



PRESS RELEASE | 02 November 2022

## Elia launches a public consultation on its 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan

**BRUSSELS | The public consultation exercise regarding Elia's 2024-34 Federal Development Plan will be launched on Wednesday 2 November and is due to last for two and a half months. As the country's transmission system operator, Elia has the legal obligation to prepare and develop this plan. A new Federal Development Plan is prepared every four years. Each plan covers all the investments to be carried out in the electricity transmission grid (380-110 kV) over a ten-year period.**

The plan outlines the context and necessary changes in electricity systems and mentions the hypotheses and methods chosen to identify the necessary investments. For the period running from 2024 to 2034, the plan covers the reinforcement and expansion of the internal backbone of the 380 kV grid, the development and integration of the offshore grid and onshore interconnections, the development of hosting capacity, and a global investment programme pertaining to the 220 kV, 150 kV and 110 kV transmission grids. The plan must be approved by the Federal Minister of Energy by May 2023 at the latest.

*Through this 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan, we are aiming to fully anticipate the urgent demand for making our energy system more independent, resilient and sustainable. We are fully taking into account the expected consequences relating to ever-increasing ambitions to integrate renewable energy into the grid on the one hand and to major investment plans that industry would like to implement as it seeks to anchor itself in Europe on the other, by massively investing in electrification over the course of the coming decade. ”*

**Chris Peeters, CEO Elia Group**

### THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE WE PUBLISHED OUR LAST PLAN IN 2019

The flooding in the Walloon Region was a wake-up call, urging us to take climate change seriously. High energy prices and the war in Ukraine have increased the sense of urgency and the need to make European energy policy more independent, resilient and sustainable.

We need to integrate renewable energy into the grid at a faster rate and on a larger scale if we are to reach Europe's decarbonisation objectives. Digitalisation, the emergence of new technologies and the decarbonisation of many sectors through the use of electricity as a source of energy mean that the next ten years will be the decade of electrification.

This accelerated electrification, combined with the massive integration of greater volumes of production stemming from renewable energy sources, requires us to accelerate the development of our grid infrastructure. Since it takes a relatively long time to develop a high-voltage grid, we must anticipate what is to come in our Federal Development Plan if we want to prevent bottlenecks from affecting the large-scale integration of renewable energy and slowing down the energy transition, as this would go against the wishes and interests of society.

### **REINFORCEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE 380 KV GRID AS A FOUNDATION**

The 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan aims to establish an electricity system that is efficient in terms of energy and guarantees sustainability, affordability and security of supply, while facilitating the decarbonisation of industry and our society as a whole.

