

PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, Wednesday, 18 June 2020

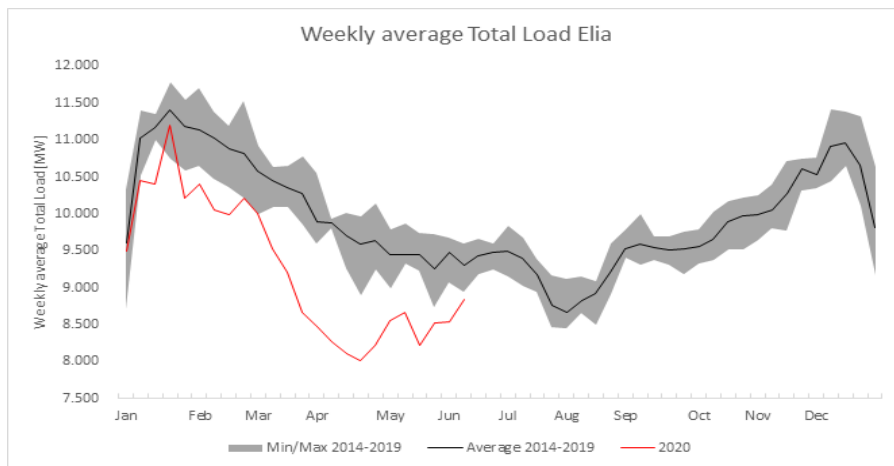
## UPDATE | Electricity consumption in Belgium is gradually reaching normal levels

- Electricity consumption in Belgium is rising and is now 5% below the normal level.
- This increase in consumption is strongly correlated with the recent resumption of business in most sectors.
- The average price of electricity on the short-term market is also continuing its upward trend.

**BRUSSELS | Electricity consumption in Belgium has started rising again and is gradually returning to normal. It is currently 5% lower compared to the average for the last five years. At the height of the lockdown in early April, electricity consumption in Belgium was down as much as 17% on average, hitting as much as 25 to 30% at certain times of day. The average price of electricity is also on the rise after dropping to an all-time low of €14.70/MWh in April.**

### Resumption of business activities has perceptible impact on consumption

The implementation of social distancing measures to fight the coronavirus epidemic caused electricity consumption in Belgium to plummet, with the downturn progressing incrementally in parallel with announcements by the National Security Council, and ultimately hitting 17% on average in early April 2020. At certain times of day, the decrease was as much as 25 to 30%. With the initial easing of lockdown measures on 11 May and 18 May, consumption gradually began to rise. Consumption has continued to rise since last week, with the level gradually heading back to normal and now stands at 5% below the average level for the last five years at this time of year.



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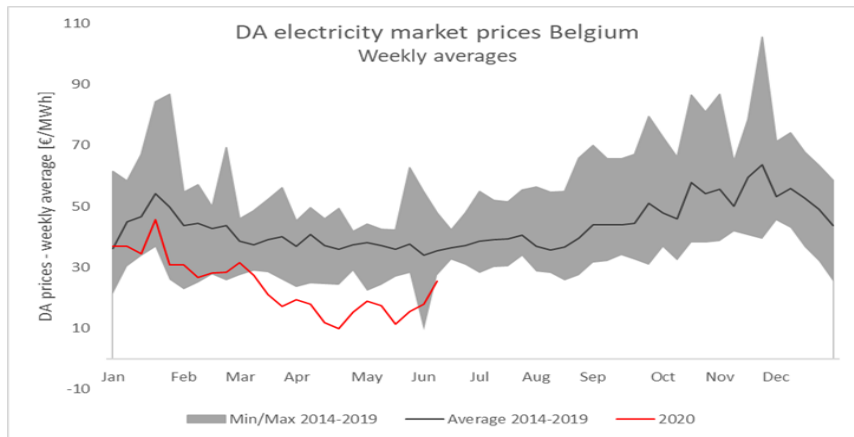
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## Average MWh price also up

The MWh dropped to an all-time low price of €14.70 per MWh in April 2020. The measures taken to combat the coronavirus impacted the price of electricity on the short-term market (day-ahead market). Electricity generation was sufficient both in Belgium and neighbouring countries, but demand was down significantly. This trend, first seen in mid-March, intensified in April. Prices have gradually risen as businesses have resumed operations. By early June the average price was up to €22 per MWh. The table and diagram below show the average monthly MWh price in recent years as well as the price trend this year compared to the average for the last five years.

Average price per MWh on the day-ahead market											
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January		51.3	41.9	53.9	39.7	42.9	32.6	72.6	36.8	60.5	37.9
February		54	65.1	55.6	38.7	50.5	25.4	47.6	47.4	47.6	28.4
March		59.3	45.2	60.3	37.4	47.1	27.1	34.5	50.7	37.6	24
April		50.1	44.9	57.5	41.9	47.7	25.4	37.3	37.8	37.9	14.7
May		53.5	39	49.9	38.7	37.6	25.4	37.2	44.5	38	15.4
June		43.4	40.5	33.3	36.8	39	30.7	32.7	50	27.5	22
July		37.5	41.7	34.6	33.8	42.6	31.3	33.6	52.9	37.7	
August		41	45.4	37.7	37.4	42.4	28.9	31.8	60.7	33.7	
September		50	46.7	45.5	46.2	52.5	37.7	37.2	68.8	33.6	
October		52.3	51.5	44.8	46.2	55.4	57.2	49	76	37.6	
November	35.8	55.4	52.7	49.2	45.1	43.1	62.3	66.6	77.8	44.4	
December	62.6	45.1	50.1	47.8	47.7	35.9	55	55.1	59.7	36.4	

**Red** = top 10 highest prices      **Green** = top 10 lowest prices



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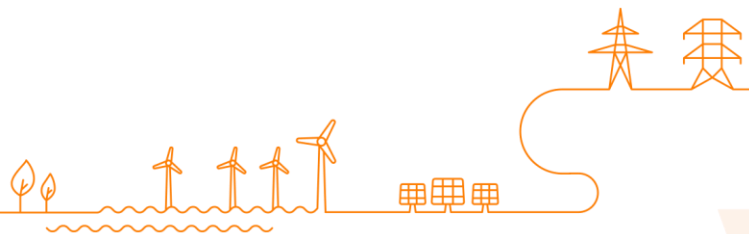
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## System stability ensured at all times

Electricity consumption has dropped off gradually, giving market players time to adjust their forecasts downwards. Elia was able to anticipate the trend, ensuring that the proper operation of and balance on the electricity system were maintained at all times during this period. The adjustment margins for balancing the grid both downwards and upwards were also sufficient.

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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. Nous approvisionnons 30 millions d'utilisateurs finaux en électricité et gérons 19 271 km de liaisons à haute tension via nos filiales en Belgique (Elia) et dans le nord-est de l'Allemagne (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. 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)

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