Annual Report

2022

CREG

Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation

Annual Report

2022

CREG

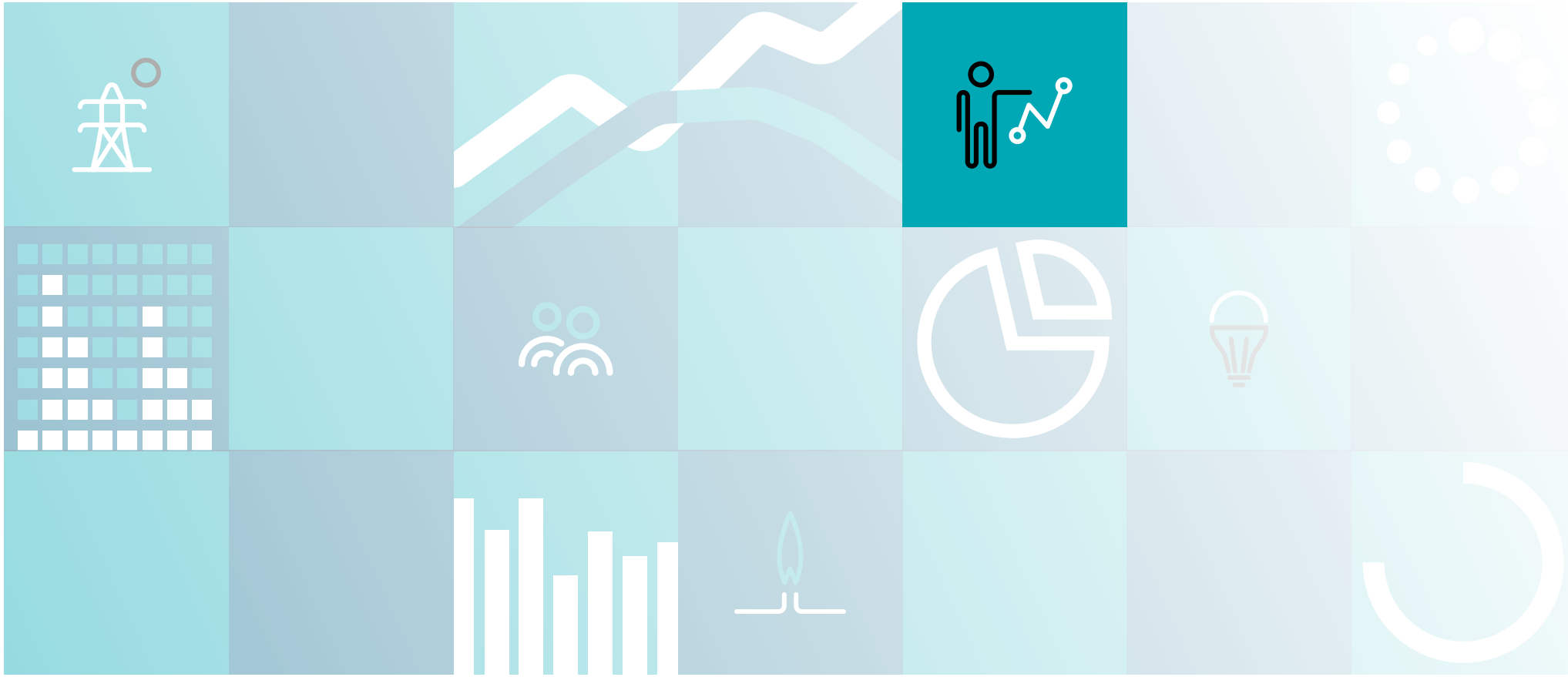
Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation

Table of contents

LIST OF FIGURES

LIST OF TABLES

1 Foreword



While a gradual exit from the COVID-19 pandemic could be expected, with a return to normal in 2021, the year 2022 was marked by a spectacular surge in energy prices, and subsequent volatility, with the outbreak of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict on 24 February 2022.

Besides the emergence of a humanitarian crisis in the very heart of Europe, this conflict, the outcome and duration of which are still uncertain, has had a major impact on the energy sector. In the short term, various public authorities have been forced to adopt measures to mitigate the impact of historically high energy prices, diversify energy sources and maximise the potential for energy efficiency where possible. In the medium and long term, scaling back the European Union's energy dependence on natural gas producers outside the EU-27 has become a strategic priority, as has a re-examination of how the markets are organised, to ensure security of supply and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy.

As such, analysing the exceptional situation observed on the electricity and natural gas markets at global, European and national level was one of the CREG's top priorities in 2022, be it at the level of the dynamics of supply and demand on the wholesale markets, price formation, or the impact of the correct functioning of the wholesale and retail markets and their interrelation.

It is also in this fraught context that the CREG has continued to put its expertise and its strength of proposal at the service of the public authorities, in particular, with a view to drafting and adopting the law of 16 December 2022 amending the law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market and introducing a ceiling on market revenues of electricity producers, within the required timeframe. Since then, the CREG has wasted no time in implementing the new legal mission entrusted to it, beyond the role of market watchdog traditionally assigned to the regulator, namely the effective implementation of the system to collect excess profits from electricity producers in compliance with the legal deadlines for collecting and redistributing these to final consumers affected by the energy crisis.

Protecting the interests of consumers, whatever their size, also remained at the heart of the CREG's concerns, reflections and actions over the past year. Every effort was made to inform consumers as clearly as possible, in order to enhance transparency and retain consumer trust in the market, through the publication of a range of specific acts and by continually improving the CREG Scan. The CREG has also ensured enhanced and continuous monitoring with regional regulators, in the context of soaring energy prices, in order to anticipate and avoid possible cascading effects linked to the risk of bankruptcy of one or other market operators. The ongoing contribution of the CREG to developments in the social tariff system was also an important area of work in 2022, as was the focus on the issue of fuel poverty, for which energy prices are a decisive explanatory factor.

At the same time, the CREG contributed to the work programme and deliverables of ACER and CEER, which were dictated by the current European energy issues, and helped exchange information and best practices within these bodies. As such, it had the opportunity to follow and actively contribute to ongoing European developments, and promote a better understanding/application of these, with particular regard to the impact of the energy crisis on the development of the gas and electricity market and the security of supply challenges in the context of a faster reduction in Europe's dependence on fossil energy sources. The European initiatives within the framework of the Green Deal, the implementation of the European regulations, the transposition of the EU's Clean Energy Package and the package of proposals for the "Fit for 55 package" also received a lot of attention, given their decisive impact on the energy landscape of the future.

Having been engaged in constructive dialogue for many years, the CREG has also continued its work with stakeholders on other strategic issues at Belgian level, including the adoption of the new tariff methodologies for 2024-2027, the correct functioning of the capacity remuneration mechanism introduced by the law of 22 April 2019, the development of offshore wind energy, the development of a legal framework for new gases, including hydrogen, and the development of flexibility in the market.

This report gives a more detailed account of the CREG's activities for the year 2022, and the efforts made on a daily basis by its staff, whose dedication and professionalism have made it possible to ensure highly effective regulation, tailored as closely as possible to the multi-faceted reality encountered in an exceptional crisis context.

Wishing you a pleasant read.

Koen Locquet
President of the Board of Directors
March 2023

2 Key national legislative developments

2.1. The social tariff for electricity, natural gas and heat

In 2022, given the ongoing need to provide financial support to low-income households, and tackle fuel poverty, , the extension of the social tariff to individuals with "BIM" status (beneficiary of increased intervention), which took effect on 1 February 2021, was kept in place and prolonged on several occasions. In this respect, the Royal Decree of 28 January 2021, which initially set the end of this extension at 31 December 2021, has been successively amended to postpone the end date of this measure until 1 April 2022[1], until 1 July 2022[2], until 1 October 2022[3], until 1 January 2023[4] and finally until 1 April 2023[5]. In this context, the CREG drew up various monitoring reports on the resources required and the amounts proposed to extend the social tariffs to BIM customers (see point 3.1.2.2 of this report).

In order to pre-finance the cost of extending the social tariff to "BIM" customers, several amendments were therefore made to the Royal Decrees on electricity and natural gas of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs and the intervention rules for covering them. These amendments include the payment of advances on the reimbursement to suppliers of the actual net cost of applying social tariffs. The amount of these advances, set by Royal Decree after consultation with the CREG, is initially paid by the FPS Economy to the CREG, which then distributes it proportionally among the suppliers on the basis of the number of protected household customers[6]. At the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG has therefore issued various opinions on the Royal Decrees setting the amounts of these advances used to pre-finance the actual net cost of applying the social tariff[7].

At the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG also looked into the possibilities of implementing a premium system in cases where the social tariff is complex (retroactivity) or impracticable (collective boilers outside social housing), and published its conclusions in an opinion[8]. Among other things, this opinion is based on the recommendations made by the Social Tariffs working group of the King Baudouin Foundation's Platform to Fight Fuel Poverty. A premium system does not appear to be adequate to replace the retroactive application of the social tariff. On the other hand, such a premium system could be put in place to overcome the problem, whereby the social tariff for natural gas is not applicable to protected customers connected to a collective boiler in a private building.

Social tariff for heating

Following the opinion issued by the CREG on 1 April 2021, the Gas Act was amended by the Programme Law of 27 December 2021.

On 1 July 2022, a social tariff for the supply of heat was therefore introduced. Although this tariff is aligned with the social price cap for natural gas, in addition to the price cap for heat, suppliers are still able to pass on fixed costs that are not related to the energy or network component to the protected customers[9].

Moreover, the Royal Decree of 6 June 2022[10] organises the reimbursement and modalities of the actual net cost of applying the social tariff for heating for the companies supplying heat. The reference price for the reimbursement of the social tariff for heat is linked to the reference price for the reimbursement of the social tariff for natural gas. However, the energy component of the "heat" reference price includes a fixed compensation of €125 per year per connection point, compared to €25 currently for natural gas.

1 Programme Law of 27 December 2021.
2 Law of 28 February 2022 on various energy-related provisions (Belgian Official Gazette of 8 March 2022).
3 Royal Decree of 24 April 2022 extending the maximum prices for protected household customers to beneficiaries of the increased intervention (BIM) until 1 October 2022 (Belgian Official Gazette of 9 June 2022).
4 Royal Decree of 13 August 2022 extending the maximum prices for protected household customers to beneficiaries of the increased intervention (BIM) until 1 January 2023 (Belgian Official Gazette of 13 September 2022).
5 Royal Decree of 28 October 2022 extending the maximum prices for protected household customers to beneficiaries of the increased intervention (BIM) until 1 April 2023 (Belgian Official Gazette of 7 November 2022).
6 Royal Decree of 28 February 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by natural gas companies and the intervention rules for covering them, the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by electricity companies and the intervention rules for covering them (Belgian Official Gazette of 11 March 2022); Royal Decree of 24 April 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by natural gas companies and the intervention rules for covering them and the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by electricity companies and the intervention rules for covering them (Belgian Official Gazette of 19 May 2022); Royal Decree of 18 September 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by natural gas companies and the intervention rules for covering them and the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by electricity companies and the intervention rules for covering them (Belgian Official Gazette of 4 October 2022); Royal Decree of 12 December 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by natural gas companies and the intervention rules for covering them and the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by electricity companies and the intervention rules for covering them (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 December 2022); Royal Decree of 22 December 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of applying the social tariffs by natural gas companies and the intervention rules for covering them and the Royal Decree of 29 March 2012 laying down the rules for determining the cost of the applying the social tariffs by electricity companies and the intervention rules for covering them (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 December 2022).
7 Opinions (A)2334 of 27 January 2022, (A)2349 of 17 February 2022, (A)2393 of 5 May 2022 (and 30 June 2022), (A)2462 of the CREG of 6 October 2022, (A)2496 of the CREG of 8 December 2022.
8 Opinion (A)2394 of 12 May 2022 on the possibilities of implementing a premium system in cases where the social tariff is complex (retroactivity) or impracticable (collective boilers outside social housing).
9 Royal Decree of 6 June 2022 setting the social price cap for the supply of heat to protected household customers (Belgian Official Gazette of 16 June 2022).
10 Royal Decree of 6 June 2022 setting the rules for determining the net real cost for companies supplying heat to protected household customers by means of district heating networks, and their contribution to its payment (Belgian Official Gazette of 16 June 2022).

■ *Cheapest equivalent product*

The above-mentioned Law of 28 February 2022 also provides that, when a household customer is no longer eligible for the social tariff for the supply of natural gas or heat, the supplier must inform the household customer. Since the supplier is not able to sufficiently predict in advance whether a household customer can still benefit from the social tariff, the cheapest equivalent product will automatically be applied.

■ *One-off fixed amount*

The Royal Decree of 1 April 2022[11] amends various provisions relating to the administrative and financial handling of the one-off fixed amount for social customers first provided for in the Royal Decree of 23 December 2021 (see Annual Report 2021). Among other things, these amendments relate to certain deadlines for granting the one-off fixed amount and for processing the related claims.

■ *Automatic application*

The Royal Decree of 18 May 2022[12] extended the scope of the automatic application of price caps for the supply of electricity and natural gas to protected household customers on low incomes or in a precarious situation to all fixed-amount measures concerning the social tariff and to the price caps for electricity, natural gas and heat.

2.2. The capacity remuneration mechanism and the strategic reserve

A capacity remuneration mechanism (hereinafter "CRM") was introduced in the Electricity Act in 2019, in order to guarantee the availability of sufficient capacity from the winter of 2025-2026 onwards, to meet the demand for electricity across Belgium, taking into account the planned closure of the active nuclear power plants in Belgium by that time.

The mechanism puts in place a support system for any type of capacity which is likely to contribute to security of supply (production, storage, demand management) (see Annual Report 2019).

■ *Additional tendering process for the auction for 2021*

The Law of 28 February 2022[13] amended the Electricity Act by providing that if a capacity holder selected in the auction for 2021 does not have the required permit(s) for the construction and operation of the said capacity in the final administrative instance by 15 March 2022 at the latest, and this lack of permit(s) poses a serious threat to the security of supply, the Minister may instruct the system operator to terminate the capacity contract with the holder in question, and to organise a supplementary auction in order to reach the volume of capacity initially required.

In order to avoid similar situations in the future, the Law of 28 February 2022 also provides that, with respect to future auctions, capacity holders are obliged to have the permit(s) required for the construction and operation of their capacity before the deadline for submission of bids.

■ *Methodology for determining the investor risk premium in the context of the CRM*

Following the opinion and proposal of the CREG in October 2021 (see Annual Report 2021), the Royal Decree of 28 April 2021 was amended by the Royal Decree of 27 January 2022[14]. Among other things, this decree provides for the following:

- changing the definition of "annual inframarginal rents" to "the difference between energy market revenues and variable costs";
- adapting the method of calculation of the weighted average cost of capital by the CREG, so that the latter can differentiate according to the reference technology and the duration of the economic life of the investment;
- extending the period in which the gross cost of a new entrant must be re-evaluated by the CREG from 5 to 10 years;
- adapting the missing money calculation method to also take into account the estimated minimum return plus the risk premium.

11 Royal Decree of 1 April 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 23 December 2021 setting the modalities for the one-off fixed amount referred to in Article 4 of the Law of 15 December 2021 on measures with regard to the increase in energy prices in 2021 and confirming the Royal Decree of 22 December 2020 amending the Royal Decree of 24 March 2003 setting the modalities for the federal contribution intended to finance certain public service obligations and costs related to the regulation and control of the electricity market (Belgian Official Gazette of 6 April 2022).

