



Ministers take part in safety training session in preparation for offshore visit

For this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work, ministers Tinne Van der Straeten (Energy) and Vincent Van Quickenborne (North Sea) took part in a safety training session in preparation for a future visit to the MOG, Elia's 'power plug' in the North Sea. As part of the session, which was held in a training centre in Ostend, the ministers learned to free themselves from a helicopter when it crashes into water. Building and maintaining offshore high-voltage infrastructure requires specific safety measures to be adhered to. Given that the energy transition is increasingly being driven through offshore development, over the past few years, Elia has been working on a specific safety policy that should enable employees to safely carry out their work in challenging circumstances. Everyone who visits the MOG must take part in a safety training session.



We are going to further develop the North Sea as the power plant of our country. There are already 399 wind turbines in the North Sea, which are able to provide 2.2GW of energy. We want to quadruple this capacity and we are also working on the installation of floating solar panels which will lie in between the turbines. This infrastructure must be continuously monitored and maintained: a lot of people will need to be involved on site. However, we know that the North Sea can also be dangerous. That is why there are strict safety regulations in place. Everyone must adhere to these, including ministers of course. It is important to set a good example. These safety courses save lives. Actually being in the water during a simulated helicopter crash is different from being given a simple theoretical explanation.

Vincent Van Quickenborne, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice and the North Sea.



The energy transition will largely be led at sea, with the North Sea acting as an important node in a meshed European energy grid. Major works have been planned out, including the energy island and the development of the second offshore wind zone. The MOG, our power plug at sea, is already an impressive success. Building and maintaining this type of infrastructure in a safe and sustainable manner is crucial for our security of supply. I am therefore pleased that our transmission system operator takes safety very seriously and makes sure that everyone is properly prepared to be able to work safely at sea.

Tinne Van der Straeten, Minister of Energy



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Safety is and remains a top priority at Elia. Offshore development occupies a very important place in the energy transition. The technological developments in the sector are impressive, but in the end well-trained offshore employees remain the most important piece of the puzzle. Working in offshore development and managing the risks associated with that therefore form an integral part of Elia's prevention policy.

Chris Peeters, CEO Elia Group

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About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five TSOs

Elia Group is a key player in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. Through our subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and the north and east of Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,192 km of high-voltage connections, meaning that we are one of Europe's top 5 transmission system operators. With a reliability level of 99.99%, we provide society with a robust power grid, which is important for socioeconomic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition, helping to establish a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We are making the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and incorporating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy into our grid, we are promoting both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of society. We also continuously optimise our operational systems and develop new market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus further facilitating the energy transition.

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 responding to the rapid increase in renewable energy by constantly adapting our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. In carrying out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication channels between all relevant parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to different players across the sector in order to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to our activities as a transmission system operator, we provide various consulting services to international customers through our third subsidiary, Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia (in Belgium) is also part of the Nemo Link consortium, which operates the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The legal entity Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

More information: elia.be & eliagroup.eu

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