



PRESS RELEASE | Brussels, 29 July 2021

Update - 14 and 15 July floods Current status of repair work on the high-voltage grid

- The Pepinster substation should once again be operational by 31 August. The situation still requires extensive repairs and restoration.
- The On (Rochefort) substation is once again fully operational.
- Other substations suffered less significant damage and have been quickly repaired.
- The second round of flooding this past weekend did not damage our grid.
- The costs of repairing this infrastructure should be covered by insurance policies and the regulatory framework.

Brussels – Immediately following the recent floods in Wallonia, electricity transmission system operator Elia was hard at work restoring its infrastructure. The Pepinster and On (Rochefort) substations suffered the most damage. While the On substation was fully back in service early this week, the Pepinster substation – which sustained enormous damage due to the river Vesdre flooding – will not be operational until late August. Elia is working closely with the distribution system operator and various players in the field so it can secure the region's electricity supply.

Pepinster substation still needs work

Of all Elia infrastructure, the Pepinster substation sustained the most damage due to the July floods. The substation still requires extensive repair and restoration, but should be back online by 31 August (20 MW). The load is currently being handled by the distribution system operators, meaning there is no impact on residents in the area. (Most industrial customers in this area have also suffered significant damage and have shut down for now.) The railway network also suffered heavy damage and rail lines in this area will not resume service until after 31 August. The rail infrastructure operator can handle the necessary load via its own grid.

On (Rochefort) substation

The On (Rochefort) substation was also flooded during the storms but sustained less significant damage. It has been fully operational again since the start of this week. One day after the floods, the electricity supply had already been temporarily restored, but now the back-up line is also in service (2x 30 MW).



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Other damaged infrastructure and flooding last weekend

Other Elia infrastructure sustained less significant damage. While some substations were damaged, including Angleur, Spa, Turon, Basse-Wavre, Bierges and Ottignies, they were better protected and quickly repaired. There was a second round of flooding this past weekend, but it did not damage our electricity transmission grid.

Restoration costs and solidarity

The full cost of repairing damaged infrastructure is difficult to determine at this time, but it will certainly be very high. In any case, the repair costs should be covered by insurance policies and the regulatory framework.

In addition to the work done by our teams to restore our infrastructure as quickly as possible, Elia wants to show solidarity with those who are working to help the victims of these floods and so has decided to donate €10,000 to the Red Cross.



About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

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 high-voltage power 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, 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, Elia Group is making the energy transition happen.

In the interest of society

As a key player in the energy system, Elia Group is committed to working in the interest 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, 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 Group, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

For more information: [elia.be](https://www.elia.be) & [eliagroup.eu](https://www.eliagroup.eu)

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