12 Royal Decree of 18 May 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 28 June 2009 on the automatic application of price caps for the supply of electricity and natural gas to protected household customers on low incomes or in a precarious situation (Belgian Official Gazette of 1 June 2022).

13 Law of 28 February 2022 amending the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market in order to allow an additional tendering process for the auction organised in 2021 (Belgian Official Gazette of 4 March 2022).

14 Royal Decree of 27 January 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 28 April 2021 laying down the parameters for determining the volume of capacity to be anticipated, including their calculation methods, and the other parameters necessary for the organisation of the auctions, as well as the method and conditions for granting an individual derogation from the application of the intermediate price cap(s) under the capacity remuneration mechanism (Belgian Official Gazette of 1 February 2022).

■ *Granting of individual authorisations for energy storage*

The Law of 14 February 2022[15] amended the Electricity Act, so that the construction and operation of energy storage facilities are subject to individual prior authorisation, comparable to that required for electricity generation. Except for existing storage facilities, the granting of this authorisation is a prerequisite for participating in an auction in the context of the capacity remuneration mechanism. To this end, the King was tasked with laying down the conditions, modalities and procedure for granting such authorisation, after consultation with the CREG.

A first draft of a Royal Decree, amending the Royal Decree of 11 October 2000 on the granting of individual authorisations covering the construction of facilities for electricity generation, was the subject of an opinion from the CREG[16]. Following the withdrawal of this draft, a second draft of the Royal Decree was submitted to the CREG, which issued an opinion on 15 March 2022, expressing several reservations[17]. The final Royal Decree was enacted on 29 March 2022[18]. It identifies the facilities subject to individual authorisation, lays down the procedure for granting authorisations and provides that the owners of an energy storage facility located in the Belgian control area who meet the admissibility criteria are required to submit a pre-qualification dossier in the context of the capacity remuneration mechanism.

■ *Adoption of the new operating rules for the CRM*

In accordance with the Electricity Act and, in particular, with a view to the auction held in October 2022, the CREG drafted the 2022 version of the operating rules for the CRM[19] in a decision dated 13 May 2022. These operating rules were the subject of a proposal sent by the transmission system operator on 1 February 2022, after being submitted for public consultation. They were approved by Royal Decree on 29 May 2022 with a view to their entry into force[20].

■ *Supply period 2026-2027*

In the context of the CRM, the CREG is tasked, among other things, with issuing an opinion on the proposal of Elia's auction parameters. On 1 February 2022, the CREG drafted a proposal[21] for a demand curve for the Y-4 auction in 2022, covering the supply period 2025-2026, on the basis of the report of the transmission system operator, and issued its opinion[22] on Elia's proposal for the auction parameters for this auction. On 25 March 2022, the CREG approved an addendum to the proposal of 1 February 2022[23], which provides an overview of the information obtained by the CREG following the approval of the above-mentioned proposal (C)2326 and the impact of this information on the proposal for a demand curve which the CREG forwarded to the Minister for Energy.

Based on the above-mentioned proposals and opinions, the Ministerial Decree of 30 March 2022[24] instructed the system operator to organise the T-4 auction for the capacity supply period 2026-2027 in October 2022 and set the parameters for this auction.

■ *Supply period 2027-2028*

With regard to the supply period 2027-2028, the CREG drafted two proposals for the T-4 auction.

Proposal (C)2428 of 1 September 2022 was drawn up pursuant to the Royal Decree of 28 April 2021 laying down the parameters to determine the volume of the capacity to be envisaged[25]. This proposal concerns the gross cost of a new entrant, the correction factor X and the weighted average cost of capital.

Proposal (C)2429 of 19 July 2022 was drafted pursuant to the same Royal Decree of 28 April 2021[26]. This proposal relates to all of the data and assumptions to be borne in mind, which together form the reference scenario proposal.

15 Law of 14 February 2022 amending the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products through pipelines (Belgian Official Gazette of 16 February 2022).
16 Opinion (A)2354 of 24 February 2022.
17 Opinion (A)2362 of 15 March 2022 concerning a draft Royal Decree on the granting of individual authorisations for the construction and operation of new energy storage facilities for which, in 2022, a pre-qualification dossier is submitted in accordance with article 7 undecies, § 8, of the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market.
18 Royal Decree of 29 March 2022 concerning the granting of individual authorisations for the construction and operation of new energy storage facilities for which, in 2022, a pre-qualification dossier will be submitted in accordance with article 7 undecies, § 8, of the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (Belgian Official Gazette of 4 April 2022).
19 Decision (B)2397 of 13 May 2022.
20 Royal Decree of 29 May 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 30 May 2021 approving the operating rules of the capacity remuneration mechanism in accordance with article 7 undecies, § 12, of the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (Belgian Official Gazette of 9 June 2022).
21 Proposal (C)2326 of parameters for determining the amount of capacity to be purchased for the Y-4 auction in 2022, covering the supply period 2026-2027.
22 Opinion (A)2327 regarding the proposal for auction parameters of the report of the system operator for the Y-4 auction in 2022 covering the supply period 2026-2027.
23 Addendum to Proposal (C)2326 of 25 March 2022.
24 Ministerial Decree of 30 March 2022 instructing the system operator to organise the auction four years before the capacity supply period starting on 1 November 2026, the parameters necessary for the organisation of the above-mentioned auction, the maximum volume of capacity that can be contracted with all unproven capacity holders and the minimum volume to be reserved for the auction organised one year before the capacity supply period, in accordance with article 7 undecies, § 6, paragraph 1" of the law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (Belgian Official Gazette of 4 April 2022).
25 Proposal (C)2428 on the gross cost of a new entrant, correction factor X and weighted average cost of capital for the T-4 auction covering the supply period 2027-2028.
26 CREG proposal for a reference scenario for the T-4 auction covering the supply period 2027-2028, referenced (C)2429, drafted on 19 July 2022.

Taking into account these proposals, two ministerial decree were adopted on 9 September 2022. The first decree[27] sets the reference scenario for the 2023 auction. The second Ministerial Decree[28] determines the intermediate values for this same auction.

■ *Cost of the CRM and strategic reserve*

On 7 April 2022, the CREG submitted a proposal for a Royal Decree laying down the method of calculating and monitoring the cost of the strategic reserve and the capacity remuneration mechanism. These are costs to be borne by the system operator and covered by the budget of the federal government[29]. Based on this proposal by the CREG, a Royal Decree laying down the method of calculating and monitoring the cost of the strategic reserve and the capacity remuneration mechanism was adopted on 20 July 2022[30].

■ *The reliability standard*

The reliability standard transparently indicates the required level of security of supply in Belgium and makes it possible to determine whether a capacity mechanism can be applied and at what cost. On 23 June 2022, at the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG published a proposal for a revised reliability standard for Belgium[31].

In this context, the CREG proposes taking into account, for the update of the reliability standard, a cost of the non-distributed energy of €12,832.48/MWh and the fixed and variable values of the cost of a new entrant of the reference technology, for the OCGT technology, of €67/kW/year and €80/MWh. On the basis of the VoLL ("value of lost load") and the CoNE ("cost of new entry") for reference technologies determined by the Directorate-General for Energy of the FPS Economy, the CREG observed that the application of the ACER methodology to determine the reliability standard results in a reliability standard of 5 h 15 min. The Royal Decree of 4 September 2022 sets the reliability standard at 3 hours[32].

2.3. Law of 28 February 2022

The Law of 28 February 2022[33] made several changes to the Gas and Electricity Acts.

■ *The energy standard*

The Law of 28 February 2022 introduces an energy standard for citizens and businesses, to safeguard purchasing power and competitiveness with regard to neighbouring countries. In this context, the CREG, in cooperation with the regional regulators if necessary, is tasked with publishing an annual study on the various cost elements of the natural gas bill, including at least one comparison with neighbouring countries: France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

On the proposal of the CREG, the King will be tasked with determining the categories of consumers, according to the type of economic activity and the amount of consumption, which will be used to draw up the above-mentioned annual study. Finally, it is also envisaged that the CREG, after having obtained the opinion of the Consultative Council for Gas and Electricity and the Central Economic Council, will give an opinion to the Minister with recommendations for measures to safeguard the competitiveness of companies and the purchasing power of consumers.

■ *Advance bill*

Among the measures aimed at making the market more transparent, the Gas and Electricity Acts have been amended to provide for an obligation on the part of suppliers to agree with household customers on the method for calculating advance payments. These payments can be modified at any time, with justification. Furthermore, the supplier can only apply the adjustment of the advance payment if the household customer has not objected within 15 days of notification. Any clause or condition in a contract between the supplier and the customer that deviates from this rule will automatically be invalid.

■ *Fixed fee*

With regard to variable price energy contracts, the Gas and Electricity Acts now provide that if these contracts are terminated after a period of six months, they must be billed pro rata according to the number of days of supply. This means that the full fixed fee can no longer be invoiced.

■ *Social tariff for heat, gradual phasing out of the social rate for BIM (beneficiaries of the increased intervention) and the cheapest equivalent product*

The reader is referred to Section 2.1 of this report.

27 Ministerial Decree determining the reference scenario for the 2023 auction pursuant to Article 3, § 7 of the Royal Decree of 28 April 2021 laying down the parameters for determining the volume of capacity to be purchased, including their calculation method, and the other parameters necessary for the organisation of the auctions, as well as the method and conditions for obtaining individual derogations from the application of the intermediate price caps under the capacity remuneration mechanism (Belgian Official Gazette of 28 September 2022).

28 Ministerial Decree of 9 September 2022 determining the intermediate values for the 2023 auctions in accordance with Article 4, § 3 of the Royal Decree of 27 January 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 28 April 2021 laying down the parameters for determining the volume of capacity to be anticipated, including their calculation methods, and the other parameters necessary for the organisation of the auctions, as well as the method and conditions for granting an individual derogation from the application of the intermediate price cap(s) under the capacity remuneration mechanism (Belgian Official Gazette of 15 September 2022).

29 Proposal (C)2338 of 7 April 2022.

30 Royal Decree laying down the method of calculating and monitoring the cost of the strategic reserve and the capacity remuneration mechanism (Belgian Official Gazette of 19 August 2022).

31 CREG Proposal for the reliability standard (C)2425, 23 June 2022.

32 Royal Decree of 4 September 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 31 August 2021 on the calculation of the reliability standard and the approval of the values of the cost of undistributed energy and the cost of a new entrant (Belgian Official Gazette of 14 September 2022).

33 Law of 28 February 2022 on various energy-related provisions (Belgian Official Gazette of 8 March 2022).

2.4. Law of 23 October 2022

The Law of 23 October 2022[34] amended the Electricity Act to transpose various provisions of Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity. These amendments include:

- the introduction of new definitions and provisions for citizen and renewable energy communities and active customers;
- the introduction of dynamic pricing contracts. From now on, suppliers with more than 200,000 customers must offer a dynamic pricing contract to any final customer who requests it, and who has the relevant meter. In this context, the CREG is responsible for monitoring the evolution of these new products on the market, and for tackling abuse;
- the transmission system operator cannot have ownership rights to the storage facilities. In order to ensure security on the grid, however, the TSO may purchase storage services as long as this availability is independent of the transmission system. Other provisions pertain to improving regional and international cooperation between TSOs, and managing user data;
- the introduction of an obligation for suppliers to provide metering and consumption data when requested by consumers. In addition, the supplier must specify the rights of the final customer in the context of an alternative dispute resolution as well as the possibilities and advantages of changing supplier. Finally, the notice period for the final customer to change supplier has been reduced from one month to three weeks.

2.5. Cap on market revenues from the electricity generators

The Law of 16 December 2022[35] partially implements Regulation (EU) 2022/1854[36] and introduces a capping mechanism on the surplus profits generated by certain electricity producers (so-called "inframarginal" generators) for reimbursement to consumers.

The law provides that the market revenues of the producers in question, related to the sale and delivery of electricity (regardless of the date on which the sales contract was concluded and regardless of the market), earned between 1 August 2022 and 30 June 2023, and which exceed 130 euros/MWh, will be levied in full (100% levy). Several exceptions are envisaged, for example, for biomass, biogas and waste, for which a cap of 180 euros/MWh will be applied.

In this context, the inframarginal generators must provide the necessary data to the CREG, via declarations. The CREG is tasked with carrying out checks on surplus revenues on the basis of the data provided (or claimed) and by making a proposal to the FPS Economy regarding the fixing of the payable levy, which sends a payment notice to the debtor. The FPS Finance is responsible for collecting the levy, where appropriate.

2.6. Reduction of VAT and other assistance measures

VAT

In order to mitigate the financial impact of the sharp rises in energy prices on households, the Royal Decree of 21 February 2022[37] introduced a reduced VAT rate of 6% for the supply of electricity in the context of household contracts, applicable from 1 March 2022, for an initial period of four months.

Subsequently, the Royal Decree of 23 March 2022[38] amended Royal Decree No. 20 of 20 July 1970 setting the VAT rates. Among other things, this decree provides the following:

- the extension of the reduced VAT rate of 6% for the supply of electricity in the context of household contracts until 30 September 2022;
- the inclusion of a temporary provision (up to and including 30 September 2022) under which the supply of natural gas and heat via heating networks is subject to the reduced rate of 6% as of 1 April 2022 for household contracts instead of the current rate of 21%.

Lastly, the Royal Decree of 27 June 2022[39] amending Royal Decree No. 20 of 20 July 1970 setting the VAT rates provides for an extension of the measure on the reduction of the VAT rate for the supply of electricity in the context of household contracts until 31 December 2022, as well as an extension of the VAT rate of 6% for all supplies of natural gas and heat via heating networks to professional contracts from 1 August 2022.

34 Law of 23 October 2022 amending the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market and transposing Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU (Belgian Official Gazette of 26 October 2022).

35 Law of 16 December 2022 amending the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market and introducing a cap on market revenues of electricity producers (Belgian Official Gazette of 22 December 2022).

36 Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1854 of 6 October 2022 on an emergency intervention to address high energy prices.

37 Royal Decree of 21 February 2022 amending Royal Decrees 4 and 20 on value-added tax as regards the reduction of the value-added tax rate on the supply of electricity in the context of household contracts (Belgian Official Gazette of 28 February 2022).

38 Royal Decree of 23 March 2022 amending Royal Decrees 4 and 20 on value-added tax as regards the reduction of the value-added tax rate on the supply of electricity, natural gas and heat via heating networks in the context of household contracts (Belgian Official Gazette of 28 February 2022).

39 Royal Decree of 27 June 2022, amending Royal Decree No. 20 of 20 July 1970, setting the VAT rates and determining the allocation of goods and services according to these rates with respect to the supply of electricity in the context of household contracts, natural gas and heat via heating networks and certain heat pumps (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 June 2022).

■ *Federal heating, electricity and natural gas premiums*

The CREG examined a draft Royal Decree laying down the methods for determining the cost of granting the heating premium, worth €100, by electricity companies[40]. This draft Royal Decree also sets out the procedure to be followed by the electricity companies for reimbursing the costs of this heating premium. Besides legal and technical remarks, the CREG made proposals for adjustments. Among other things, it suggested that the claim relating to the heating premium be introduced by 31 March 2023, in accordance with the deadlines in force for the introduction of claims made by "protected customers" in the context of the social tariff for electricity and natural gas.

