



Historic piece of Berlin Wall at Elia site highlights link between Berlin and Brussels within Elia Group

Former President of the European Council and Prime Minister of Belgium, Herman Van Rompuy, together with the German Ambassador, Martin Kotthaus, and other dignitaries have unveiled a fragment of the Berlin Wall at Elia's site in Schaerbeek. The Belgian system operator bought the piece of wall early this year at a charity auction at BRAFA, the celebrated Brussels art and antiques fair. Thirty years ago, West and East Germany were officially reunited after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. For Elia Group, the purchased fragment symbolises the cooperation and mutual solidarity between Elia and 50Hertz, which have their head offices in Brussels and Berlin respectively.

A delegation of representatives from Germany and Belgium attended the official inauguration. Herman Van Rompuy, former President of the European Council and Prime Minister of Belgium, Martin Kotthaus, German Ambassador to Belgium, Chris Peeters, CEO of Elia Group, and Stefan Kapferer, CEO of 50Hertz unveiled a fragment of the Berlin Wall to the tune of the European anthem. The segment comes from the *Hinterlandmauer*, the 68-kilometre inner wall blocking off the border strip to East Berlin. That section was dismantled by the armed forces of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR) after the fall of the Wall. Graffiti was sprayed on both sides by anonymous street artists at various times. What makes this segment so impressive is not only its size (3.6 metres high by 1.2 metres wide) but, above all, its underlying symbolism.

For many years, the Berlin Wall symbolised two separate worlds. This year is exactly 30 years since East and West Germany were official reunited. For Elia Group too, it has now become a symbol of unity and solidarity between our 50Hertz and Elia colleagues in Germany and Belgium respectively.

The proceeds from the purchase will go to *Kom op tegen Kanker*, a Belgian charity that funds cancer research.

Chris Peeters, CEO Elia Group: While the wall was a symbol of division, for us it is now a symbol of unification, cooperation, stronger leadership and a positive vision for the future. We fully support the ambitions of the European Green Deal for a carbon-neutral society, and this is indeed what unites us within Elia Group: we want a better future for our children and grandchildren.



For further information

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaure.vanwanseele@elia.be

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

”

Martin Kotthaus, German Ambassador to Belgium: To me this fragment symbolises the fact that Elia and 50Hertz are two sides of the same coin. Elia's businesses in Belgium and Germany play an equally important role in the Group's portfolio. We are also pleased to learn that the work on ALEGrO – the first interconnector between Belgium and Germany – is progressing well and is on schedule.

“

ALEGrO consists of an underground connection between the Lixhe converter station in Liège Province, Belgium, and the Eynatten converter station in Germany. The connection will have a transmission capacity of 1,000 MW, which is one tenth of the average electricity consumption in Belgium. A press visit will be organised in mid-September before the line is commissioned later this year.



About Elia Group

One of Europe's top five players

Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that production and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-east Germany (50Hertz), we operate 19,271 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we give society a robust power grid, which is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

We make the energy transition happen

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy production, Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

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 respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

International focus

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that operates the first sub-sea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

Elia Group is a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

More information: elia.be - eliagroup.eu

Contact

Corporate Communication

Jean Fassiaux (FR) | M +32 474 46 87 82 | jean.fassiaux@elia.be

Marie-Laure Vanwanseele (NDL) | M +32 499 86 51 58 | marielaure.vanwanseele@elia.be

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

Elia Transmission Belgium SA/NV

