



Keizerslaan 20
Boulevard de l'Empereur, 20
1000 Brussels
Tel.: 02 546 70 11
Fax: 02 546 70 10



Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation
Rue de l'Industrie 26-38
1040 Brussels
Tel.: 02 289 76 11

PRESS RELEASE

17 January 2013

CREG certifies Elia System Operator as electricity transmission system operator

CREG, the federal energy regulator, recently certified Elia System Operator as an electricity transmission system operator in accordance with the 'full ownership unbundling' model. The certification procedure is connected with the third EU energy package designed to strengthen the requirements imposed on transmission system operators with respect to unbundling the electricity generators and suppliers.

Elia System Operator's certification is the culmination of a procedure for examining independence requirements ('ownership unbundling') for system operators with respect to generators and suppliers of electricity imposed by the Belgian regulator. It is connected with the third package of EU directives and the Belgian law of 8 January 2012 that aims to transpose them.

The certification granted by CREG is conditional upon a number of changes being made to the articles of association of Elia System Operator and Elia Asset to ensure that they meet requirements on separation of property, as well as amendments to company documents to clarify Elia System Operator's control over Elia Asset.

In late 2012, 50Hertz – Elia System Operator's subsidiary in Germany (in which Elia holds 60% and Industry Fund Management holds 40%) – also obtained certification. Of Germany's four transmission system operators, 50Hertz is the only that has received certification.

"Right from the start, Elia has set an example among European transmission system operators in terms of unbundling the electricity generation and supply businesses. The provisions of the Belgian Electricity Market Act anticipated multiple requirements that were subsequently implemented by the European Commission. We are delighted to receive certification and we reiterate our commitment to accomplish our mission to serve our customers and the community", said Elia CEO Jacques Vandermeiren in reference to the certification.

"One of the main aims of the certification granted by CREG is to bring about optimum functioning of the electricity market by ensuring that suppliers and generators compete on a level playing field and confirming the transmission system operator's impartiality," commented Dominique Woitrin, Technical Market Functioning Manager at CREG, on the certification.

About CREG:

CREG is the federal regulator for the Belgian electricity and natural gas markets. In addition to its government advisory role, CREG is also, among other tasks, entrusted with the supervision of transparency and competition issues in the electricity and natural gas markets, ensuring that market conditions are aimed at the common interest and that they fulfil the needs of the general energy policy, and also with ensuring that essential consumer interests are met. More information is available at www.creg.be.

About Elia:

The Elia Group is organised around two electricity transmission system operators: Elia Transmission in Belgium and (in cooperation with Industry Funds Management) 50Hertz Transmission, one of the four German transmission system operators, active in the north and east of Germany. With more than 1,700 employees and a transmission grid comprising some 13,400 km of high-voltage connections serving 30 million consumers, the Elia Group is one of Europe's top 5 TSOs. It efficiently, reliably and securely transmits electricity from generators to distribution system operators and major industrial consumers, while also importing and exporting electricity from and to neighbouring countries. The Group is a driving force behind the development of the European electricity market and the integration of energy generated from renewable sources.

In addition to its system operator activities in Belgium and Germany, the Elia Group offers businesses a range of consultancy and engineering services.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose reference shareholder is municipal holding company Publi-T.

For additional information, please contact:

Elia:	Lise Mulpas	+32 2 546 73 75	+32 478 65 28 90	lise.mulpas@elia.be
	Axelle Pollet	+32 2 546 75 11	+32 475 84 38 91	axelle.pollet@elia.be
CREG:	Laurent Jacquet	+ 32 2 289 76 90	+32 497 52 77 62	laurent.jacquet@creg.be