The Royal Decree of 11 September 2022[41] laying down the modalities for determining the cost to the electricity companies of activities relating to the heating premium, and their contribution to covering it, follows the recommendations of the CREG.

The Law of 30 October 2022[42] containing temporary support measures following the energy crisis provides for the introduction of a federal electricity premium of €122 for all household customers who, as of 30 September 2022, had an electricity supply contract for their home:

- either under a fixed-price contract, which was entered into or renewed after 30 September 2021
- or at a variable price.

Furthermore, the law provides for the introduction of a federal gas premium of €270 for all household customers who, as of 30 September 2022, had an electricity supply contract for their home:

- either under a fixed-price contract, which was entered into or renewed after 30 September 2021
- or at a variable price.

Moreover, the Law of 19 December 2022[43] provides for a second federal premium. This premium amounts to €183 for electricity and €405 for gas, for each household customer who, on 31 December 2022, had an electricity/gas supply contract for their residence.

These federal premiums are not applicable to, inter alia, second homes, occasional customers, temporary connections and individuals in a family or household where a member has qualified as a protected household customer as of 1 January 2023. The cost of financing the premiums is charged to the state budget.

■ *State guarantee mechanism for certain credits contracted by natural gas and electricity suppliers and intermediaries*

At the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG issued an opinion on the draft Royal Decree implementing a state guarantee mechanism for certain credits contracted by suppliers and intermediaries of natural gas and electricity as a result of the energy crisis[44].

The Royal Decree of 26 October 2022[45] provides that in the event of liquidity problems, they can apply for a guaranteed loan. The State guarantee can then be granted by individual Ministerial Decree of the Minister for Energy.

■ *The exceptional solidarity contribution payable by the natural gas transmission system operator*

The Programme Law of 26 December 2022[46] introduces an exceptional solidarity contribution payable by the natural gas transmission system operator, amounting to €300 million.

2.7. Promoting electricity generated in the North Sea

The Programme Law of 27 December 2021 made substantial changes to the financing mechanism of the public service obligation for the electricity transmission system operator, Elia, to purchase green certificates at a minimum price, moving from a tariff surcharge to financing from the state budget.

The provisions of the Royal Decree of 16 July 2022, which set out the methods for calculating, invoicing and collecting the surcharge and the modalities for degressivity, therefore need to be replaced by provisions laying down the method for calculating the cost of the purchase obligation for green certificates at a minimum price.

40 Opinion (A)2423 of the CREG of 16 June 2022

41 Royal Decree of 11 September 2022 laying down the methods for determining the cost to the electricity companies of activities relating to the heating premium, and their contribution to covering it, as well as, where applicable, the procedure to be taken into account for obtaining compensation, including the deadlines and consequences in the event of infringement, and the elements to be provided to the Commission to prove that they meet the conditions to benefit from the payment referred to in Article 24, § 2, of the Law of 28 February 2022 containing various provisions on energy (Belgian Official Gazette of 3 October 2022).

42 Law of 30 October 2022 containing temporary support measures following the energy crisis (Belgian Official Gazette of 3 November 2022).

43 Law of 19 December 2022 granting a second federal electricity and gas premium (Belgian Official Gazette of 23 December 2022).

44 Opinion (A)2459 on the Royal Decree implementing a state guarantee mechanism for certain credits contracted by suppliers and intermediaries of natural gas and electricity as a result of the energy crisis.

45 Royal Decree of 26 October 2022 implementing a state guarantee mechanism for certain loans contracted by suppliers and intermediaries of natural gas and electricity as a result of the energy crisis (Belgian Official Gazette of 31 October 2022).

46 Programme Law of 26 December 2022 (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 December 2022).

In accordance with the Electricity Act, the CREG made a proposal to this effect on 7 April 2022[47]. The Royal Decree amending the Decree of 16 July 2002 was enacted on 20 July 2022[48].

2.8. Nuclear power and the nuclear distribution contribution

The Royal Decree of 9 October 2022 lays down the amount of the distribution contribution for 2022 at €135,164,806.55. After applying the degressivity mechanism, the amounts to be paid are set at €108,546,801.20 for Electrabel SA and €6,278,067.37 for Luminus SA[49].

2.9. Gas storage

The Law of 14 February 2022 amended the Gas Act, to offer more flexibility to the natural gas transmission system operator as regards marketing its storage capacities[50]. The objective is to better follow the evolution of the market.

From now on, the system operator can auction storage capacities with a reserve price that can be lower than the regulated tariff. This means that capacity can be sold, and therefore revenues earned, even when the summer/winter spread is lower than the regulated tariff. As such, the loss of revenue when the spread is low can be compensated by higher revenues when the spread is higher than the regulated tariff.

2.10. Emergency plan

A new emergency plan was established by Ministerial Decree on 19 April 2022[51]. This emergency plan is in response to the threat of crisis on the gas market and the fact that the emergency plan stipulated by the Ministerial Decree of 18 December 2013 is no longer in line with the current market situation, and the responsibilities in crisis situations assigned to the stakeholders, for which a more efficient division of tasks is necessary[52]. The Ministerial Decree of 19 April 2022 was subsequently repealed and replaced by the Ministerial Decree of 8 September 2022[53].

47 Proposal (02371 of 7 April 2022.

48 Royal Decree of 20 July 2022 amending the Royal Decree of 16 July 2002 on the establishment of mechanisms for promoting electricity from renewable energy sources and the compensation of holders of an offshore domain concession in the event that the Modular Offshore Grid is unavailable (Belgian Official Gazette of 22 August 2022).

49 The Royal Decree of 9 October 2022 follows on from the CREG's opinion (A)2413 of 16 June 2022 on the profitability margin of the industrial generation of electricity via nuclear fission, by the power plants subject to the distribution contribution (Doel 3, Doel 4, Tihange 2 and Tihange 3) for the year 2021.

50 Law of 14 February 2022 amending the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products through pipelines (Belgian Official Gazette of 16 February 2022).

51 Ministerial Decree of 19 April 2022 establishing the emergency plan for the security of natural gas supply referred to in Article 15/13, § 6, paragraph 7, of the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products by pipeline and referred to in Articles 8 and 10 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 (Belgian Official Gazette of 21 April 2022).

52 Ministerial Decree of 19 April 2022 establishing the emergency plan for the security of natural gas supply referred to in Article 15/13, § 6, paragraph 7, of the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products by pipeline and referred to in Articles 8 and 10 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 (Belgian Official Gazette of 21 April 2022).

53 Ministerial Decree of 8 September 2022 establishing the emergency plan for the security of natural gas supply referred to in Article 15/13, § 6, paragraph 7, of the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products by pipeline and referred to in Articles 8 and 10 of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010 (Belgian Official Gazette of 19 April 2022).

3 The electricity market

3.1. Regulation

3.1.1. Electricity generation

3.1.1.1. Licences for electricity generation

Setting up electricity generation facilities is subject to a prior individual licence from the Federal Minister for Energy, on the advice of the CREG.

In 2022, the CREG issued seven opinions[54] in this regard and the Federal Minister for Energy granted three individual licences[55].

The establishment of new generation facilities in Belgium with a net developable capacity of less than or equal to 25 MWe, on the other hand, is exempt from prior ministerial approval but is subject to a prior declaration to the CREG and the Federal Minister for Energy. In 2022, the CREG received 20 such declarations for a total installed capacity of 135,275 MWe.

3.1.1.2. Electricity generation in the North Sea

• Correction factor

The CREG decided to set the correction factor for the reference price of electricity at:

- 15.31% for Rentel for the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023[56]
- 15.53% for Northwester 2 for the period from 5 October 2022 to 4 October 2023[57]
- 16.84% for Norther for the period from 14 December 2022 to 13 December 2023[58]
- 22.14% for Mermaid for the period from 3 December 2022 to 2 December 2023[59]
- 20.66% for Seastar for the period from 3 December 2022 to 2 December 2023[60].

This correction factor is used to determine the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by facilities situated on domain concessions.

• Evolution of the installed capacity in offshore wind energy and green electricity

2022 is the second year in which the first offshore wind zone has operated at 100% capacity. At the end of 2020, offshore wind capacity stood at 2,263 MW.

The evolution of installed capacity since 2009 is shown in Figure 1.

In 2022, all offshore wind farms together injected 6,512 GWh into the transmission system (compared to 6,771 GWh in 2021).

Net electricity generation (before transformation) from all certified offshore wind turbines was 6,632 GWh for 2022, a decrease of nearly 3.83% from the net generation in 2021 (6,896 GWh). The monthly net generation by domain concession holder is shown in Figure 2. 2022 was the year with the lowest historical wind energy supply since the first offshore wind farms were installed in the Belgian North Sea.

The CREG issues one green certificate per net MWh produced. The green certificates issued in the context of the net generation of the offshore wind farms C-Power, Belwind, Northwind, Nobelwind, Norther and Rentel amount to €380,760,442.

In accordance with Article 14, § 1 *septies*, of the Royal Decree of 16 July 2002 on the establishment of mechanisms for promoting electricity from renewable energy sources, the system of advances to support the generation of green electricity applies to the generation facilities of the domain concessions of Northwester 2, Mermaid and Seastar. For 2022, an amount of €141,041,542 was paid as advances and additional advances.

For 2022, a total amount of €521,801,983 was therefore paid for the purchase of green certificates and the payment of advances.

54 Opinion (A)2391 of 28 April 2022 on the granting of an individual permit to RWE Energy Solutions Belgium SA for the construction of a battery installation with a capacity of 250 MW and a storage capacity of 1,000 MWh on the Dilsen site situated in the municipality of Dilsen; Opinion (A)2399 of 23 May 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the increase of the generation capacity of the pumped storage power station at Coo, situated in Trois-Ponts, from 1,080 MW to 1,179 MW and the addition of batteries with a maximum capacity of 74 MW by Electrabel SA, Opinion (A)2401 of 23 May 2022 on the need to renew an individual permit for the establishment of an electricity generation facility of the gas turbine or gas-steam turbine type with a maximum capacity of 595 or 870 MW, located on the territory of Seraing by Luminus SA following the transfer of ownership from Luminus SA to Taranis Power SA, Opinion (A)2420 of 16 June 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the establishment of a battery-type electricity storage facility of 24.9 MW and 75 MWh, on the territory of the city of Antwerp by TotalEnergies Renewables SAS, Opinion (A)2421 of 16 June 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the establishment of a battery-type electricity storage facility of 24.9 MW and 75 MWh on the territory of Feluy by TotalEnergies Renewables SAS, Opinion (A)2422 of 16 June 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the establishment of a battery-type electricity storage facility of 50 MW and 100 MWh, on the territory of Deux-Acren (Lessines) by Corsica Sole Deux Acren Sri, and Opinion (A)2493 of 8 December 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the construction of a wind farm of 30.8 MWe on the territory of the municipality of Ghent, by Storm Gent III nv.

55 By Ministerial Decree of 23 august 2023 to TotalEnergies Renewables (Anvers), by Ministerial Decree of 23 August 2022 to Corsica Sole Deux Acren (Deux-Acren), by Ministerial Decree of 1 September 2022 to RWE Energy Solutions Belgium (Dilsen-Stokkem), by Ministerial Decree of 1 September 2022 to TotalEnergies Renewables (Feluy), by Ministerial Decree of 8 September 2022 to Electrabel (Coo) and by Ministerial Decree of 14 September 2022 to Electrabel (Coo).

56 Decision (B)2416 of 30 June 2022 on the correction factor set for the period from 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023 for determining the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by the installations of the domain concession Rentel.

57 Decision (B)2418 of 19 July 2022 on the correction factor pertaining to the 5th period (5.10.2022 - 4.10.2023) for determining the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by the installations of the domain concession Northwester 2.

58 Decision (B)2432 of 22 August 2022 on the correction factor pertaining to the 7th period (14.12.2022 - 13.12.2023) for determining the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by the installations of the domain concession Norther.

59 Decision (B)2438 of 8 September 2022 on the correction factor pertaining to the 5th period (3.12.2022 - 2.12.2023) for determining the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by the installations of the domain concession Mermaid.

60 Decision (B)2439 of 8 September 2022 on the correction factor pertaining to the 5th period (3.12.2022 - 2.12.2023) for determining the minimum price of green certificates issued for electricity generated by the installations of the domain concession Seastar.

Figure 1: Evolution of the installed capacity in offshore wind energy by wind farm between April 2009 and December 2022 (source: CREG)

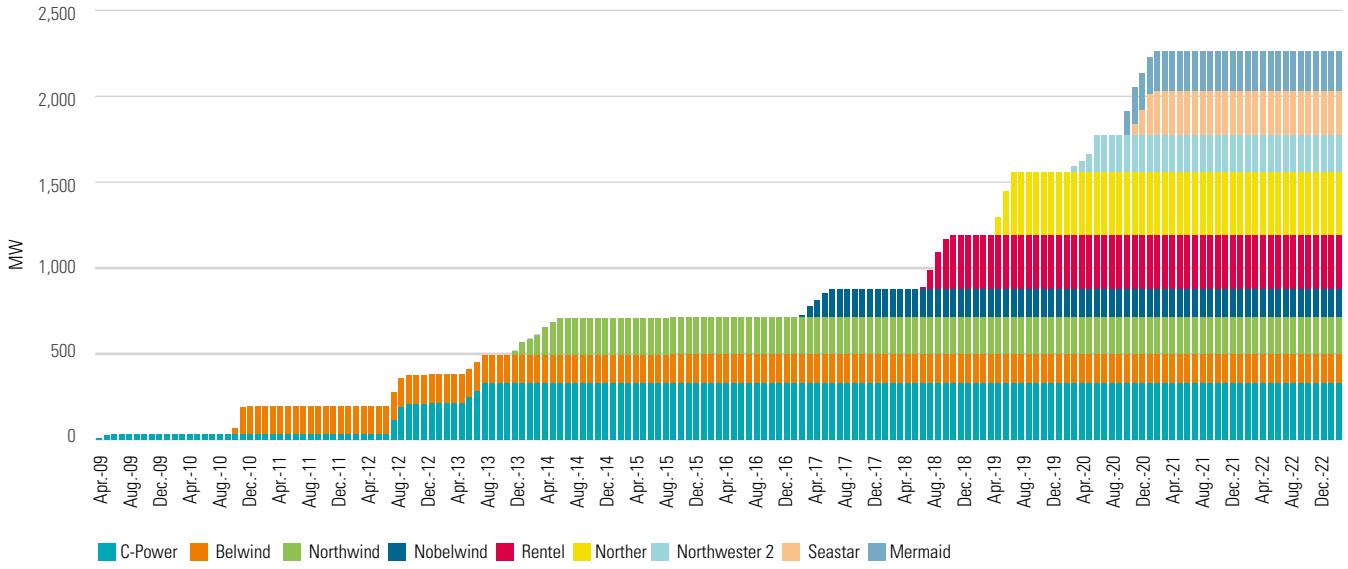
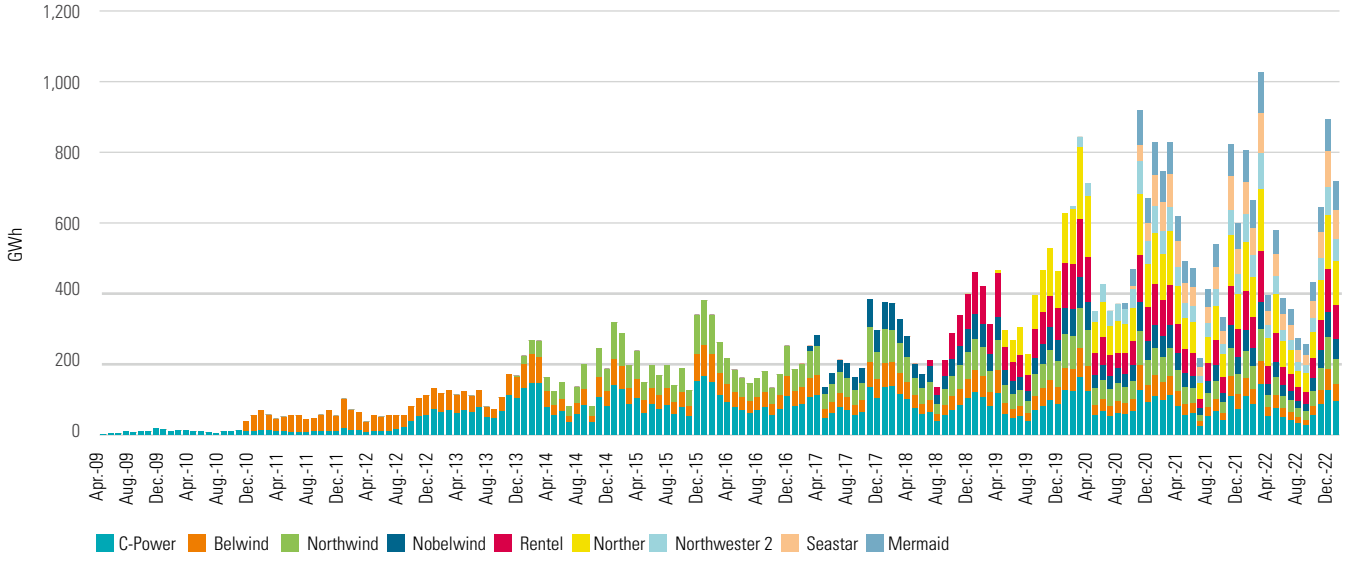


