



Newsletter

Annual Report 2022 published

Our 2022 Integrated, Sustainability and Financial reports have been published on our website. The title of this year's Integrated Report is 'Ready to Switch', reflecting the daily commitment of our employees to driving the energy transition forward and making our electricity systems more sustainable, secure and affordable. The publication of our annual reports this year marks another step on our journey as we continue to embed Integrated Thinking principles across our business. We look forward to making more progress on this journey throughout 2023.

[Discover our annual report](#)

Elia official event partner of the North Sea Summit in Ostend



Belgium is hosting the next North Sea Summit. The second edition of the summit is being organised in Ostend on 24 April by the Federal Government. Prime Minister Alexander De Croo and Minister of Energy Tinne Van der Straeten will be hosting their counterparts from Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, France, Norway, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Luxembourg as well as the President of the European Commission.

The aim of the summit is to make concrete proposals relating to the positioning of the North Sea as the European sustainable power plant for the future. Elia is a partner of the summit along with the Port of Ostend, Fluxys, DEME Group, Jan De Nul Group, Agoria and the Belgian Offshore Platform. We will be joining more than 100 industrial leaders for a series of roundtable discussions about the North Sea's potential.

[Discover the website](#)

Let's connect! brings together 300 stakeholders to discuss the theme of flexibility



On 27 March, Elia brought together its main partners and stakeholders from across the energy sector for his annual stakeholder event. Attendees were given insights into Elia's future plans and were then given the opportunity to network with each other. The central theme of the event was flexibility. The latter will play a key role in the successful integration of large amounts of renewable energy into the power system and will therefore be crucial for reaching decarbonisation.

The evening consisted of numerous discussions and presentations about the many ways in which certain consumers are already providing the grid with flexibility and benefiting from it. At the end of the year, we will publish our annual vision paper which will cover the subject in more detail.

[Watch the aftermovie of the event](#)

SuedOstLink project kick-off in Germany



The construction of a future European electricity highway is underway following the start of the work on the first converter for the SuedOstLink! The latter, which will cover a distance of 540 km, is one of the most important grid development projects for the German energy transition. 50Hertz and TenneT are building this new electricity connection together.

The inauguration ceremony for the converter took place on 21 March in Wolmirstedt. The guests of honour included Robert Habeck, German ViceChancellor and Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and Reiner Haseloff, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read the press release](#)

First €600 million "green loan" agreed to co-finance the connection of an offshore grid in the Baltic Sea



Eurogrid has entered into a contract for a ten-year amortising loan of €600 million with seven banks. The funds for this initial "green loan" are being provided by the banks and refinanced under the "Climate Protection Programme for Companies" from KfW (a German state-owned investment bank). They will be used to co-finance the connection of the offshore grid to the Gennaker wind farm, which is located off the coast of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

With a total capacity of 927 MW, Gennaker will be the biggest offshore wind farm in the German Baltic Sea once it has been connected to the grid. 50Hertz is responsible for the whole grid connection project. Two offshore substations and three submarine cable systems are to be built to transmit the electricity to shore.

[Read the press release](#)

Transmission system operators publish the first draft Grid Development Plan for 2037/2045



Transmission system operators 50Hertz, Amprion, TenneT and TransnetBW have published the first version of the German Grid Development Plan for 2037-2045. The publication marked the start of the public consultation phase, which will end on 25 April 2023. The new projects identified in the plan for 2045 cover 14,197 km in total, including 5,742 km on land and 8,455 km at sea. Investments of €128.3 billion are required for the newly-identified projects, including €41.6 billion for the onshore grid and €86.7 billion for the offshore grid.

For the first time, the plan describes an electricity grid which will be able to reach carbon neutrality by 2045.

[Read the press release](#)

[More information on the plan](#)

New innovation website is online



Elia Group has a brand-new website dedicated to innovation. This website shows you how we are using new technologies to meet the challenges of an ever-changing energy landscape! Discover our four areas of innovation: system operations; infrastructure and asset management; consumer centricity and offshore development. You can also learn more about "The Nest", our very own incubator, and our collaborations with academia, industry and start-ups, as well as many other exciting projects.

[Discover the website](#)

Electrification at the heart of our new "Ready to Switch" podcast



Episode 3 of our Ready to Switch podcast is now available online. In this latest episode, Chris Peeters (CEO of Elia Group) and Rudy Provoost (Chairman at VOKA) or Catherine Vandendorre (CFO of Elia Group) and Thierry Geerts (Country Director at Google Belgium) speak about the benefits of electrification, which is in the spotlight now more than it has ever been. Given how the energy crisis made fossil fuel prices soar, electrification could well be the key to a successful transition and anchoring industry in Europe.

Ready to Switch is a collaboration with Mediafin (De Tijd, L'Echo). The series focuses on exploring the challenges and opportunities presented by the energy transition.

[Listen to the French podcast](#)

[Listen to the Dutch podcast](#)

The LIFE SafeLines4Birds project has officially started!



Elia, Natuurpunt and Natagora are the Belgian members of the international SafeLines4Birds consortium which aims to reduce bird mortality rate associated with power lines through innovative solutions. The project is co-financed by the European Union's LIFE programme and has a budget of nearly €14.2 million. Launched in March this year, it will run until December 2028. The project's successes will then be shared with other European countries.

[Read the press release](#)

Responsible publisher:

Pascale Fonck | Keizerlaan 20 B- 1000 Brussels



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