

Elia Group SA/NV Announces Cash Tender Offer for its €700,000,000 Fixed Rate Reset Undated Subordinated Securities

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THIS ANNOUNCEMENT RELATES TO THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION THAT QUALIFIED OR MAY HAVE QUALIFIED AS INSIDE INFORMATION WITHIN THE MEANING OF ARTICLE 7(1) OF THE MARKET ABUSE REGULATION (EU) 596/2014

7 March 2023. Elia Group SA/NV (the **Offeror**) announces today an invitation to holders of its outstanding €700,000,000 Fixed Rate Reset Undated Subordinated Securities (ISIN: BE0002597756) (the **Securities**) to tender such Securities for purchase by the Offeror for cash (such invitation, the **Offer**).

The Offer is being made on the terms and subject to the conditions contained in the tender offer memorandum dated 7 March 2023 (the **Tender Offer Memorandum**) prepared by the Offeror in connection with the Offer, and is subject to the offer restrictions set out below, as more fully described in the Tender Offer Memorandum. For detailed terms of the Offer, please refer to the Tender Offer Memorandum, copies of which are (subject to distribution restrictions) available from the Tender Agent as set out below. Capitalised terms used but not otherwise defined in this announcement shall have the meanings given to them in the Tender Offer Memorandum.

Summary of the Offer

A summary of certain of the terms of the Offer appears below:

Description of the Securities	ISIN / Common Code	Outstanding Principal Amount	First Call Date	Purchase Price	Maximum Acceptance Amount
€700,000,000 Fixed Rate Reset Undated Subordinated Securities	BE0002597756 / 187606985	€700,000,000	5 September 2023	100.00 per cent.	Subject as set out in the Tender Offer Memorandum, up to €500,000,000 in aggregate principal amount

Rationale for the Offer

The purpose of the Offer and the planned issuance of New Securities is, amongst other things, to proactively manage the Offeror's layer of hybrid capital.

As mentioned below in "*New Issue Condition*", it is the intention of the Offeror to issue concurrently with the Offer a series of new euro-denominated fixed rate reset undated subordinated securities (the **New Securities**) for an aggregate amount of up to €500,000,000.

The Offer provides Holders with the opportunity to sell their current holdings in the Securities ahead of the upcoming first call date and to subscribe to the New Securities, although Holders should note that the Offeror is not obliged to allocate any New Securities to a Holder that has validly tendered or indicated a firm intention to tender its Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer and, if any such New Securities are allocated, the principal amount thereof may be less or more than the principal amount of Securities tendered by such Holder and accepted for purchase by the Offeror pursuant to the Offer.

If €500,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the Securities are validly tendered and accepted for purchase by the Offeror and €500,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the New Securities are issued, €200,000,000 of the current €700,000,000 hybrid capital of the Offeror would remain outstanding after the Settlement Date. In such a case and in order to maintain an equal amount of equity for rating agency purposes upon a redemption of

the Securities, the Offeror expects to compensate for the loss of €200,000,000 in hybrid capital (which is credited as equity for 50 per cent. of the amount by the rating agency) by allocating €100,000,000 of the amount of equity the Offeror successfully raised in the context of its recent rights offering of June 2022 for such purposes. This will allow the Offeror to comply with the S&P's hybrid criteria, maintain the equity content within the applicable layer of hybrid capital and protect its credit metrics (as adjusted by S&P).

The Offeror is furthermore contemplating exercising its call option pursuant to Condition 5(b) (*Issuer's Call Option*) of the Securities during the period from, and including, the first call date (5 September 2023) to and including the first reset date (5 December 2023) in respect of the Securities which have not been validly tendered and accepted for purchase pursuant to the Offer, at their principal amount together with any accrued and unpaid interest (including any deferred interest). In the event the Offeror elects to proceed with the optional redemption of any outstanding Notes, it will publish formal notice of redemption in due course in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Securities. This statement of intention is not a formal notice of redemption to the Noteholders pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Securities.