Figure 2: Net production of offshore green electricity by wind farm between April 2009 and December 2022 (source: CREG)



• Guaranties of origin

In 2022, the CREG continued to manage the database of guarantees of origin. This database issues guarantees of origin to offshore wind power producers, which they can then export to other markets. In this context, the CREG is still an active member of the Association of Issuing Bodies (AIB), which manages the hub in which the majority of European databases are linked together. Within the Gas Scheme Group of the AIB, the CREG has contributed to the discussions on the standard for guarantees of origin for gas and hydrogen.

3.1.1.3. Other verification and advisory tasks

• Verification task in the context of the extension of the working life of the Tihange 1 power plant

On 23 June 2022, the CREG issued its report (RA)2414 on the verification of the actual revenues and costs of the Tihange 1 nuclear power plant for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 in accordance with the Agreement to extend the working life of Tihange 1 dated 12 March 2014 and the amendment to the Agreement to extend the working life dated 31 March 2017.

• Walloon green certificates

On 21 April, 15 July, 15 September and 22 December 2022, the CREG transmitted its observations to the Directorate for the Organisation of the Regional Energy Markets of the Walloon Public Service, at the latter's request, on the proposals of Elia not to perform a time-limited operation in the last three quarters of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023.

These proposals are a consequence of the good results of the auction for green certificates organised by Solar Chest in February 2022.

On 2 November 2022, the CREG issued a positive opinion on the (draft) decree through which the Walloon Government

transferred 700,000 time-limited green certificates to Elia by decree, within the Walloon Air and Climate Agency (AWAC).

3.1.2. Electricity supply

3.1.2.1. Supply to customers connected to the transmission system

- Total volume of energy taken from the transmission system

The following table shows the market share of Electrabel and the other suppliers for the net supply of electricity to large industrial customers connected to the federal transmission system (voltage above 70 kV)[61].

Compared to 2021, the total volume of energy offtake in 2022 by end customers of the transmission system decreased by 3.2% (382 GWh). Following a fall in 2019 and 2020, and a rise in 2021, the volume of energy offtake directly from the federal transmission system decreased in 2022 to 11,572 GWh.

According to an initial estimate, Electrabel's market share on the transmission system in 2022 rose sharply compared to 2021, to 72.6%. The amount of Electrabel access points rose in 2022, while the number of access points of other suppliers remained the same. Despite this, the volumes supplied per access point by Electrabel remain much higher than the average volumes per access point by other suppliers.

Table 1: Energy offtake by customers connected to the federal transmission system for the years 2013 to 2022 (sources: Elia, CREG)

Suppliers		Electrabel SA		Other suppliers		Total
Access points as of	01-01-22	54		42		96
	31-12-22	56		42		98
	2013	7,484	57.6%	5,519	42.4%	13,003
	2014	8,598	62.6%	5,130	37.4%	13,728
	2015	6,465	50.6%	6,318	49.4%	12,783
	2016	4,133	37.8%	6,787	62.2%	10,920
	2017	4,947	43.7%	6,362	56.3%	11,309
	2018	7,278	62.1%	4,442	37.9%	11,720
	2019	6,462	58.9%	4,503	41.1%	10,965
	2020	7,389	69.4%	3,263	30.6%	10,652
	2021	7,918	66.2%	4,037	33.8%	11,954
	2022	**8,399**	**72.6%**	**3,173**	**27.4%**	**11,572**

- Federal supply licences

Federal licences for electricity supply to customers directly connected to the transmission system are granted by the Minister for Energy on the proposal of the CREG, for a period of five years.

In 2022, the CREG forwarded to the Minister for Energy three proposals to issue a licence for electricity supply, in the context of applications from ArcelorMittal Energy SCA, Next Kraftwerke GmbH and Société Européenne de Gestion de l'Énergie SA[62].

The CREG also proposed to the Minister for Energy to revoke the individual licence for the supply of electricity of TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited[63]. The Royal Decree of 2 April 2003 on licences for the supply of electricity by intermediaries and the rules of conduct applicable to the latter stipulates that the permit can only be granted to a natural or legal person established in one of the States belonging to the European Economic Area. However, since the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and the European Economic Area, this condition is no longer met by TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited.

In 2022, the Minister for Energy issued an individual licence for the supply of electricity to ArcelorMittal Energy, Next Kraftwerke et Société Européenne de Gestion de l'Energie.

61 These figures do not take into account the energy supplied directly by local generation or customers located in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
62 Proposal (E)2392 of 28 April 2022, proposal (E)2452 of 29 September 2022 and Proposal (E)2472 of 10 November 2022.
63 Proposal (E)2345 of 10 February 2022.

3.1.2.2. Maximum prices

• For unprotected customers whose supply contract has been terminated

The maximum prices applicable by the distribution system operators to unprotected customers whose supply contract has been terminated (also known as 'dropped customers') are calculated quarterly by the distribution system operators and verified by the CREG. They are established as follows: energy price + transmission + distribution + margin. The CREG is also responsible for monitoring the modalities for calculating the margin.

• For protected household customers

In accordance with the legislation in force, the CREG calculated and published the maximum prices (or 'social tariffs') for the supply of electricity to protected household customers applicable from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022, from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022, from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 and from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

The social tariff for the supply of electricity for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 amounted to the following, excluding VAT:

- c€20.030/kWh for the simple tariff
- c€20.688/kWh for the daytime dual hourly rate
- c€16.726/kWh for the night-time dual hourly rate
- c€12.205/kWh for the exclusive night-time rate.

Compared to the previous quarter, the social tariffs applicable in the first quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 8.2% for electricity. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 33%.

The social tariff for the supply of electricity for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 amounted to the following, excluding VAT:

- c€21,609/kWh for the simple tariff
- c€22.317/kWh for the daytime dual hourly rate
- c€18.045/kWh for the night-time dual hourly rate
- c€13.154/kWh for the exclusive night-time rate.

Compared to the first quarter, the social tariffs applicable in the second quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 7.9% for electricity. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 51%.

The social tariff for the supply of electricity for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 amounted to the following, excluding VAT:

- c€23.220/kWh for the simple tariff
- c€23.978/kWh for the dual hourly rate (peak hours)
- c€19.389/kWh for the dual hourly rate (off-peak hours)
- c€14.116/kWh for the exclusive night-time rate.

Compared to the second quarter, the social tariffs applicable in the third quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 7.4% for electricity. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 36%.

The social tariff for the supply of electricity for the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 amounted to the following, excluding VAT:

- c€25.009/kWh for the simple tariff
- c€25.829/kWh for the dual hourly rate (peak hours)
- c€20.884/kWh for the dual hourly rate (off-peak hours)
- c€15.228/kWh for the exclusive night-time rate.

Compared to the third quarter, the social tariffs applicable in the fourth quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 7.8% for electricity. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 21% for electricity.

These tariffs do not include VAT, the energy contribution, special excise duty, the connection fee (Wallonia) and the energy fund contribution (applicable to electricity in Flanders). The energy and green power and cogeneration components, as well as the transmission and distribution system tariffs, are included.

In February 2022, the CREG drew up its fourth monitoring report on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to beneficiaries of the increased intervention (BIM)[64]. The CREG estimated the total cost of this extension at €752 million for the year 2021 and the first half of 2022.

In May 2022, the CREG drew up its fifth monitoring report on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to 'BIM' customers[65]. The CREG estimated the total cost of this extension at €865 million for the year 2021 and the first three quarters of 2022.

In July 2022, the CREG drew up its sixth monitoring report on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to 'BIM' customers[66]. The CREG estimated the total cost of this extension at €1,265 million for the years 2021 and 2022.

In November 2022, the CREG drew up its seventh monitoring report on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to 'BIM' customers[67]. The CREG estimated the total cost of this extension at €1,652 million for the years 2021, 2022 and the first quarter of 2023.

64 Monitoring report (RA)2352 of 17 February 2022 on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to beneficiaries of the increased intervention.
65 Monitoring report (RA)2398 of 12 May 2022 on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to beneficiaries of the increased intervention.
66 Monitoring report (RA)2436 of 19 July 2022 on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to beneficiaries of the increased intervention.
67 Monitoring report (RA)2476 of 10 November 2022 on extending the social tariffs for electricity and natural gas to beneficiaries of the increased intervention.

The CREG also published the "reference energy" components for electricity and natural gas for the attention of suppliers and distribution system operators, in the context of the reimbursement of protected customer claims.

The reference energy component heat came into effect on 1 July 2022. The variable term of the reference energy component heat (expressed in c€/kWh) is the same as that of the reference energy component natural gas. The fixed term of the reference energy component heat is €125/year for the first year this tariff is applied. These tariffs are fixed in accordance with the Royal Decree of 6 June 2022 setting the rules for determining the net real cost for companies supplying heat to protected household customers by means of district heating networks, and their contribution to its payment (see point 2.1 of this report).

The CREG assists suppliers and distribution system operators with their claims by publishing various documents on its website (instructions, conventional reporting model, BIM reporting model, conventional electricity claim, BIM electricity claim, conventional gas claim, BIM gas claim).

In the interests of transparency, the CREG includes an explanatory note with the set social tariffs and the reference energy components[68].

The CREG drew up a report on the advances paid to suppliers in the context of extending the social tariff to BIM customers in 2021 and 2022 and in the context of the single fixed rate of €80 for protected customers[69].

Lastly, the CREG examined whether the social tariff for gas and electricity, and its extension to persons benefiting from 'beneficiary of the increased intervention' status (BIM), was in compliance with the European legal framework and, in particular, with Directive 2019/944 of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity. It therefore essentially looked at the legal aspects of the federal social tariff by setting out the Belgian legal and regulatory framework applicable to it, in the first part. It then examined compliance with the five conditions of Article 5(4) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity[70].

• Platform Against Energy Poverty - "Social Tariff" working group of the King Baudouin Foundation

In 2022, the CREG took part in the work of the Platform Against Energy Poverty, which was set up at the initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation.

In the context of the work of the "Social Tariff" working group, in 2022 the CREG helped finalise a technical paper, annexed to the recommendations of the Platform published in September 2021, entitled "Strengthening the social energy tariff - recommendations of the Platform Against Energy Poverty". This technical paper contains background information and concrete proposals from various members of the working group.

Moreover, in November 2022, the CREG participated as an observer in the meeting of the Platform's "Gas and Electricity Fund" working group. The objective of the working group is to draw up a quantitative study on the revalorisation of the gas and electricity fund in the context of a broader objective to prevent and reduce energy poverty.

3.1.2.3. The evolution and fundamentals of electricity prices

As part of its general monitoring tasks, the CREG maintains databases on electricity and natural gas prices in Belgium, in the three regions (Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders) and in neighbouring countries (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom).

On this basis, the CREG continued to publish its monthly scoreboard in 2022. The scoreboard shows the important changes that have occurred on the wholesale markets (generation and consumption, changes in electricity and natural gas prices, cross-border exchanges, etc.) and the retail markets (changes, by region, in the all-in price of electricity and natural gas for households, small professionals and social customers, comparison with prices in neighbouring countries, etc.).

Based on a survey taken among the distribution system operators, the main energy suppliers and consumers in the three regions of the country, the CREG decided to adapt its standard natural gas consumption profile for the residential sector. The reality of the natural gas market for four-person households has taught us that an annual consumption of 17,000 kWh is more representative. This change from 23,260 kWh/year to 17,000 kWh/year has been in effect since 1 April 2022 and is applied in all CREG publications.

The CREG also analyses and publishes the results of the international comparison of energy prices between Belgium, its regions and neighbouring countries (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) every six months.

The 6-month analysis also shows the evolution of the various components of energy bills.

68 Notes (Z)2329 of 13 January 2022, (Z)2360 of 7 April 2022, (Z)2415 of 7 July 2022, (Z)2444 of 6 October 2022.
69 Report (RA)2485 of 24 November 2022 on the advances paid to suppliers in the context of extending the social tariff to BIM customers and in the context of the single fixed rate of €80 for protected customers.
70 Study (F)2284 of 10 March 2022 on whether the social tariff is in compliance with the European legal framework.

Since 2019, Belgium has had a higher total electricity bill (all components) compared to the average of its neighbouring countries. The gap between these averages narrowed in 2020 (prices in Belgium had fallen more than in neighbouring countries) but, as in 2021, rose again in 2022. This increase applies to both household and small business customers. The main reason for this evolution is the cost of the pure energy component.

In all regions of Belgium and all neighbouring countries (although less pronounced in France and the United Kingdom), a household customer and an SME paid considerably more for electricity in the second half of 2022 than in the second half of 2021.

This evolution follows that of the wholesale markets, where the price of electricity is also rising sharply. This increase is attributed on the one hand to the resumption of economic activity following the sharp drop in demand caused by the coronavirus crisis in 2020, and on the other hand by the war in Ukraine and global geopolitical tensions which are having a significant impact on natural gas prices and CO_2 emissions prices, which in turn drive up electricity prices.

As regards natural gas, from the first half of 2022, Belgium had a more expensive total bill compared to the average of its neighbouring countries. The pure energy component is the main cause of this increase.

