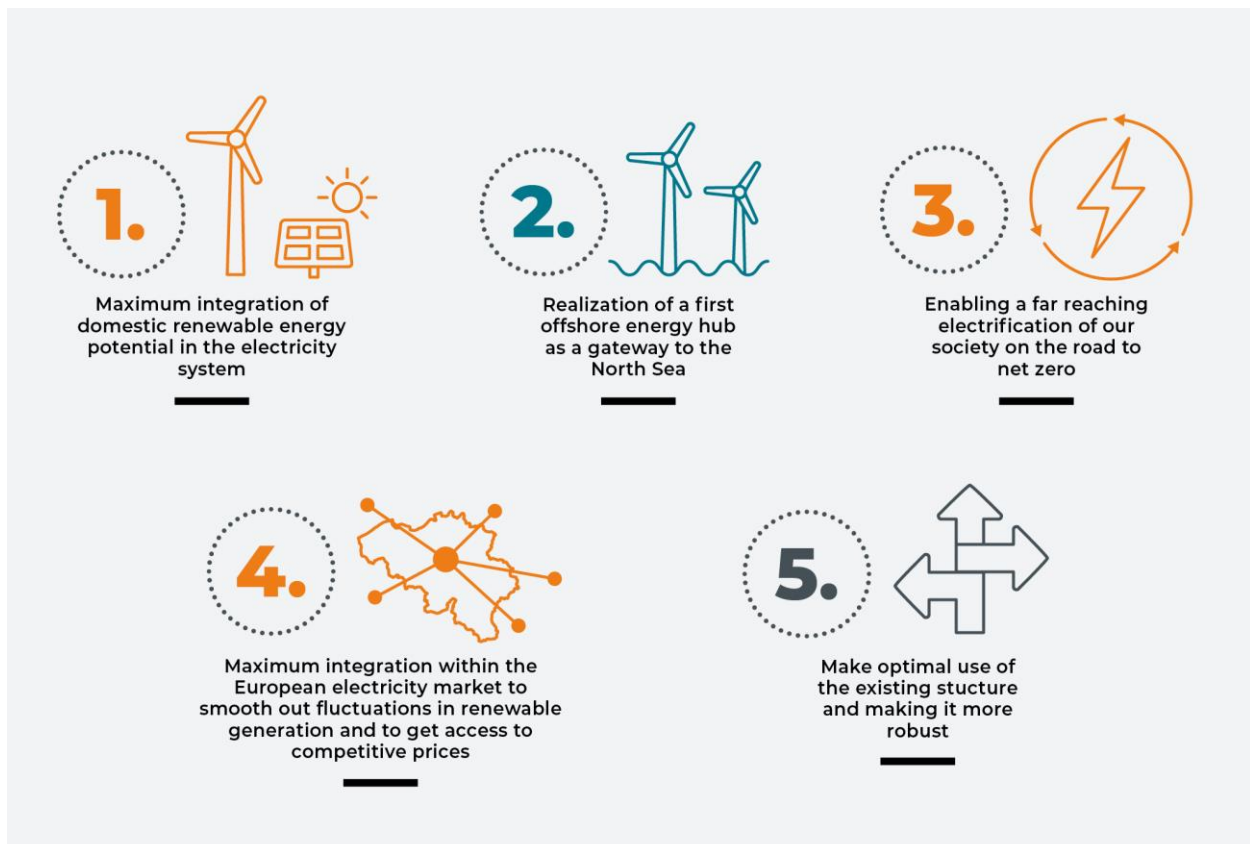




## Green light given to the *2024-2034 Federal Development Plan*, which describes the investment needs of the Belgian high-voltage grid

**BRUSSELS** | The Federal Minister of Energy Tinne Van der Straeten has approved the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan. The law requires such a plan to be drawn up and published every four years. Each plan translates European objectives, federal energy policy and the implementation of regional economic development policies into concrete projects. By providing sufficient transmission capacity in a timely manner, we are making our energy system more independent, resilient and sustainable. The rise in renewable energy sources as well as the extensive electrification of our energy-intensive industries have created emergencies that are fast requiring additional investments in the grid.

The 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan is based on five principles:



*"The 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan takes into account increased renewable energy targets as well as increased electrification over the next decade. Our plan outlines the socioeconomic benefits of the proposed investments and outlines the conditions required to enable the decarbonisation of industry and society. This will also help to enable a better (average) wholesale price and a significant reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions."*

