



## Going like the wind: an exhibition about wind power for young and old

- This interactive exhibition will run from 20 May to 29 September 2024 at Fort Napoleon in Ostend
- It highlights the importance of sustainability in relation to the Princess Elisabeth Island project
- Designed specifically for children and families, it is the first exhibition of its kind in Belgium

**OSTEND |** On Monday 20 May, the Mayor of Ostend, Bart Tommelein, and Energy Minister Tinne Van der Straeten inaugurated *Going like the wind*, an interactive exhibition which is being hosted at Fort Napoleon in Ostend. The exhibition is a result of a collaboration between the Ostend Tourist Office, Elia Transmission Belgium (ETB), DEME and Jan De Nul, and is based on an accompanying booklet that explains the role played by wind turbines in the generation, transmission and distribution electricity. The exhibition follows the path electricity (or electrons) follows from a wind turbine to power plugs in residential homes, with a key role played by the black-legged kittiwake (as well as nature inclusive design) and the Princess Elisabeth Island.

### An exhibition based on sustainability

Kicking off at Fort Napoleon in Ostend on 20 May 2024, the exhibition explains to children how green electricity is generated offshore and brought onshore to homes and focuses on eco-friendly construction and sustainability. Alongside conservation and marine environment experts, Elia adopted a nature inclusive design approach to the construction of the Princess Elisabeth Island in order to bolster biodiversity on and around it. Specific measures were developed as part of this. For example, ledges attached to the outer storm walls will provide somewhere for the black-legged kittiwake, a vulnerable bird species, to rest and breed. Below the waterline, several measures will be combined to create a diverse and rich artificial reef (for small fish, European flat oysters and other marine life). The measures were selected based on their technical feasibility and expected positive impact. Through this approach, Elia is striving to become a pioneer in the sustainable construction and operation of offshore infrastructure.

*Through 'Going like the wind', we want to place Belgium's pioneering role in offshore wind in the spotlight. Our country is now once again making history with the first energy island in the world. We are quite proud of our Princess Elisabeth Island and we have noticed that the general public is also very interested in innovation. The North Sea will become the power plant of the future and the future belongs to younger generations. So we thought it would be a good idea to contribute to this hands-on exhibition for children. We hope that it will attract big crowds to the Belgian coast this summer!*

**Frédéric Dunon, CEO of Elia Transmission Belgium**

### **An interactive exhibition for children and families**

The exhibition is specifically aimed at children (schools and families) and includes two parts. Firstly, children and parents are able to explore an information space where they can learn fun facts about generating energy with wind turbines through touch screens. Secondly, they can then walk alongside an electron as it travels from a wind turbine – through a cable – to the island and then onto a home in Belgium. In addition to this, children can take part in a treasure hunt in the city of Ostend. Television presenter Dieter Coppens contributed to the development of the booklet and Warre Borgmans, a well-known voice actor, read the script for the Dutch version of the exhibition's audio guide.

The booklet which accompanies the exhibition was developed and published by Elia, DEME and Jan De Nul alongside the Ostend Tourist Office. The exhibition is the first of its kind in Belgium to be aimed at children and families and cover wind energy . It is visually appealing and includes an audio guide (narrated by professional actors) in four different languages.

Visit the website for more information: **[Going like the wind - interactive exhibition | Fort Napoleon \(fort-napoleon.be\)](http://Going like the wind - interactive exhibition | Fort Napoleon (fort-napoleon.be))**

## 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 19,460.5 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 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)