Securities purchased by the Offeror pursuant to the Offer are expected to be cancelled and will not be re-issued or re-sold.

Purchase Price and Accrued Interest Payments

The Offeror will, on the Settlement Date, pay for any Securities validly tendered and accepted for purchase by it pursuant to the Offer a cash purchase price (the **Purchase Price**) equal to 100.00 per cent. of the principal amount outstanding of the relevant Securities.

The Offeror will also pay an Accrued Interest Payment in respect of any Securities accepted for purchase pursuant to the Offer.

Final Acceptance Amount and Scaling

The Offeror proposes to accept for purchase pursuant to the Offer up to €500,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the Securities (such amount, the **Maximum Acceptance Amount**), although the Offeror reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to accept significantly more or significantly less than (or none of) the Maximum Acceptance Amount for purchase pursuant to the Offer (the final aggregate principal amount of Securities accepted for purchase pursuant to the Offer, being the **Final Acceptance Amount**).

If the Offeror decides to accept for purchase valid tenders of Securities pursuant to the Offer and the aggregate principal amount of Securities validly tendered pursuant to the Offer is greater than the Final Acceptance Amount, the Offeror intends to accept such Securities for purchase on a *pro rata* basis such that the aggregate principal amount of Securities accepted for purchase pursuant to the Offer is no greater than the Final Acceptance Amount, as further described in the Tender Offer Memorandum.

New Issue Condition

The Offeror also announced today its intention to issue the New Securities, subject to market conditions.

Whether the Offeror will purchase any Securities validly tendered in the Offer is subject, without limitation, to the successful completion (in the sole determination of the Offeror) of the issue of the New Securities (the **New Issue Condition**).

Even if the New Issue Condition is satisfied, the Offeror is under no obligation to accept for purchase any Securities tendered pursuant to the Offer. The acceptance for purchase by the Offeror of Securities validly tendered pursuant to the Offer is at the sole discretion of the Offeror, and tenders may be rejected by the Offeror for any reason.

*Neither this announcement nor the Tender Offer Memorandum constitutes an offer of the New Securities and may not be used for the purposes of an offer or solicitation by anyone. Any investment decision to purchase any New Securities should be made solely on the basis of the information contained in the prospectus to be prepared by the Offeror in connection with the issue and listing of the New Securities (including any amendment or supplement thereto, the **Prospectus**), and no reliance is to be placed on any representations other than those contained in the Prospectus. Subject to compliance with applicable securities laws and regulations, a preliminary prospectus (the **Preliminary Prospectus**) dated on or about 7 March 2023 relating to the New Securities is available from the Dealer Managers on request.*

For the avoidance of doubt, the ability to purchase New Securities is subject to all applicable securities laws and regulations in force in any relevant jurisdiction (including the jurisdiction of the relevant Holder and the selling restrictions set out in the Prospectus). It is the sole responsibility of each Holder to satisfy itself that it is eligible to purchase the New Securities.

*The New Securities are not being, and will not be, offered or sold in the United States. Nothing in this announcement nor the Tender Offer Memorandum constitutes an offer to sell or the solicitation of an offer to buy the New Securities in the United States or any other jurisdiction. Securities may not be offered, sold or delivered in the United States absent registration under, or an exemption from the registration requirements of, the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the **Securities Act**). The New Securities have not been, and will not be, registered under the Securities Act or the securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States and may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. persons (as defined in Regulation S under the Securities Act).*

Compliance information for the New Securities:

EU MiFID professionals/ECPs-only/No EU PRIIPS KID – eligible counterparties and professional clients only (all distribution channels). No sales to EEA retail investors; no key information document has been or will be prepared. UK MiFIR professionals/ECPs-only/No UK PRIIPs KID – eligible counterparties and professional clients only (all distribution channels). No sales to UK retail investors; no key information document has been or will be prepared.