In all regions of Belgium and the countries compared, except France (for a residential customer), natural gas was more expensive in the second half of 2022 compared to the same 6 months the year before, both for a residential customer and for an SME.

This evolution follows the trend of the wholesale markets, where the price of natural gas also shows a marked increase. This increase is attributed on the one hand to the resumption of economic activity following the sharp drop in demand caused by the coronavirus crisis in 2020, but also by the war in Ukraine and global geopolitical tensions which are having a significant impact on natural gas prices.

In order to understand the differences in price between these countries at retail level, the CREG commissioned a study by an external consultant (VaasaETT) on the price setting of residential energy products (households and SMEs) in Belgium and in neighbouring countries (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), in order to gain better insight. The aim of the study is to understand the different price evolutions in the different countries by obtaining more detailed information on the pricing strategies of energy products on the retail market (households and SMEs), the relationship between retail prices and the evolutions in the wholesale market and other aspects that influence retail prices[71].

The report confirms the differences in price identified by the CREG between Belgium and its neighbouring countries.

The main reasons for these differences in price are: organisation of the market, price setting by suppliers, whether there are regulated or unregulated prices or other forms of price regulation, links to wholesale prices, the mismatch between wholesale prices and retail price adjustment.

Belgium is the most liberalised market, with very little intervention in price setting (but some intervention via social tariffs) and with retail prices that rapidly follow the evolution of wholesale prices.

In Germany, the organisation of the market with the Stadtwerke, the fact that there is no ownership unbundling and the still-high market shares of the incumbents can lead to higher prices.

In France, the regulated tariff still has a significant impact on retail prices, where it is still used as a reference (also for the liberalised market segment: these suppliers tend to offer prices indexed to the regulated tariffs). Combined with this regulated tariff, access to ARENH is also a decisive factor as regards the level of prices on the retail market in France.

In the Netherlands, a standard contract is used with a variable price adjustment on 1/1/x and 1/7/x.

In the UK, a price cap has been set (twice a year) on the Standard Variable Tariff (SVT).

A number of important differences between the various markets can also be observed:

- composition of the energy bill and the ratio between the different components (large share of taxes in Germany, small share of the energy component in the United Kingdom);
- different strategies among suppliers as regards the purchasing strategy, hedging and pricing strategy;
- regulation of price setting, but also contractual freedom.

71 Analysis of the price setting of energy products (electricity and natural gas) in retail markets (households and small enterprises) for Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France and the United Kingdom, July 2022.

3.1.3. Transmission and distribution

3.1.3.1. Nomination, unbundling and certification of the transmission system operator

The CREG received an official notification from Elia, requesting it to give assent to the independence of Mrs Laurence de l'Escaille and Mr Michel Allé, who were appointed as independent directors of Elia Transmission Belgium SA and Elia Asset SA. In its opinions of 23 June 2022, the CREG confirmed that the two independent directors met the independence requirements referred to in Article 2, 30° of the Electricity Act[72].

In connection with its authority to monitor compliance with the unbundling requirements by the transmission system operator, in 2022 the CREG also verified the various changes notified to it in relation to the other mandates/functions/activities of various directors and members of the management committee of Elia Transmission Belgium and Elia Asset (see also point 3.1.3.2. below). It did not find any incompatibilities with the legal requirements for unbundling and independence.

3.1.3.2. Corporate governance

The CREG took cognisance of the 2021 activity report of the Corporate Governance Committee of Elia Transmission Belgium and Elia Asset in the context of a check regarding the application of Articles 9 and 9ter of the Electricity Act, and an evaluation of its effectiveness with regard to the objectives of independence and impartiality in managing the transmission system.

The CREG also took cognisance of the report of the person responsible for monitoring the rules for hiring, as regards compliance with these rules by the employees of Elia Transmission Belgium and Elia Asset in 2021. These hiring rules are intended to rule out any discriminatory practices, and they contain specific obligations for staff members to achieve this goal.

3.1.3.3. Closed distribution systems

On the proposal of the Directorate-General for Energy and after consultation with the CREG and the system operator, the Minister for Energy can grant the status of closed distribution system operator, for the part operated at a nominal voltage of more than 70 kV, to the natural or legal person who owns a grid or has a right of use over it if it has applied for this in accordance with the Electricity Act.

Under the same procedure, the Minister may recognise the system as a closed distribution system, provided that the regions concerned are given the opportunity to give their opinion within 60 days.

In 2022, the CREG did not receive any requests for an opinion in this context from the Directorate-General for Energy.

3.1.3.4. Technical operation

A. The code of conduct

The Law of 21 July 2021 incorporated a second paragraph in Article 11 of the Electricity Act, giving the CREG the power to establish, by means of a decision, a code of conduct for the management of the electricity transmission system.

The code of conduct for electricity sets out the conditions for:

- connection and access to the transmission system, on the proposal of the transmission system operator Elia;
- the supply of ancillary services;
- access to cross-border infrastructure, including capacity allocation and congestion management procedures.

After public consultation, the CREG established a code of conduct for electricity[73], by Decision of 20 October 2022.

72 Opinion (A)2426 of 23 June 2022 on the independence of Mrs Laurence de l'Escaille as an independent director of the Board of Directors of Elia Transmission Belgium SA and Elia Asset SA; Notice (A)2427 of 23 June 2022 on the independence of Mr Michel Allé as an independent director of the Board of Directors of Elia Transmission Belgium SA and Elia Asset SA.

73 Decision (B)2409 of 20 October 2022 establishing the code of conduct on conditions for connection and access to the transmission system and on the methods for calculating or determining the conditions for the exemption of ancillary services and access to cross-border infrastructure, including the procedures for capacity allocation and congestion management, and approving, in this context, Elia's proposal on procedures for connection to the transmission system.

B. Connection

• The time taken by the transmission system operator to carry out connections and repairs

On the federal transmission system in 2022, the AIT (Average Interruption Time) was 26 seconds (compared to 7 minutes 14 seconds in 2021) and the AID (Average Interruption Duration) was 10 minutes 58 seconds (compared to 1 hour 14 minutes 17 seconds in 2021). There were 31 incidents in 2022 on the transmission system (25 in 2021), including 15 on the 150 kV system, 6 on the 220 kV system and 10 on the 380 kV system. As this system is networked, these incidents do not usually result in any interruption for the customer. In 94% of the cases, an automatic reset attempt was made. These attempts were successful in 12 cases on the 150 kV network, in 5 cases on the 220 kV network and in 8 cases on the 380 kV network.

In 9 cases, a connection to the federal transmission system was unavailable for more than 24 hours. The outage for these connections ranged from 1 day to 80 days, with the exception of one outage since late June 2022 which has still not been resolved. Based on the AIT and AID indicators, the availability of the transmission system in 2022 was significantly higher than the previous year.

• Decision on an individual case of substantial modernisation

On 21 March 2022, the CREG received an analysis from Elia regarding the substantial modernisation of a consumption facility, namely the replacement of 150 kV circuit breakers on the primary side of three transformers.

In accordance with the guidelines drawn up by Elia in the context of the Federal Technical Regulation of 22 April 2019, for the definition of "substantial modernisation", Elia recommends that only the component to be replaced, in this case the circuit breaker, meets the requirements of the demand connection network code ("DCC") and that it is not a limiting element for the compliance of the entire consumer facility. This corresponds to what is defined in the Elia guidelines as a "partial substantial modernisation".

In this decision, the CREG approved the partial substantial modernisation recommended by Elia and decided that the existing connection contract between Elia and the consumer installation concerned must be revised accordingly[74].

On 21 March 2022, the CREG received another analysis from Elia regarding the substantial modernisation of an electricity generation unit, namely the upgrade of the gas turbine and the combustion system of a Combined Cycle Gas Turbine.

In accordance with the guidelines drawn up by Elia in the context of the Federal Technical Regulation of 22 April 2019 for the definition of "substantial modernisation," Elia recommended that the electricity generation unit be required to meet only the requirements of the network code on the grid connection of generators ("RfG") that relate to benefits that are impacted by the modification of the facility. This corresponds to what is defined in the Elia guidelines as a "partial substantial modernisation". Elia also recommended an exemption from compliance with two technical requirements for which related limiting elements were identified.

The CREG approved the partial substantial modernisation recommended by Elia, and the exemption from compliance with the requirements for which related limiting elements were identified. The CREG decided that the existing connection contract between Elia and the electricity generation unit concerned must be revised accordingly[75].

• Derogation from the European network code RfG

The CREG granted a derogation, until 9 July 2024, to existing type D electricity generation units with an installed capacity of less than 25 MW and a voltage at the connection point of 110 kV or more. These do not have to go through the substantial modernisation procedure[76].

C. Access

• Standard access contract

The CREG approved Elia's proposal for a standard access contract, as submitted on 27 July 2022. At the same time, it made several remarks and asked Elia to address these in the next approved standard access contract amendment proposal[77].

• Connection with flexible access

On 19 January 2022, the CREG received a request from Elia for approval for a connection with flexible access, for the first time. The request was for the connection of an additional type D power generating module (PGM), namely an open cycle gas turbine. As this was the first time such a request was made, the CREG publicly consulted the criteria used to evaluate it. The CREG approved this first request as well as a second request received from Elia on 5 May 2022[78].

74 Decision (B)2385 of 2 June 2022 for the modernisation of a consumer facility (replacement of the three 150 kV circuit breakers located on the primary side of transformers No 1, 2 and 4).
75 Decision (B)2386 of 22 August 2022 for the modernisation of an electricity generation unit (upgrade of the gas turbine and combustion system of the Combined Cycle Gas Turbine unit).
76 Decision (B)2358 of 31 March 2022 on the request by Elia Transmission Belgium SA of 28 October 2021 for a derogation from the application of Article 4(1)(a) of the European network code RfG for existing type D electricity generation units with a maximum installed capacity of less than 25 MW and a voltage at the point of connection equal to or greater than 110 kV.
77 Decision (B)2396 of 22 August 2022 on the request for approval of the proposed standard access contract submitted by Elia Transmission Belgium SA on 27 July 2022.
78 Decision (B)2335 of 31 March 2022 on the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA to grant a connection with flexible access for a power generating module to the transmission system, specifically an additional OCGT, and Decision (B)2404 of 30 June 2022 on the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA to grant a connection with flexible access for a power generating module to the transmission system.

D. Ancillary services

• Providing voltage and reactive power regulation services

The CREG approved Elia's proposal for the terms and conditions applicable to suppliers of voltage and reactive power regulation services, or VSP (Voltage Service Providers), with effect from 1 January 2023[79]. Nevertheless, it made several remarks and requested that Elia follow them up.

• Reserve power

The transmission system operator Elia evaluates and determines the frequency containment reserve (primary reserve or FCR), the automatic frequency restoration reserve (secondary reserve or aFRR) and the manual frequency restoration reserve (tertiary reserve or mFRR).

This reserve power helps ensure the security, reliability and efficiency of the transmission system in the control area.

It is divided between:

- the determination of the need for balancing services on the system other than the frequency containment reserve for the load-frequency control block. The method for assessing these requirements is subject to approval by the CREG as part of the approval of the methodologies and conditions laid down in the LFC block operational agreements; and
- a determination of the balancing capacity to be reserved from balancing service providers within the imbalance area. The methodology for this capacity determination is submitted to the CREG for approval together with the above-mentioned evaluation method.

The CREG approved the changes proposed by Elia to the methodologies and conditions laid down in the LFC block operational agreement. Nevertheless, it did make a number of comments in its decision, asking Elia to follow up on them[80].

The CREG approved Elia's proposal for common and harmonised rules and processes for the exchange and purchase of balancing capacities for the frequency containment reserves[81].

The CREG approved Elia's proposal for an exemption in the time for using the European platform for frequency restoration reserves with manual activation[82].

The CREG rejected Elia's proposal to limit the purchase of mFRR balancing capacity in Elia's LFC block to the standard mFRR product[83]. The proposal involved purchasing mFRR balancing capacity in Elia's LFC block entirely through the standard mFRR product. The CREG expressed its doubts on the arguments used to justify this modification, stating that the proposal was not intended to reduce the costs of supplying reserve capacity.

At the request of the CREG, Elia updated the method for sizing the frequency restoration reserve (FRR). The method now takes into account the balancing of imbalances as an alternative to reserve capacity in the form of aFRR, with the result that 117 MW of aFRR balancing capacity is contracted in both the positive and negative directions[84]. Nevertheless, the CREG requested a new revision of the methodology proposed by Elia, in order to make it compatible with the regulations.

The CREG decided that Elia could continue to benefit from the exemption of the time frame for using the European aFRR platform. However, it distanced itself from Elia's proposal and set a new evaluation date[85].

In its decision of 19 July 2022, the CREG elaborated on the balancing inefficiencies entailed by Elia's proposal to change the balancing rules for balancing quarter-hourly imbalances in a European context. The CREG nevertheless approved the proposal, in order not to delay any potential participation in the European aFRR platform. However, Elia will have to start the process of simultaneously integrating the calculation of the imbalance price into the BRP Terms & Conditions.

The aim is that the calculation of the imbalance price can be brought into line with the remarks made by the CREG in this decision and in previous decisions[86].

Lastly, the CREG approved Elia's proposal regarding the change to the methodology for determining the required balancing capacity in Elia's LFC block, on the understanding that the approved modifications come into effect no earlier than 1 November 2022 and end on 31 March 2023[87].

79 Decision (B)2376 of 5 May 2022 on the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA for the terms and conditions applicable to suppliers of voltage and reactive power regulation services, including the standard contract for the supply of voltage and reactive power regulation services, with effect from 1 January 2023.
80 Decision (B)2344 of 10 February 2022 regarding the request for approval of a proposal to change Elia's LFC Block Operational Agreement.
81 Decision (B)2374 of 7 April 2022 on the request for approval of the proposal by Elia Transmission Belgium SA for common and harmonised rules and processes for the exchange and purchase of balancing capacities for the frequency containment reserves.
82 Decision (B)2405 of 2 June 2022 on the proposal to approve a request for an exemption in the time for using the European platform for frequency restoration reserves with manual activation (mFRR).
83 Decision (B)2363 of 10 June 2022 on the request for approval of the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA to modify the methodology for determining, for each balancing service, the balancing capacity to be reserved from the balancing service providers within the imbalance area.
84 Decision (B)2435 of 14 July 2022 regarding the request for approval of a proposal to change Elia's LFC Block Operational Agreement.
85 Decision (B)2412 of 14 July 2022 on the granting of an exemption of the time frame for using the European platform for automatic frequency restoration reserves (aFRR).
86 Decision (B)2433 of 19 July 2022 on the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium to amend the balancing rules for the balancing of quarter-hourly imbalances. Elia lodged a complaint for review against this Decision of 19 July 2022, pursuant to Article 28 of the Electricity Act. The CREG rejected the complaint in Decision (B)2450 of 3 October 2022.
87 Decision (B)2484 of 22 December 2022 on the request for approval of the proposal by Elia Transmission Belgium SA regarding the change to the methodology for determining the required balancing capacity in Elia's LFC block.

• Price and volume offers for ancillary services

In order to ensure the safety, reliability and efficiency of the transmission system, Elia must have a certain volume of ancillary services available at all times. The terms and conditions of these services are set out in the technical regulations of 22 April 2019 for the management of and access to the transmission system.

