



Emergency measures on the Belgian power grid during the summer avoided due to market parties adapting their behaviour, coupled with weather conditions and higher consumption levels

- There was no need for technical measures, such as shutting down large-scale solar installations or onshore wind farms.
- Elia issued 23 warnings, prompting a significant response from the market.
- We saw a record number of hours of negative prices on the day-ahead market.
- More flexibility is still needed in the system; Elia and the distribution system operators have been working towards this with the stakeholders.

BRUSSELS | Overall, our electricity system held up well over the summer months. The forecasts for the summer predicted quite a few days with considerable export requirements against a backdrop of low consumption and substantial renewable energy production, posing a challenge to the system. Major problems were avoided thanks to the inclement weather, with few very sunny days, higher levels of consumption, and market parties adjusting their positions in advance. Elia issued 23 warnings, and in each case the market managed to make the required adjustments. A non-Belgian system operator only had to step in very occasionally. For future summers, Elia is working with the distribution system operators on a plan to further unlock market flexibility.

Elia's summer outlook pointed in advance to very high export requirements on very windy and sunny days when there were low levels of consumption. Such scenarios can have dramatic consequences for the market and the grid. Elia therefore shared this information with the various stakeholders and devised technical measures with distribution system operators (DSOs) that could be applied in an emergency. These included the shutdown of large-scale solar installations or onshore wind farms, including those connected to the networks of the Belgian DSOs (but not those of residential customers).

The market played its part

The extensive communication and issuing of market messages and warnings had a significant impact. Elia issued 23 warnings, after which we generally saw a shift in market parties' positions on the day-ahead market. In addition, Elia still managed to find sufficient flexibility products on the market on the day itself in order to eliminate the remaining imbalance. Only a few times was the assistance of non-Belgian grid operators required. In the end, there was no need to deploy the technical mechanisms developed.

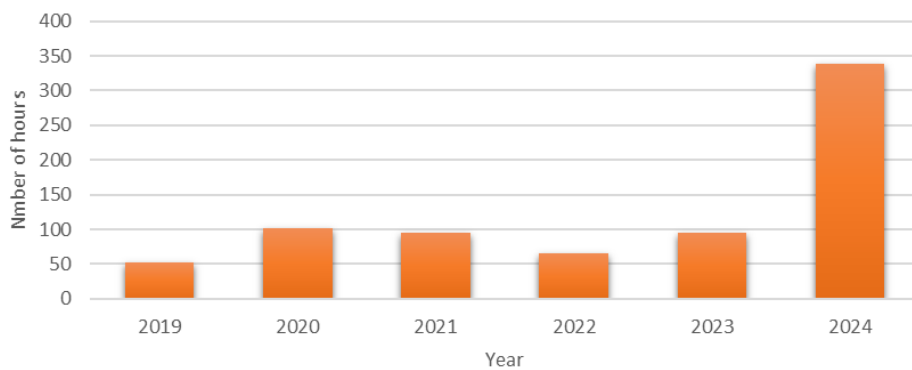
Helped by the weather and consumption

As well as the market parties' behaviour, this outcome was mainly due to the gloomy weather over the summer. The output of installed solar panels was significantly lower than in previous summers. A power factor of 60% to 70% occurs an average of 15% of the time in summer. This summer it was only 1.5% of the time. In addition, consumption was also slightly higher than last summer (+ 500 MW). All these factors combined meant that export requirements were lower than predicted.

Record number of hours with negative prices

However, maintaining the balance in a system with a lot of renewable energy remains an ongoing challenge, so further development of flexibility is urgently needed. The number of hours of negative prices on the day-ahead market is a clear sign of this. Despite the absence of major problems, we are seeing many more hours with negative prices than before. At such times we must be able to encourage consumers to use electricity. There is still a need to improve how the market works, as well as having technical mechanisms available that can be deployed when necessary. Elia is working closely with many partners to achieve this.

Number of hours with negative day-ahead prices from April to August



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 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 engage in proactive stakeholder management 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.

eliagroup.eu

For further information, please contact:

Corporate Communication

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

Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

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