See the Preliminary Prospectus for further information.

No action has been or will be taken in any jurisdiction in relation to the New Securities to permit a public offering of securities.

Allocation of the New Securities

When considering allocation of the New Securities, the Offeror may give preference to those Holders that, prior to such allocation, have validly tendered or have given a firm intention to any Dealer Manager that they intend to tender their Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer. Therefore, a Holder that wishes to subscribe for New Securities in addition to tendering its existing Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer may be eligible to receive, at the sole and absolute discretion of the Offeror, priority in the allocation of the New Securities, subject to the issue of the New Securities and such Holder making a separate application for the purchase of such New Securities to a Dealer Manager (in its capacity as a joint bookrunner of the issue of the New Securities) in accordance with the standard new issue procedures of such joint bookrunner. Any such preference will, subject to the sole and absolute discretion of the Offeror, be applicable up to the aggregate principal amount of Securities tendered by such Holder (or in respect of which such Holder has indicated a firm intention to tender as described above) pursuant to the Offer. However, the Offeror is not obliged to allocate any New Securities to a Holder that has validly tendered or indicated a firm intention to tender its Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer and, if any such New Securities are allocated, the principal amount thereof may be less or more than the principal amount of Securities tendered by such Holder and accepted for purchase by the Offeror pursuant to the Offer. Any such allocation will also, among other factors, take into account the minimum denomination of the New Securities (being €100,000).

All allocations of the New Securities, while being considered by the Offeror as set out above, will be made in accordance with customary new issue allocation processes and procedures in the sole and absolute discretion of the Offeror. In the event that a Holder validly tenders Securities pursuant to the Offer, such Securities will remain subject to such tender and the conditions of the Offer as set out in the Tender Offer Memorandum irrespective of whether that Holder receives all, part or none of any allocation of New Securities for which it has applied.

Holders should note that the pricing and allocation of the New Securities are expected to take place prior to the Expiration Deadline for the Offer and any Holder that wishes to subscribe for New Securities in addition to tendering existing Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer should therefore provide, as soon as practicable, to any Dealer Manager any indications of a firm intention to tender Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer and the quantum of Securities that it intends to tender.

Tender Instructions

In order to participate in, and be eligible to receive the Purchase Price and Accrued Interest Payment pursuant to, the Offer, Holders must validly tender their Securities for purchase by delivering, or arranging to have delivered on their behalf, a valid Tender Instruction that is received by the Tender Agent by 5.00 p.m. (CET) on 14 March 2023 unless extended, re-opened, amended and/or terminated as provided in the Tender Offer Memorandum (the **Expiration Deadline**).

Holders holding Securities directly in the NBB-SSS or through a participant of the NBB-SSS (other than a Clearing System) must, in order to be eligible to participate in the Offer in the manner specified in the Tender Offer Memorandum, (i) arrange for the Securities which they wish to tender to be transferred to

an account in either of the Clearing Systems, and (ii) maintain or, where relevant, procure access to an account in either of the Clearing Systems through which such Securities can be traded, and to which both the Purchase Price and the applicable Accrued Interest Payment may be credited by the Offeror.

Holders who do not have access to an account, as described above, in either of the Clearing Systems (either directly or through a Direct Participant or other intermediary), or who do not transfer the Securities which they wish to tender to a Direct Participant in either Clearing System, will not be able to submit a Tender Instruction to the Tender Agent and will not be eligible to participate in the Offer in the manner specified in the Tender Offer Memorandum.

Any Holder who (i) holds its Securities directly, or through a participant of the NBB-SSS, in an "N account" within the NBB-SSS, (ii) is not eligible, in accordance with Article 4 of the Belgian Royal Decree of 26 May 1994, to hold its Securities (directly or indirectly) in an "X account" within the NBB-SSS, and who is therefore unable to transfer the relevant Securities to an account in either Clearing System and (iii) who is eligible to view the Tender Offer Memorandum and make an investment decision with respect to the Offer may contact the Tender Agent for further information, using the contact details set out below.