In order to keep the costs of ancillary services that are not related to frequency (i.e. the black-start service and the voltage and reactive power regulation services) at a reasonable level, the Electricity Act requires Elia to report annually to the CREG on the prices offered for the supply of ancillary services. Secondly, under the transitional provision of Article 30 of the Law of 23 October 2022[88], if the CREG deems the prices to be manifestly unreasonable, it may impose a public service obligation for the provision of the service on the candidates in question.

In 2022, all FCR and aFRR and mFRR balancing services were subject to daily auctions. The CREG therefore now receives daily reports from Elia. A detailed analysis of the evolution of the reservation costs is presented in the CREG's annual monitoring report. Nevertheless, in 2022, in line with the price trends witnessed in the second half of 2021, very high reservation prices were observed, and therefore also very high related costs. The high reservation prices were due to the increase in gas prices and the crisis in Ukraine. Furthermore, the CREG started a series of improvements for determining purchase volumes. It will work to implement these improvements during 2023 and will continue to evaluate the determination of purchase volumes during the year.

In 2022, the CREG received a report from Elia for the voltage and reactive power regulation service in 2023, as well as a report for the black-start service in 2023. The CREG analysed these reports and took decisions to impose a public service obligation on the candidates who submitted a manifestly unreasonable offer. For the black-start service, none of the offers were manifestly unreasonable. For the voltage and reactive power regulation service, the CREG imposed prices on nine candidates[89].

• Balancing

The transmission system operator is responsible for monitoring, maintaining and, where necessary, restoring the balance between the supply and demand of electrical power in the control area, among other things, as a result of possible individual imbalances caused by the different access responsible parties. Elia has to submit a proposal for the market operating rules to the CREG for approval in order to balance the quarter-hourly imbalances.

On 18 February 2022, Elia submitted a proposal to the CREG to modify the conditions applicable to the Balancing Service Provider (BSP) for automatic frequency restoration reserves (aFRR) for approval.

The changes pertained to the revision of the market design for the purchase of aFRR balancing capacity, and an adaptation of the rules in order to connect Elia's LFC block to the European balancing energy exchange platform from the automatic frequency restoration reserves.

On 24 March 2022, the CREG decided to approve this proposal[90].

• Activated volumes and concentration of offers

In 2022, activations to balance imbalances in the control area rose by 12% compared to 2021, to 1,362 GWh. The share of secondary reserves in these activations reached 33.1% in 2022, up from 35.0% in 2021 and 36.0% in 2020. This large drop is mainly due to the sharp rise in activations of other resources, mainly those of the mFRR, which amounted to 349 GWh for the year 2022, compared to 273 GWh in 2021. The IGCC took 458 GWh in 2022, against 510 GWh in 2021.

In 2022, there were 784 GWh of upward activations and 784 GWh of downward activations. In 2022, there was 0 GWh of upward activation and 0.7 GWh of downward activation of reserves located abroad by transmission system operators, while these activations were equal to 0.4 GWh and 1.3 GWh, respectively, in 2021. The IGCC accounted for 35% of upward activations and 42% of downward activations. The HHI for reserve bids for all bids across all technologies was 2,467 in 2022 versus 2,838 in 2021 and 3,224 in 2020. 10 players submitted a bid (stable compared to 2021).

•The price of balancing for individual imbalances

The imbalance tariff is based on the principle of a single marginal price taking into account the imbalance of the access

88 See also point 2.4 of this report.

89 Decision (B)2478 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Aspiravi SA relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2480 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on RWE Supply & Trading GmbH relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2481 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Nyrstar Belgium SA relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2482 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Yuso BV relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2483 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Nemo Link Limited relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2486 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on C-Power SA relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2487 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Norther SA relating to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; Decision (B)2488 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Northwester 2 SA with regard to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023; and Decision (B)2492 of 22 December 2022 imposing a public service obligation on Exxonmobil SA with regard to the supply of the reactive power service to Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023.

90 Decision (B)2366 of 24 March 2022 on the request for approval of a proposal to modify the conditions applicable to the Balancing Service Provider (BSP) for automatic frequency restoration reserves (aFRR).

responsible party and the direction of the imbalance of the control area.

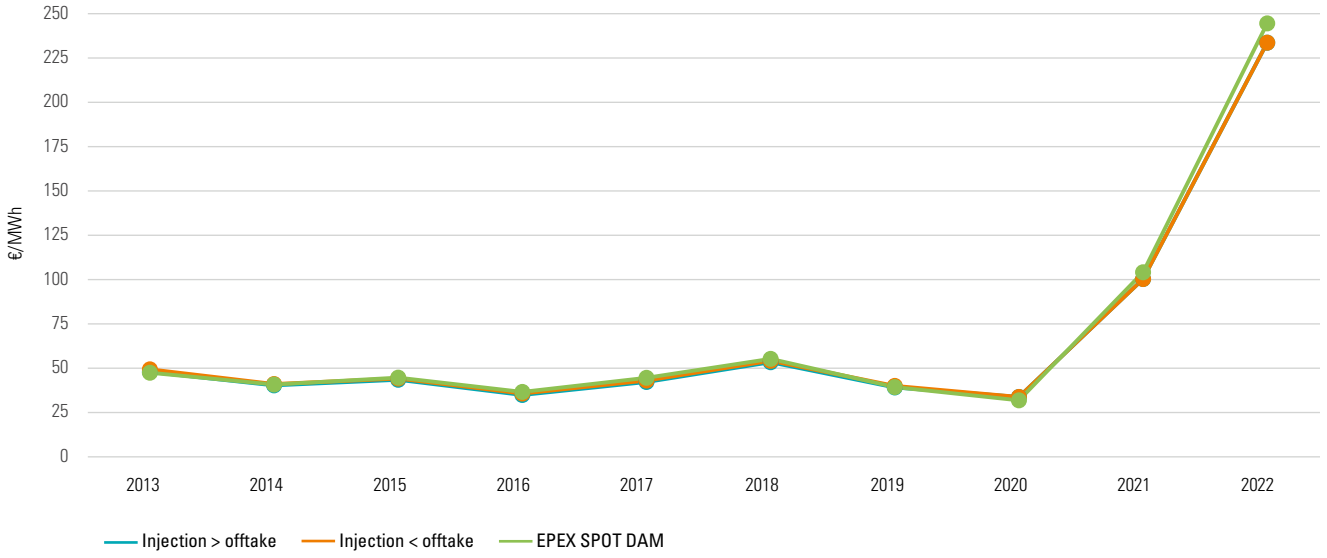
Table 2 provides an overview of the evolution of the average (unweighted) rate of positive imbalances (injection > offtake) and negative imbalances (injection < offtake) of the access responsible parties for the period 2013-2022.

Figure 3 compares these average tariffs with the evolution of the average BELPEX/EPEX SPOT day-ahead market tariffs over the same period.

Table 2: Unweighted average imbalance tariff over the period 2013-2022 (in €/MWh) (source: Elia data)

	EPEX SPOT DAM	Injection < offtake	Injection > offtake
2013	47.45	49.36	47.91
2014	40.79	41.07	40.33
2015	44.68	44.18	43.48
2016	36.62	35.73	34.91
2017	44.58	43.04	42.23
2018	55.27	54.19	53.38
2019	39.35	40.02	39.15
2020	31.88	33.78	33.78
2021	104.12	100.31	100.31
2022	**244.53**	**233.64**	**233.64**

Figure 3: Unweighted average imbalance tariff and EPEX SPOT DAM price over the period 2013-2022 (sources: Elia and BELPEX/EPEX SPOT data)



3.1.3.5. System tariffs

A. Transmission system

a) Tariff methodology

Regulatory period 2020-2023

As detailed in the 2018 annual report, on 28 June 2018, the CREG approved the final decision setting the tariff methodology applicable to the transmission system operator for the regulatory period 2020-2023.

On 14 July 2022, the CREG took a decision on the objectives to be achieved by Elia in 2023 in the context of the incentive to promote the balance of the system referred to in Article 27 of the tariff methodology. In general, the decision reprises Elia's proposals (with the exception of one objective) but makes certain adjustments in response to comments made during the public consultation. The decision also includes a retrospective of the objectives of the incentive since it was started in 2016[91].

The CREG also took a decision on Elia's proposal to update its research and development plan for the period 2020-2023[92]. Elia submitted 28 project proposals. 19 of these were projects that had been approved by the CREG in its Decision of December 2021, and 9 were newly submitted projects. Of the 28 project proposals, the CREG decided to support 23 projects, 3 of which partially. Elia has the option of submitting a new version of its plan each year of the regulatory period, no later than 1 July.

Regulatory period 2024-2027

On 18 March 2022, a consultation meeting was held between the CREG and Elia on a preliminary draft tariff methodology.

On 30 June 2022, the CREG adopted Decision (Z)1109/11 laying down the tariff methodology for the electricity transmission system and for electricity systems with a transmission function for the regulatory period 2024-2027. Prior to the decision, a public consultation was held from 21 April to 12 May 2022.

This methodology is based on proven principles, which have been refined and supplemented to improve the performance of the system operator, promote market integration and security of supply and encourage research and development. The regulation therefore aims to ensure a fair balance between the quality of the services provided on the one hand, and the costs borne by system users on the other.

Elia will use this methodology to draw up its tariff proposal. The tariffs will be known during the course of 2023.

b) Transmission tariffs 2020-2023

As detailed in our 2019 annual report, on 7 November 2019, the CREG approved Elia's adapted tariff proposal for the regulatory period 2020-2023. Overall, compared to the transmission tariffs in effect in 2019, these fell by 2.1% in 2020, 1.9% in 2021 and 1.1% in 2022, and will decline by 1% in 2023.

By Decision of 3 February 2022, the CREG approved Elia's updated tariff proposal which modifies the alpha parameter of the imbalance tariff. This alpha parameter is designed to increase imbalance tariffs in the event of large imbalances, in order to provide an incentive for balance responsible parties (BRPs) to make greater efforts to balance their portfolios. In a context of very high electricity prices, these are already by themselves a major incentive for BRPs, without the need for alpha. Elia's proposal, supported by the majority of market players, therefore amounts to reducing the impact of the alpha parameter in the event of high imbalance prices. The CREG agrees with this proposal, although it has doubts regarding the effectiveness of the concept of an alpha parameter, regardless of the form. According to the CREG, under European regulations, any additional component added to the imbalance tariffs must be described not in the tariff proposal but in the terms and conditions for balance responsible parties (T&C BRP). The new alpha parameter went into effect on 14 February 2022[93].

By Decision of 30 November 2022, the CREG approved Elia's proposal to modify the tariffs for the public service obligations and the taxes and surcharges as of 1 January 2023[94]. Since 1 January 2022, certain public service obligations are no longer financed through a surcharge in the tariffs, but via the federal state budget. Since that date, Elia no longer applies surcharges in the tariffs for the purchase of green certificates, for establishing the strategic reserve, for financing of the capacity remuneration mechanism and the federal contribution.

c) Balances

The tariff methodology requires the transmission system operator to submit a tariff report for the past year to the CREG for approval each year.

91 Decision (B)658E/79 of 14 July 2022 on the objectives to be achieved by Elia Transmission Belgium SA in 2023 in the context of the incentive to promote the balance of the system referred to in Article 27 of the tariff methodology.
92 Decision (B)658E/81 of 22 December 2022 on the update of the research and development plan of Elia System Operator SA for the regulatory period 2020-2023 in the context of the innovation incentive referred to in Article 26, § 2 of the tariff methodology.
93 Decision (B)658E/77 of 3 February 2022 on the request for approval of the updated tariff proposal 2020-2023, submitted by Elia Transmission Belgium SA, to modify the alpha parameter of the tariff for maintaining and restoring the individual balance of access responsible parties.
94 Decision (B)658E/82 of 30 November 2022 on the request for approval of the adapted updated tariff proposal submitted by Elia Transmission Belgium SA concerning the tariffs for the public service obligations and the charges and surcharges, to be applied from 1 January 2023.

The CREG approved the 2021 adapted tariff report submitted by Elia. The corrections made at the request of the CREG result in a decrease of €6,187,022 in the amounts to be recovered from Elia's 2024-2027 tariffs[95].

B. Distribution systems

In its annual study (no 2407) on the price components (see also point 3.2.1. of this report), the CREG made the following findings with regard to the 2021 distribution tariffs:

■ *Household customer*

Electricity (DC - dual hourly):

Electricity (Ic1):

Compared to 2007, the distribution system tariff was on average (for the whole of Belgium) 10.78% higher in 2021 for a typical Ic1 customer. This average is high due to the significant increase in Flemish distribution system tariffs, due to the rising costs of public service obligations. The net costs associated with these obligations are recovered in the public service obligation tariff in the distribution system tariff. In Flanders, the distribution system tariff reduced on average by 20.30% (- €4.55/MWh). In Brussels, the rise is + 5.73% (+ €1.94/MWh), while in Wallonia, the increase is higher, namely + 43.83% (+ €11.50/MWh). The share of the public service obligation tariff in 2021 was 22.74% in Flanders, 5.24% in Brussels and 2.27% in Wallonia.

Natural gas (T4):

The evolutions between 2007 and 2021 may differ slightly from one typical customer to another. For T2, the CREG observes an average increase of 29.01% compared to 2007 and for T4, an increase of 28.26%. In Flanders, the distribution system tariff for a typical T4 customer increased on average by 1.60% (+ €0.04/MWh). In Brussels, the increase was 7.26% (+ €0.20/MWh). In Wallonia, the increase was higher and reached 76.14% (€1.94/MWh).

■ *Non-household customers*

Electricity (Ic1):

Compared to 2007, the distribution system tariff was on average (for the whole of Belgium) 10.78% higher in 2021 for a typical Ic1 customer. This average is high due to the significant increase in Flemish distribution system tariffs, due to the rising costs of public service obligations. The net costs associated with these obligations are recovered in the public service obligation tariff in the distribution system tariff. In Flanders, the distribution system tariff reduced on average by 20.30% (- €4.55/MWh). In Brussels, the rise is + 5.73% (+ €1.94/MWh), while in Wallonia, the increase is higher, namely + 43.83% (+ €11.50/MWh). The share of the public service obligation tariff in 2021 was 22.74% in Flanders, 5.24% in Brussels and 2.27% in Wallonia.

Natural gas (T4):

The evolutions between 2007 and 2021 may differ slightly from one typical customer to another. For T2, the CREG observes an average increase of 29.01% compared to 2007 and for T4, an increase of 28.26%. In Flanders, the distribution system tariff for a typical T4 customer increased on average by 1.60% (+ €0.04/MWh). In Brussels, the increase was 7.26% (+ €0.20/MWh). In Wallonia, the increase was higher and reached 76.14% (€1.94/MWh).

3.1.3.6. Evaluation of the cost of federal PSOs

The CREG fixed the estimated cost of the public service obligations (PSO) for the financing by Elia of the purchase of federal green certificates, the strategic reserve and the capacity remuneration mechanism (CRM) for the years 2022[96] and 2023[97].

These costs amount to, respectively:

- €349.8 million for the purchase of federal green certificates for the year 2023, €285 million less than in 2022. This reduction is due to high wholesale electricity price quotes in 2022;
- €2 million (taking into account an additional auction for 2024-2025) for the strategic reserve in 2023, compared to €0.8 million in 2022;
- €6.9 million for the CRM in 2023, compared to €4 million in 2022.