**Frederic Dunon, Deputy CEO of Elia Transmission Belgium**



### Energy is a precious commodity and a strategic element

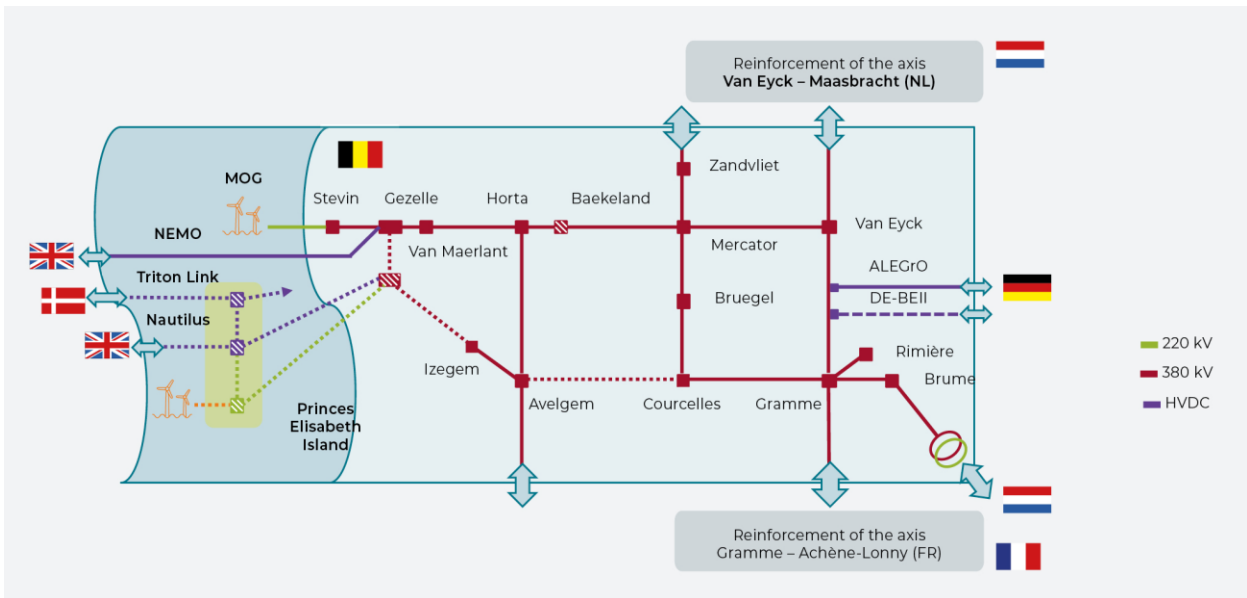
Given that renewable energy sources mainly produce electricity and that direct electrification is the most energy-efficient option, we expect there to be a strong increase in electricity consumption over the next decade (+50% by 2032). To be able to guarantee our country's security of supply, the electricity grid must therefore be adapted. Since grid projects take time to be realised, Elia is currently anticipating tomorrow's needs. In doing so, we will avoid bottlenecks and accelerate the energy transition.

### Objectives and areas of development

The Federal Development Plan that has just been approved describes the assumptions and methodologies that were used to determine the investment needs for 2024-2034. Among other projects, the plan provides for the reinforcement and extension (Ventilus and Boucle du Hainaut) of the 380 kV onshore grid - the backbone of the Belgian electricity system. The plan also includes a strong focus on the development and integration of an offshore grid (including elements such as the Princess Elisabeth Island, Nautilus and TritonLink), the development of onshore interconnectors (the reinforcement of interconnectors that link Belgium to France and the Netherlands) and the construction of additional infrastructure (such as high-voltage substations) to enable the electrification of industry. The plan also proposes an investment programme for the lower voltage levels of Elia's grid (220, 150 and 110 kV).

These investments will be important for facilitating local security of supply and connecting centralised and decentralised generation units to the grid.

### Schematic representation of the Belgian high-voltage grid (220 kV, 380 kV & HVDC)



### A participatory process

As a grid operator, Elia works in the interest of Belgian society. Given the considerable size and impact of the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan, it is important that the needs of the grid are both understood and accepted by as many stakeholders as possible. To achieve this, Elia relies on support from various relevant authorities, federations and the Belgian public.

The plan, which began to be drafted two years ago, was discussed over the course of around ten Collaboration Committee meetings. In addition to staff from Elia, the committee includes representatives from the CREG (the regulator), DG Energy (a federal government department), the Planning Bureau and the department of the Minister of Energy. During a public consultation period, the plan was also presented to various bodies and authorities, whilst a detailed environmental impact study was drawn up. The public consultation, which ran from 2 November 2022 to 16 January 2023, was intended to allow members of the public to submit their questions, comments and opinions about the plan.

You can access the 2024-2034 Federal Development Plan here: <https://elia.group/fopen>

## 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 19,349 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 socio-economic 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 its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International. In recent years, the Group has launched new non-regulated activities such as re.alto - the first European marketplace for the exchange of energy data via standardised energy APIs - and WindGrid, a subsidiary which will continue to expand the Group's overseas activities, contributing to the development of offshore electricity grids in Europe and beyond.

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

**For further information, please contact:**

#### Corporate Communication

Marleen Vanhecke (EN) | M +32 486 49 01 09 | [marleen.vanhecke@elia.be](mailto:marleen.vanhecke@elia.be)

#### Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

Boulevard de l'Empereur 20 | Keizerslaan 20 | 1000 Brussels | Belgium

[eliagroup.eu](http://eliagroup.eu)

