



## 68% of Belgian respondents would adopt flexible consumption habits if it lowered their energy bills

In order to gain an insight into consumer understanding of and attitudes towards the energy transition, the electricity grid, and electricity use, Elia Transmission Belgium (ETB) commissioned a survey of 1,000 Belgian residents. 68% of respondents said they would adapt their use of electricity in line with the availability of green energy if doing so would lower their electricity bills. Respondents also supported the need to take firm decisions about the country's future energy policy now. Additionally, they indicated that access to green energy and the development of associated infrastructure were areas of concern, alongside the need for technological development and solid data protection measures.

[Read more](#)

## ETB hosts great national energy debate



For this year's stakeholder's day, ETB hosted a livestreamed national energy debate in Brussels. With Belgian federal and regional elections coming up in June this year, the event focused on the energy challenges that the country's next leaders will have to face. Leaders from across the political spectrum were invited to discuss key energy issues, whilst ETB launched its own memorandum and presented the results of its survey of Belgian consumers (see above).

[Watch the video](#)

## Elia Group's 2023 full-year results



Elia Group published strong annual results for 2023. It invested €2,397.2 million throughout the year, primarily focusing on reinforcing the backbone of the Belgian and German electricity grids, offshore development and the digitalisation of its infrastructure. The net profit attributable to Elia Group was €324.5 million, leading to a return on equity (adjusted) of 6.91%. A dividend of €1.99 per share will be proposed at the General Meeting of 21 May 2024.

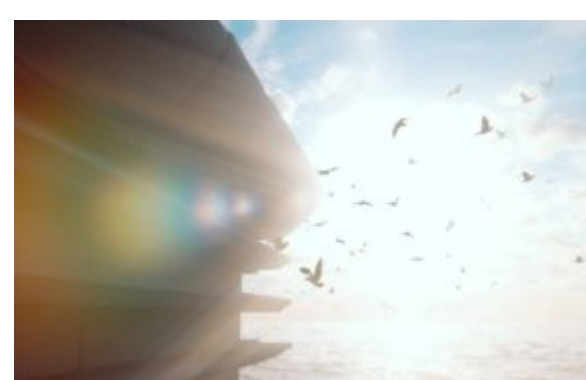
[Read more](#)

## Princess Elisabeth Island: caisson construction starts



The Belgian government awarded the domain concession for the Princess Elisabeth Island (PEI) at the start of March. This was the last legislative step that needed to be completed before the construction of the island's caissons (or foundations) could begin in Vlissingen. The latter will take about 2 years to complete in total.

## €3.7 million of funding from the European Life Programme



The European Life Programme has announced that the bird protection programme which is embedded in the design of the Princess Elisabeth Island will receive €3.7 million of funding. ETB developed the programme alongside nature conservation and marine environment experts. It aims to protect the black-legged kittiwake, a vulnerable species of bird. It was adopted alongside a series of other measures as part of ETB's Nature Inclusive Design approach to the development of the energy island.

[Watch the video](#)

## Executive and senior management changes at Elia Group



Our goal of ensuring that the energy transition is a success requires forward-looking leadership and strong commitment from our staff. It is in this vein that David Zenner (on the right) will take over the position of Chief Assets Officer from Patrick De Leener (on the left) on 1 April. Patrick, who has until now been the Group's Chief Assets Officer, is due to take a well-deserved break. He was involved in the formation of Elia, which was previously known as Electrabel, and has made long-lasting impacts on the organisation since then.

## 50Hertz



### Ostwind 3 offshore route is approved

50Hertz has officially been granted planning approval for the offshore section of the Ostwind 3 grid connection project, which will link the Windanker wind farm to the German mainland. The section in question will cross Germany's territorial waters and its exclusive economic zone.

50Hertz is still waiting for a decision regarding the onshore route of the project. Windanker, which is located to the northeast of Rügen island, will be capable of transmitting 300 MW of electricity back to shore.

[Read more](#)



### Onshore section of KONTEK cable successfully replaced

The onshore section of the German end of KONTEK, an interconnector which links Germany to Denmark, has been successfully replaced. 50Hertz originally completed the replacement of the onshore section, which stretches across a distance of 15 kilometres, in July 2023.

However, the interconnector then had to be switched off in October in order for repair work to be undertaken at the Bentwisch substation, where the interconnector runs to. KONTEK then resumed normal operations in January of this year. The interconnector was originally commissioned in 1995.

[Read more](#)

## EVENTS



### Flanders Technology and Innovation

ETB will be hosting its own booth at the upcoming Flanders Technology and Innovation Expo, which will be taking place from 16-24 March at various venues across the Belgian cities of Hasselt, Leuven, Brussels, Antwerp, Ghent and Courtrai. Come and meet our staff to find out more about how the Group is a driving force for innovative technologies in the energy sector.

[Read more \(Dutch only\)](#)



### Elia Group's third hackathon is just around the corner

Elia Group's third hackathon will be held from 26-28 March at Quartier Papier near Brussels. This year, competitors will be challenged to demonstrate the potential held in steering flexible assets, like electric cars and heat pumps, based on real-time electricity prices. Teams will therefore be helping to reveal how valuable the unlocking of consumer-side flexibility is for both consumers and the energy system.

[Read more](#)