The CREG also determined the balances of the costs of these PSOs for the years 2020-2021[98], namely:

- for the financing of the purchase of green certificates: debt of €894,435.64 payable by Elia to the Belgian State;
- for the financing of the connection of the offshore wind farms: debt of €202,480.71 payable by Elia to the Belgian State; and
- for the financing of the strategic reserve and the CRM: debt of €982,573.25 payable by Elia to the Belgian State.

95 Decision (B)658E/78 of 7 July 2022 on the request for approval of the tariff report submitted by the transmission system operator including the balances for the operating year 2021.
96 Decision (B)2324 of 13 January 2022 on the evaluation of the cost of public service obligations for the financing of the purchase of federal green certificates, the connection of offshore wind farms, the strategic reserve and CRMs for the year 2022.
97 Decision (B)2449 of 27 October 2022 on the evaluation of the cost of the public service obligation for the financing of the purchase of federal green certificates for the year 2023 and Decision (B)2460 of 27 October 2022 on the evaluation of the cost of the public service obligations for the financing of the strategic reserve and the CRM for the year 2023. The CREG drew up the ex-ante and ex-post reporting templates to be used by Elia, to provide it with the relevant data to estimate the costs and to determine these costs (Decision (B)2440 of 24 August 2022).
98 Decision (B)2389 of 23 May 2022 on determining the balances of the costs of the public service obligations for the financing of the purchase of federal green certificates, the connection of offshore wind farms, the strategic reserve and the CRM for the years 2020 and 2021.

3.1.4. Implementation of European regulations and cross-border issues

3.1.4.1. Access to cross-border infrastructure

In contrast to 2021, 2022 witnessed a number of significant changes in the methods by which transmission capacity was made available for cross-zonal exchanges. In particular, on 8 June 2022, the Flow-Based Day-Ahead Market Coupling mechanism in the Core capacity calculation region came into effect. For Belgium and its closest neighbouring countries, this market coupling replaced the flow-based market coupling that had been operational in the CWE region since mid-2015.

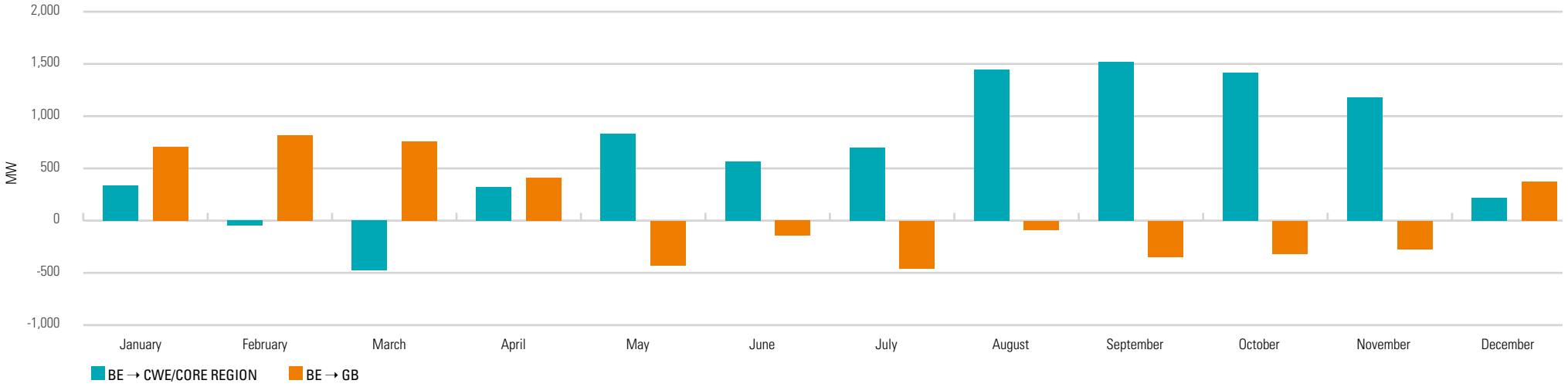
The CEP regulation has concrete implications for the level of capacity available for cross-zonal exchanges. Indeed, Article 16(8) provides that the capacity available for commercial exchanges must be at least equal to 70% of the capacity respecting operational security limits of internal and cross-zonal critical network elements, taking into account contingencies. However, until 2025, a Member State may request a derogation in the form of an action plan in the event of structural internal congestion. A regulator may grant an exemption for external or time-limited factors. As the Belgian system does not suffer from structural internal congestion, Belgium has not opted for the action plan. However, as was the case in 2020 and 2021, in 2022 an exemption was granted when the loop flows exceed a certain level. Further details can be found in the CREG Decision (B)2297 of 2 December 2021. Elia published daily minimum capacity calculations for daily market coupling based on CWE and Core flows through the Joint Allocation Office (JAO).

Since the commissioning of the NEMO Link on 30 January 2019, Belgium exchanges electricity not only within the CWE/Core region, but also with the UK.

Thanks, among other things, to these exchanges with the UK, Belgium had a net physical export in 2022, as was the case in 2020 and 2021. Indeed, in 2022, Belgium exported 5.6 TWh net to the CWE/Core region (0.6 TWh in 2021) and exported 0.8 TWh net to the UK (7.0 TWh in 2021).

The following figure shows the monthly average of Belgium's trade in the CWE/Core region and to the UK in the daily market, including the long-term market.

Figure 4: Monthly averages of Belgium's daily cross-border exchanges in the CWE/Core region and to the UK in 2022, including long-term nominations. A positive value indicates a net export (> 0) and a negative value a net import (< 0) (sources: CWE TSOs, ENTSO-E Transparency platform, CREG calculations)



In 2022, gross imports to Belgium amounted to 12.9 TWh (compared to 12.5 TWh in 2021) and gross exports from Belgium amounted to 19.2 TWh (compared to 20.1 TWh in 2021), resulting in a net physical export of 6.3 TWh (compared to a net physical export of 7.6 TWh in 2021).

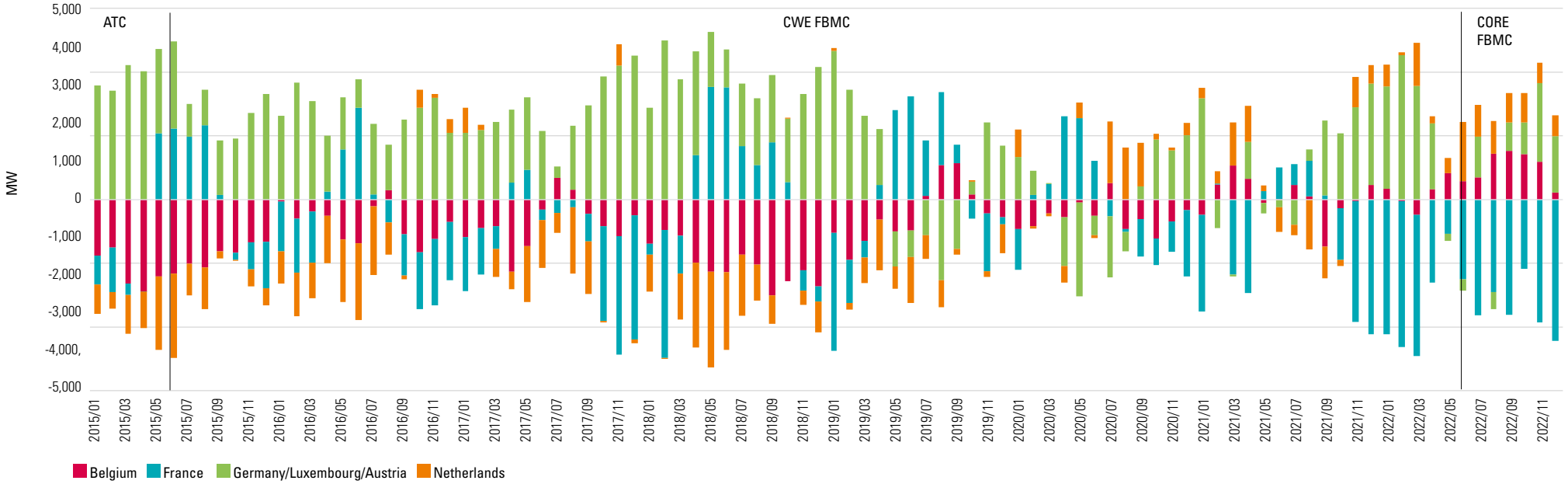
Table 3 shows the same information expressed as average annual values. In 2022, average net exports[99] were 720 MW.

The exchanges made in the CWE daily market coupling averaged 4,405 MW in 2022 versus 4,213 MW in 2021. This increase is illustrated in Figure 5, which shows the change in monthly net positions for all bidding zones in the CWE region.

Table 3: Average export and import capacity and average net nomination per year for Belgium (in MW) (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)

Year	Average export capacity	Average import capacity	Average net export nomination
2013	2,821	-3,933	-1,109
2014	2,697	-3,562	-1,910
2015	2,545	-3,291	-2,379
2016	-	-	-732
2017	-	-	-736
2018	-	-	-2,029
2019	-	-	182
2020	-	-	124
2021	-	-	868
2022	-	-	**720**

Figure 5: Monthly averages of daily net positions of CWE zones, including long-term nominations, before and after the introduction of the FBMC on 21 May 2015 (sources: CWE TSOs, CREG calculations)



99 The CREG agreed to use a negative value for imports and a positive value for exports. A reduction in average net imports should therefore be interpreted as an increase in net exports or as a decrease in the negative value of net exports in this table.

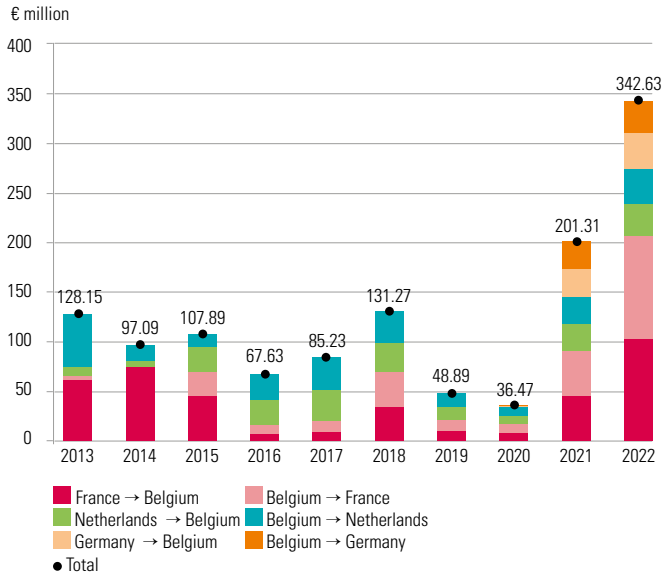
The following table illustrates the evolution of annual revenues from import and export capacities on the Belgian borders with France, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom, purchased by market players through explicit auctions, valid for the following year or month. This table shows that the market players paid €150.71 million to purchase the annual and monthly capacities offered in 2022. As in most previous years, the revenue generated by the annual auctions in 2022 was higher than that generated by the monthly auctions since the volumes of capacity offered in the annual auctions are higher than those offered in the monthly auctions.

Table 4: Annual revenues from the monthly and annual capacities offered for auction (in millions of euros) (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)

Year	Yearly auctions	Monthly auctions	Total
2013	36.7	20.7	57.4
2014	42.6	24.1	66.6
2015	65.1	371	102.1
2016	33.4	30.8	64.2
2017	42.0	22.7	64.6
2018	40.2	61.2	101.4
2019	60.2	15.0	75.2
2020	38.2	12.4	50.6
2021	36.90	26.5	63.40
2022	**118.21**	**32.5**	**150.71**

The evolution of gross commercial congestion rents generated by market coupling on D-1, before offsetting long-term rights, is illustrated in Figure 6 for the Belgian market from 2013 to 2022. This figure shows the total daily market revenue by border. In practice, this amount is divided between the long-term rights holders and the transmission system operator.

Figure 6: Daily gross congestion rents from market coupling (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)



In 2022, the gross congestion rents generated at the Belgian borders on D-1 amounted to €342.63 million and were entirely for the benefit of the transmission system users. This amount, which is historically the highest observed on the Belgian borders, represents an increase of more than 70% compared to 2021, which already represented an increase of 450% compared to the rents generated in 2020. Congestion rents are generated on the three Belgian borders in the CWE or Core region: €68.4 million on the Belgian-Dutch border, €205.8 million on the French-Belgian border and €68.4 million on the German-Belgian border. This new record rise in congestion rents is due to a high level of cross-border trade combined with very high price differentials, in particular, between Belgium and France.

The exchanges on the Belgian-UK border via the Nemo Link also generate congestion rents. Unlike the congestion rents generated on the other Belgian borders, these are allocated as a priority to Nemo Link's investors, namely Elia and the National Grid. The rents are allocated within the limits set by the 'cap and floor' mechanism. Congestion rents only benefit transmission users when they are above the cap. In 2022, the congestion rents generated on Nemo Link exceeded the cap, resulting in an amount, yet to be definitively calculated, being returned to the system users. At the end of 2022, Nemo Link paid €69 million in advance to Elia, which will be deducted from the costs to be covered by the 2024-2027 tariffs.

3.1.4.2. Consistency of the transmission system development plan with the European network development plan

In the context of its opinion on the draft federal development plan (see also point 3.4.2. of this report), the CREG analysed the consistency of the transmission system development plan drawn up by Elia with the provisional version of the European Union-wide ten-year network development plan from 2022 (TYNDP 2022). The scenarios worked out in the federal development plan are based in part on the three detailed scenarios from the TYNDP 2022. The input data for the federal development plan takes into account more recent information than the data collected for the TYNDP 2022. Lastly, as regards identifying the needs of the system, Elia conducted a complementary study (KARI study) to the study conducted by ENTSO-E for the TYNDP 2022, to identify system needs.

In accordance with the legal requirements and at the request of ACER, the CREG analysed the consistency of the projects in the provisional version of the TYNDP 2022, and the corresponding investments with those in the Federal Development Plan 2024-2034. For Belgium, the CREG highlighted several inconsistencies between the provisional version of the TYNDP 2022 and the federal development plan, mainly with regard to the commissioning dates of the investments.

This involves 10 investments listed in the draft TYNDP 2022.

The CREG indicated that it does not agree with the fact that two investments relating to the Brabo II project are included

in the TYNDP 2022 because the project has already been commissioned. In addition, the CREG recommended that the investments relating to the projects "Belgium-Germany-Luxembourg long-term perspectives", "Second interconnector Belgium-Germany", "Interconnector Belgium-Netherlands: Reinforcement Van Eyck - Maasbracht" and "Triton Link" should be included with the status "under study", as these have not been submitted for approval or have not yet received approval in the context of the federal development plan. Lastly, the "Cronos" project, which envisages an HVDC interconnection between the United Kingdom and Belgium, is not included in the federal development plan.

For most of the investments in the provisional version of the TYNDP 2022, the CREG was unable to analyse consistency with the federal development plan in terms of the investment costs, the benefits of the various investments and their technical characteristics, as this information is not provided in the federal development plan.