Tender Instructions will be irrevocable except in the limited circumstances described in the Tender Offer Memorandum.

Tender Instructions must be submitted in respect of a minimum principal amount of Securities of no less than €100,000 (being the minimum denomination of the Securities), and may be submitted in any integral multiple of €100,000 thereafter.

A separate Tender Instruction must be completed on behalf of each beneficial owner.

Indicative timetable for the Offer

The anticipated transaction timetable is summarised below:

Events

Times and Dates

(All times are CET)

Commencement of the Offer

Announcement of the Offer and of the intention of the Offeror to issue the New Securities, subject to market conditions. 7 March 2023

Tender Offer Memorandum available from the Tender Agent (subject to the restrictions set out in "*Offer and Distribution Restrictions*" below).

Expiration Deadline

Final deadline for receipt of valid Tender Instructions by the Tender Agent in order for Holders to be able to participate in the Offer. 5.00 p.m. on 14 March 2023

Announcement of Results

Announcement by the Offeror of whether it will accept (subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the New Issue Condition on or prior to the Settlement Date) valid tenders of Securities for purchase pursuant to the Offer and, if so accepted, the Final Acceptance Amount and details of any *pro rata* scaling. As soon as reasonably practicable on the Business Day after the Expiration Deadline (expected to be 15 March 2023)

Settlement Date

Subject to the satisfaction, or waiver, of the New Issue Condition, expected Settlement Date for the Offer. 17 March 2023

The Offeror may, in its sole discretion, extend, re-open, amend, waive any condition of and/or terminate the Offer at any time (subject to applicable law and as provided in the Tender Offer Memorandum) and the above times and dates are subject to the right of the Offeror to so extend, re-open, amend and/or terminate the Offer.

Holders are advised to check with any bank, securities broker or other intermediary through which they hold Securities when such intermediary would need to receive instructions from a Holder in order for that Holder to be able to participate in, or (in the limited circumstances in which revocation is permitted) revoke their

*instruction to participate in, the Offer before the deadlines specified above. **The deadlines set by any such intermediary and each Clearing System for the submission of Tender Instructions will be earlier than the relevant deadlines set out above and in the Tender Offer Memorandum.***

Unless stated otherwise, announcements in connection with the Offer will be made by or on behalf of the Offeror by (i) publication via <https://live.euronext.com/> or on the website of Euronext Brussels; (ii) publication on the website of the Offeror; (iii) publication through the electronic communication system of Bloomberg; and (iv) the delivery of notices to the Clearing Systems for communication to Direct Participants and through the NBB-SSS for communication to participants in the NBB-SSS. Such announcements may also be made on the relevant Reuters Insider Screen. Copies of all such announcements, press releases and notices can also be obtained upon request from the Tender Agent, the contact details for which are below. Significant delays may be experienced where notices are delivered to the Clearing Systems and Holders are urged to contact the Tender Agent for the relevant announcements during the course of the Offer. In addition, Holders may contact the Dealer Managers for information using the contact details below.

Holders are advised to read carefully the Tender Offer Memorandum for full details of and information on the procedures for participating in the Offer.

BNP Paribas, Citigroup Global Markets Limited and NatWest Markets N.V. are acting as Dealer Managers for the Offer and Kroll Issuer Services Limited is acting as Tender Agent.

Questions and requests for assistance in connection with the Offer may be directed to the Dealer Managers:

BNP Paribas (Telephone: +33 1 55 77 78 94; Attention: Liability Management Group; Email: liability.management@bnpparibas.com); **Citigroup Global Markets Limited** (Telephone: +44 20 7986 8969; Attention: Liability Management Group; Email: liabilitymanagement.europe@citi.com); and **NatWest Markets N.V.** (Telephone: +31 2 04 64 27 55; Attention: Liability Management; Email: liabilitymanagement@natwestmarkets.com).

