to the King Baudouin Foundation to finance a specific fund to fight poverty in the context of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

“*As a system operator, we first and foremost work in the interests of society. This commitment means that we are also concerned about the coronavirus's impact on the most vulnerable, since it is making their lives even more difficult. As such, we wished to make a significant gesture of solidarity and decided to do so through this spontaneous initiative. I am extremely proud that it received so much support from Elia management, staff and the Board of Directors.*”

**Chris Peeters, CEO of the Elia Group**

A total of €255,000 has been donated to the King Baudouin Foundation. This money will enable the anti-poverty COVID-19 fund to support projects working to alleviate the poverty caused by the ongoing coronavirus crisis in the short term and will thus allow organisations in Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region to buy essential protective equipment, hire additional social workers and provide vulnerable groups with medical assistance, food and essentials.

### Contact

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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 supply 30 million end users with electricity and manage 19,271 km of HV lines via our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz). 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. Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is Publi-T, a municipal holding company.

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

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