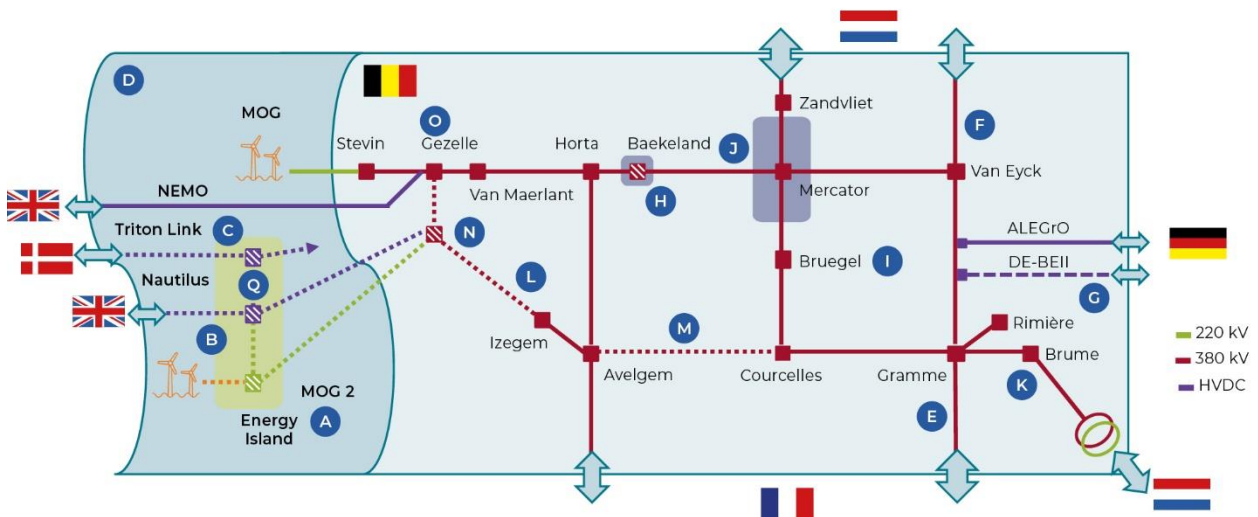
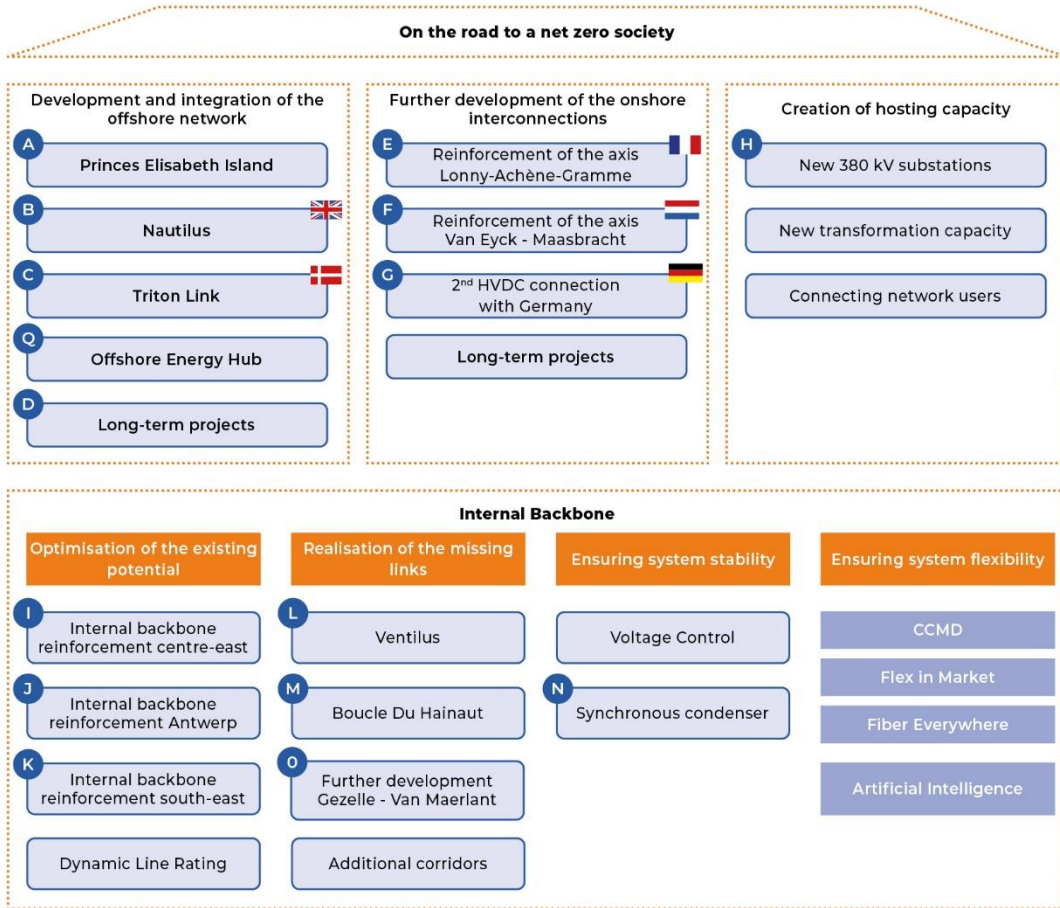
It proposes a number of investments that are necessary in order to achieve these objectives. The reinforcement and expansion of the internal backbone of the 380 kV grid, which constitutes the foundation of the draft plan, comprises four important elements:

1. the optimisation of existing potential by increasing transmission capacity;
2. the creation of missing connections (Ventilus and Boucle du Hainaut);
3. the installation of equipment that ensures the stability of the system;
4. the implementation of measures that will maximise the flexibility available in the electricity system.

### **THREE PILLARS OF DEVELOPMENT**

The internal backbone provides the foundations on which our grid can rest. Three development pillars rest on these foundations to meet present and future needs and lead us to a net zero society:

1. the development and integration of the offshore network (including, in particular, the Princess Elisabeth Island, Nautilus and TritonLink);
2. the development of onshore interconnections (in particular, the reinforcement of interconnectors with France and the Netherlands);
3. the creation of hosting capacity through new connection points and additional transformation capabilities.



### A GLOBAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 220 KV, 150 KV AND 110 KV GRIDS

The Federal Development Plan also includes a major investment programme for the 220 kV, 150 kV and 110 kV transmission grids, which are essential for local security of supply and for linking centralised and decentralised mid-sized production units to the grid. Again, the goal is to use as much flexibility as possible through a number of suitable investments. The investments will be aligned with a global vision that includes decoupling grids with a lower voltage level; increasing the 150 kV grid's resistance to short-circuits; the integration of centralised and decentralised production units into the system; reinforcing transformation capacity in line with the medium-voltage grid based on evolving consumption patterns; investing in the replacement of existing equipment; and, finally, streamlining the 36 kV and 70 kV grids with a higher voltage level.

### THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION WILL RUN UNTIL 16/1/2023

Given the scale and impact of the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan, it is essential for future infrastructure projects to be widely understood and, ultimately, accepted by society. To achieve a broad level of public acceptance, Elia is relying on support from various authorities, federations, and the general public. It is in this vein that the plan will be assessed by different authorities and will be examined for the preparation of an environmental impact report. The public consultation period will be launched on 2 November 2022 and will end on 16 January 2023. Throughout this period, all parties from across society will have the chance to ask questions about, express their opinion about, or comment on the plan.

The draft 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan can be accessed via the following link:

[https://www.elia.be/en/public-consultation/20221102\\_public-consultation-on-the-federal-development-plan-2024-2034](https://www.elia.be/en/public-consultation/20221102_public-consultation-on-the-federal-development-plan-2024-2034)



## 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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: [eliagroup.eu](https://eliagroup.eu) & [elia.be](https://elia.be)**



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