Questions and requests for assistance in connection with the procedures for participating in the Offer, including the delivery of Tender Instructions, may be directed to the Tender Agent:

Kroll Issuer Services Limited (Telephone: +44 20 7704 0880; Attention: Jacek Kusion; Email: elia@is.kroll.com; Tender Offer Website: <https://deals.is.kroll.com/elia>).

This announcement is released by the Offeror and contains information that qualified or may have qualified as inside information for the purposes of Article 7 of the Market Abuse Regulation (EU) 596/2014 (**MAR**), encompassing information relating to the Offer described above. For the purposes of MAR and Article 2 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1055, this announcement is made by Siska Vanhoudenhoven, Secretary General at the Offeror.

DISCLAIMER This announcement must be read in conjunction with the Tender Offer Memorandum. This announcement and the Tender Offer Memorandum contain important information which should be read carefully before any decision is made with respect to the Offer. If any Holder is in any doubt as to the contents of this announcement and/or the Tender Offer Memorandum or the action it should take, it is recommended to seek its own financial and legal advice, including in respect of any tax consequences, immediately from its broker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant or other independent financial, tax or legal adviser. Any individual or company whose Securities are held on its behalf by a broker, dealer, bank, custodian, trust company or other nominee or intermediary must contact such entity if it wishes to tender such Securities pursuant to the Offer. The Dealer Managers are acting exclusively for the Offeror and no one else in connection with the arrangements described in this announcement and the Tender Offer Memorandum and will not be responsible to any Holder for providing the protections which would be afforded to customers of the Dealer Managers or for advising any other person in connection with the Offer. None of the Offeror, the Dealer Managers or the Tender Agent or any director, officer, employee, agent or affiliate of any such person has made or will make any assessment of the merits and risks of the Offer or of the impact of the Offer on the interests of the Holders either as a class or as individuals, and none of them makes any recommendation as to whether Holders should tender Securities pursuant to the Offer. None of the Offeror, the Dealer Managers or the Tender Agent (or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, agents or affiliates) is providing Holders with any legal, business, tax or other advice in this announcement and/or the Tender Offer Memorandum. Holders should consult with their own advisers as needed to assist them in making an investment decision and to advise them whether they are legally permitted to tender Securities for cash.

Offer and Distribution Restrictions

Neither this announcement nor the Tender Offer Memorandum constitutes an invitation to participate in the Offer in any jurisdiction in which, or to any person to or from whom, it is unlawful to make such invitation or for there to be such participation under applicable securities laws. The distribution of this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and/or any other materials relating to the Offer in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons into whose possession this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and/or any other materials relating to the Offer come(s) are required by each of the Offeror, the Dealer Managers and the Tender Agent to inform themselves about, and to observe, any such restrictions.

Neither this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum nor the electronic transmission thereof constitutes an offer to buy or a solicitation of an offer to sell Securities (and tenders of Securities in the Offer will not be accepted from Holders) in any circumstances in which such offer or solicitation is unlawful. In those jurisdictions where the securities, blue sky or other laws require the Offer to be made by a licensed broker or dealer and any Dealer Manager or any of their respective affiliates is such a licensed broker or dealer in any such jurisdiction, the Offer shall be deemed to be made by such Dealer Manager or such affiliate, as the case may be, on behalf of the Offeror in such jurisdiction.

No action has been or will be taken in any jurisdiction in relation to the New Securities that would permit a public offering of securities and the minimum denomination of the New Securities will be €100,000.

United States: The Offer is not being made, and will not be made, directly or indirectly in or into, or by use of the mails of, or by any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce of, or of any facilities of a national securities exchange of, the United States or to any U.S. person (as defined in Regulation S of the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (each a **U.S. Person**)). This includes, but is not limited to, facsimile transmission, electronic mail, telex, telephone, the internet and other forms of electronic communication. The Securities may not be tendered in the Offer by any such use, means, instrumentality or facility from or within the United States or by persons located or resident in the United States or by any U.S. Person. Accordingly, copies of this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and any other documents or materials relating to the Offer are not being, and must not be, directly or indirectly mailed or otherwise transmitted, distributed or forwarded (including, without limitation, by custodians, nominees or trustees) in or into the United States or to any persons located or resident in the United States or to any U.S. Person, and the Securities cannot be tendered in the Offer by any such use, means, instrumentality or facility from or within or by persons located or resident in the United States or by any U.S. Person. Any purported tender of Securities in the Offer resulting directly or indirectly from a violation of these restrictions will be invalid and any purported tender of Securities made by a person located in the United States, a U.S. Person, by any person acting for the account or benefit of a U.S. Person, or any agent, fiduciary or other intermediary acting on a non-discretionary basis for a principal giving instructions from within the United States will be invalid and will not be accepted.

Neither this announcement nor the Tender Offer Memorandum is an offer of securities for sale in the United States or to U.S. Persons. Securities may not be offered, sold or delivered in the United States absent registration under, or an exemption from the registration requirements of, the Securities Act. The New Securities have not been, and will not be, registered under the Securities Act or the securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States and may not be offered, sold or delivered, directly or indirectly, within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. Persons.

Each Holder participating in the Offer will represent that it is not a U.S. Person and it is not located in the United States and it is not participating in the Offer from the United States, or it is acting on a non-discretionary basis for a principal located outside the United States that is not giving an order to participate in the Offer from the United States and who is not a U.S. Person. For the purposes of this and the above two paragraphs, **United States** means the United States of America, its territories and possessions (including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Wake Island and the Northern Mariana Islands), any state of the United States of America and the District of Columbia.

United Kingdom: The communication of this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and any other documents or materials relating to the Offer is not being made and such documents and/or materials have not been approved by an authorised person for the purposes of section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Accordingly, this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and any other documents or materials relating to the Offer are not being distributed to, and must not be passed on to, the general public in the United Kingdom. The communication of such documents and/or materials as a financial promotion is only being made to those persons in the United Kingdom falling within the definition of investment professionals (as defined in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (as amended, the **Financial Promotion Order**)), persons who are within Article 43 of the Financial Promotion Order or any other persons to whom it may otherwise lawfully be made under the Financial Promotion Order.

Italy: None of the Offer, this announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and any other documents or materials relating to the Offer has been or will be submitted to the clearance procedures of the *Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa (CONSOB)* pursuant to Italian laws and regulations. The Offer is being carried out in the Republic of Italy (**Italy**) as an exempted offer pursuant to article 101-bis, paragraph 3-bis of the Legislative Decree No. 58 of 24 February 1998, as amended (the **Financial Services Act**) and article 35-bis, paragraph 4 of CONSOB Regulation No. 11971 of 14 May 1999, as amended. Holders or beneficial owners of the Securities that are located in Italy may tender some or all of their Securities in the Offer through authorised persons (such as investment firms, banks or financial intermediaries permitted to conduct such activities in Italy in accordance with the Financial Services Act, CONSOB Regulation No. 20307 of 15 February 2018, as amended from time to time, and Legislative Decree No. 385 of 1 September 1993, as amended) and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations or with requirements imposed by CONSOB or any other Italian authority.

Each intermediary must comply with the applicable laws and regulations concerning information duties *vis-à-vis* its clients in connection with the Securities and/or the Offer.

France: The Offer is not being made, directly or indirectly, to the public in the Republic of France (**France**). This announcement, the Tender Offer Memorandum and any other document or material relating to the Offer have only been and shall only be distributed in France to qualified investors as defined in Article 2(e) of Regulation (EU) 2017/1129. Neither this announcement nor the Tender Offer Memorandum have been or will be submitted for clearance to nor approved by the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers*.