3.1.4.3. Implementation of European regulations

The entry into force of several European regulations has created additional tasks for some regulatory authorities, including the CREG, and has heightened the need for European and regional cooperation. In the context of the implementation of European regulations (e.g. CACM[100], FCA[101], EB[102], SO[103], ER[104], RfG[105] and 2019/943[106]), the CREG, together with other regulatory authorities, has to take decisions on various proposals from European transmission system operators and nominated electricity market operators (NEMOs). These proposals include methodologies that are essential to facilitate the harmonisation, integration and efficiency of the European electricity market, and a fully integrated internal energy market.

- *European CACM regulation*

Fallback procedures

The CREG approved Elia's request to modify the fallback procedures for the Core day-ahead market coupling[107]. These changes are intended to make the market coupling procedures more robust and reduce the likelihood of a complete disconnection, by modifying the operational timeframes of the reserve procedures.

Participation in the costs of the NEMO

The CREG approved Elia's proposal regarding its contribution to the costs of the electricity exchanges active in Belgium (the NEMOs) for the implementation, modification and execution of the single day-ahead coupling and intraday coupling in 2022[108]. The actual contribution payable to the NEMOs in 2022 will be reported by Elia and decided by the CREG in 2023.

- *European SO regulation*

The CREG approved the proposal for determining the LFC blocks of the Continental Europe synchronous area, as revised by the regulators for the Continental Europe synchronous area[109].

The CREG approved the proposal for a standard collaboration agreement with the operators of a public distribution system submitted by Synergrid and Elia[110]. At the same time, it raised a number of questions and comments and asked Elia to address them in the next proposal to amend the approved standard collaboration agreement. This proposal must be submitted no later than 30 November 2023.

The CREG approved the request of the regulators of the Continental Europe synchronous area to modify the method for assessing the minimum activation time required for units or groups providing frequency restoration reserves to remain available in an alert situation. The CREG therefore requested Elia to reassess the said minimum activation period, taking into account the improvements requested by the regulators[111].

100 Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1222 of 24 July 2015 establishing a guideline on capacity allocation and congestion management.
101 Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/1719 of 26 September 2016 establishing a guideline on forward capacity allocation.
102 Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2195 of 23 November 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity balancing.
103 Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1485 of 2 August 2017 establishing a guideline on electricity transmission system operation.
104 Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/2196 of 24 November 2017 establishing a network code on electricity emergency and restoration.
105 Commission Regulation (EU) 2016/631 of 14 April 2016 establishing a network code on requirements for grid connection of generators.
106 Regulation (EU) 2019/943 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on the internal market for electricity.
107 Decision (B)2375 of 7 April 2022 on the request for approval by Elia Transmission Belgium SA and all transmission system operators in the Core capacity calculation region regarding changes to the fallback procedures.
108 Decision (B)2400 of 23 May 2022 on the quantified proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA concerning its participation in the costs of the NEMOs in Belgium relating to the establishment, amendment and operation of the single day-ahead coupling and intraday coupling in 2022.
109 Decision (B)2387 of 23 May 2022 on the revised joint proposal by Elia Transmission Belgium SA and all transmission system operators of the Continental Europe synchronous area, modifying the determination of the LFC blocks for the LFC area Denmark West.
110 Decision (B)2384 of 22 August 2022 on the proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA for a standard cooperation agreement with the operators of a public distribution system, as submitted on 30 September 2021.
111 Decision (B)2500 of 22 December 2022 on the request for approval of the joint proposal of Elia Transmission Belgium SA and the transmission system operators of the Continental Europe synchronous area for the minimum activation period to be ensured by FCR providers in accordance with Article 156.10.

■ *European ER regulation*

Defence and restoration plan

Elia's system defence plan aims at restoring the normal state of the network when the operational stability of the transmission system is no longer ensured, in order to avoid a blackout. If the defence plan cannot avoid a blackout and the system enters a state of general outage, Elia's restoration plan is immediately triggered.

The restoration plan includes all of the technical and organisational measures necessary to restore the system following a blackout.

On 21 January 2022, at the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG issued an opinion on a revision of the confidential nominative lists of the significant users of the high-priority system in the context of Elia's system defence plan and the restoration plan[112]. The adapted lists proposed by Elia were approved by Ministerial Decree of 17 February 2022, published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 15 March 2022.

■ *Other regulations*

Harmonised allocation rules for the Core region

In July 2021, the CREG received a request for joint approval from Elia and the other transmission system operators in the Core region for changes to the regional requirements for the harmonised auction rules for the long-term market. These changes are necessary to implement the planned introduction of long-term rights at the border between the bidding zones between Hungary and Slovenia.

Following an agreement with the other regulatory authorities concerned, the CREG decided to approve these changes[113].

Allocation and nomination rules for the border Belgium-Great Britain bidding zones

The CREG approved Elia's request to change the allocation and nomination rules for the border Belgium-Great Britain bidding zones. These changes are intended to increase the efficiency of the explicit allocation process for long-term, daily and intraday capacity[114].

Regional coordination centres for the Central Europe system operation region

Under Regulation (EU) 2019/943, all transmission system operators in a system operation region (in this case, the "Central Europe" region) must jointly submit a proposal for the setting up of regional coordination centres.

After the CREG approved this proposal in March 2021 (see annual report 2021), it subsequently approved a number of changes at the request of Elia[115].

These changes relate to the participation of new transmission system operators in the regional coordination centres Coreso and TSCNET on the one hand, and the exclusion of other transmission system operators on the other. A number of amendments to the articles of association and rules of procedure were also approved.

Minimum available capacity for cross-zonal exchanges

In October 2021, the CREG received a request from Elia to grant a derogation from the obligation to make 70% of the transmission capacity available to the market at any time between zones in 2023. As in previous years, this derogation applies in specific circumstances where the loop flows exceed a set threshold.

The CREG approved this request after organising a public consultation with all stakeholders[116].

■ *Monitoring the implementation of the adopted methodologies*

Transport capacity made available for cross-border trade

The CREG examined the extent to which Elia made sufficient transmission capacity available for cross-border trade in 2021[117].

The analyses show that between 1 January and 31 December 2021, Elia met the minimum margins for at least 62.2% of the hours examined, and on 99.2% of the observed system elements, taking into account the derogation for loop flows. In terms of compliance per hour examined, this represents a reduction from the previous year, when Elia met its legal obligations for 81.3% of the hours.

112 Opinion (A)2330 of 21 January 2022 concerning the proposal of adapted lists of significant users of the high-priority system in the context of the system defence plan and the restoration plan of Elia Transmission Belgium SA.
113 Decision (B)2303 of 27 January 2022 on the joint proposal by Elia Transmission Belgium SA and all transmission system operators in the Core capacity calculation region, amending the regional requirements for harmonised auction rules.
114 Decision (B)2475 of 17 November 2022 concerning the request for approval by Elia Transmission Belgium SA of adapted allocation and nomination rules for the border between the bidding zones Belgium and Great Britain.
115 Decision (B)2446 of 27 October 2022 concerning the request for approval, submitted by Elia Transmission Belgium SA, of an adaptation of the proposal for setting up regional coordination centres for the "Central Europe" system operation region.
116 Decision (B)2473 of 24 November 2022 on the request by Elia Transmission Belgium SA to grant a derogation from Article 16(8) of Regulation (EU) 2019/943, concerning the minimum available capacity for cross-zonal exchanges.
117 Study (F)2350 of 24 March 2022 into whether Elia Transmission Belgium SA is in compliance with the obligations concerning the interconnection capacity that was made available for cross-zonal exchanges in 2021.

Implementation of the Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Project

In the context of the implementation of the Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Project, the relevant transmission system operators and NEMOs have been conducting an external parallel run since early 2021, with the results of the new capacity calculation and allocation procedures being tested and published. The CREG examined these results in detail and has published the main conclusions and areas of attention for the parties concerned[118].

On 8 April 2022, the transmission system operators and NEMOs of the Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Project communicated that the implementation of flow-based market coupling in the Core region, originally scheduled for 20 April 2022, would be postponed until 8 June 2022[119].

Among the problems highlighted were the lack of stability of the capacity calculation processes, the high risk of low or non-existent capacities for the intraday timeframe and too low margins, leading to a discrimination issue in the capacity calculation and allocation processes.

Lastly, the CREG analysed the functioning of the Core day-ahead flow-based market coupling mechanism and the impact of the individual adjustments made to the coordinated capacity calculation process[120].

3.2. Competition

3.2.1. Price monitoring at wholesale and retail level

- **Important developments on the Belgian wholesale markets in 2021**

On 27 January 2022, the CREG drew up an initial overview of the most important developments on the Belgian wholesale electricity and natural gas markets in 2021, in terms of prices, consumption, production, cross-border trade, gas storage, LNG activities and supplies[121].

- **Functioning and price evolution of the Belgian wholesale electricity market – monitoring report 2021**

The CREG analysed several important historical trends and recent developments, focusing on the year 2021[122].

In turn, the report deals with electricity consumption, generation and installed capacity and electricity imports and exports in Belgium.

The functioning of the different electricity markets (long-term, daily, intraday, balancing and ancillary services) is subsequently illustrated through an in-depth analysis of the available data.

The key findings of this report are the following:

- the temporary but sharp fall in electricity demand in 2020, due to the COVID-19 measures, was largely offset by a rise in demand in 2021. Nevertheless, the figures continue to confirm the long-term downward trend, not only in Belgium but also in neighbouring countries.
- installed generation capacity once again increased in 2021 to 25.7 GW, mainly as a result of the commissioning of new wind turbines (onshore and offshore) and solar panels. Thanks to the excellent availability of many units, including nuclear installations, a record amount of electricity (93.3 TWh) was generated in 2021.
- increased nuclear generation and reduced gas-fired generation, combined with more or less constant generation from wind turbines and solar panels, have further reduced the carbon intensity of generation. On average, this intensity was 161 gCO_2eq per kWh in 2020. This is a drop of 55% since 1990.
- in 2021, a record quantity of electricity was exported (20.1 TWh gross exported versus 12.5 TWh gross imported). The total net balance was therefore + 7.6 TWh (exported), mainly due to a strongly positive net position vis-à-vis France and the United Kingdom.
- on all of the markets observed (long-term, daily, intraday and balancing), the CREG observed strong price increases after the second half of 2021. Among other things, these are the result of rising natural gas and CO_2 prices.
- in this context, the rise in the number of hours with negative prices is striking compared to previous years, contrary to the situation in neighbouring countries. Price volatility and (average) convergence also rose: prices between neighbouring countries are more often identical (due to better market coupling) but when they diverge, the differences between these prices are greater.

118 Note (Z)2359 of 31 March 2022 on the functioning and results of the external parallel runs of the Core Day-Ahead Flow Based Market Coupling project.
119 Note (Z)2390 of 7 July 2022 on the investigation of the CREG into the postponement of the roll-out of Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling.
120 Study (F)2458 of 6 October 2022 on the functioning of the Core day-ahead flow-based market coupling mechanism and the impact of the low margins available for cross-zonal exchanges.
121 Note (Z)2328 of 27 January 2022 on important developments in the Belgian wholesale markets for electricity and natural gas in 2021.
122 Study (F)2355 of 12 May 2022 on the functioning and price evolution of the Belgian wholesale electricity market – monitoring report 2021.

- the total cost of balancing capacity rose sharply in 2021 compared to previous years, to €182.4 million. The imbalance observed in the system and the activation of the balancing energy also rose (slightly).

- **Electricity supply to large industrial customers in Belgium**

The CREG analysed the electricity supply contracts and the offtake behaviour of large industrial customers in Belgium in 2021[123]. This study was based, in particular, on two studies previously carried out into the energy pricing mechanisms in force in 2020 in the electricity supply contracts of the large industrial customers of Electrabel and Luminus[124].

Although a two-year period remains the most common in supply contracts, there has been a rise in one-year contracts at the expense of three-year contracts, which are becoming less popular. Furthermore, extending certain contracts has been successful for some suppliers.

The price of billed energy has been rising overall since 2017 and the median 50% of customers had a price between €60/MWh and €90/MWh in 2021. Although these 'clicks' only related to 13% of the volumes supplied in 2021, it is the clicks made on the Quarterly, Monthly and Day-Ahead contract quotes that explain the sharp increase in energy prices observed between 2020 and 2021 for a significant fraction of large industrial consumers.

The significant rise in Electrabel's market share in 2020 and 2021, to 62% of the volumes supplied, contrasts with the trend observed since the start of the market liberalisation: while the market share of the Electrabel group, based on total invoiced consumption, fell almost continuously from 2002 (98.4%) to 2019 (50.7%), this fall accelerated sharply between 2010 (when it was still 85.5%) and 2016, before levelling off up to 2019 inclusive.

In the early years of liberalisation, Luminus, Uniper and RWE were the main beneficiaries of Electrabel's falling market share. Between 2010 and 2016, the significant decline in Electrabel's market share is due, on the one hand, to the arrival and growth of other suppliers and, on the other hand, to the development of in-house supply activities by certain industrial customers. Since 2016, in addition to the rise in market share of the Electrabel Group (+10%), which mainly occurred between 2019 and 2021, it is primarily Luminus (+5%) and Total (+2.5%) that gained market share at the expense of Axpo (-8.5%), the RWE Group (-4.5%) and the Uniper Group (-4%), which ceased operations for good in Belgium on 1 January 2020.

The annual electricity offtake of large industrial customers rose to 17.9 TWh in 2021. This rise is observed in almost all sectors. The manufacturing industry accounts for approximately 80% of the electricity offtake of large industrial customers. The difference between the minimum and maximum daily offtake remained stable compared to 2020. The base load offtake from industrial customers decreased in 2021 to 62%. In comparison, the base load of the total offtake of the Elia system is lower (54%).

Lastly, nine direct customers of Elia (72 access points) changed supplier in 2021. The energy supply of industrial customers is further analysed by an overview of the energy exchanges between ARRs. The situation in 2021 is compared to that in 2020. The ratio of energy volumes purchased on the short- or long-term markets to the volumes traded bilaterally largely remained stable between 2021 and 2020.

- **A European comparison of prices for residential, small professional and large industrial customers**

At the joint request of the four energy regulators, PWC conducted a comparative study of electricity and natural gas prices in Belgium and in the surrounding countries (Germany, France, the Netherlands and the UK)[125]. This study looks at prices in January 2022 and also compares these to the previous year's prices.

The main conclusions of the study are the following:

- the considerable rise in prices on the wholesale electricity and natural gas markets in the second half of 2021 resulted in a sharp rise in natural gas and electricity bills for the vast majority of households and businesses in Belgium and neighbouring countries. For households paying the social tariff, this price increase is clearly more modest.
- as in previous years, Belgian households and small businesses with low-voltage connections have an expensive electricity bill in comparison with neighbouring countries.
- on the whole, companies connected to medium or high voltage who do not consume a lot of electricity pay a slightly lower electricity bill in Belgium than in neighbouring countries.
- all countries, except the United Kingdom, grant tax reductions on electricity bills to electricity-intensive companies. In Belgium, an exemption from the new special excise duty has been possible since 2022. Nevertheless, the potential reductions available in the Netherlands, Germany and France are larger, so the cost of electricity is generally higher for electricity-intensive companies in Brussels and Wallonia. Flanders is closer to its neighbouring countries, on account of its "supercap".

123 Study (F)2443 of 8 December 2022 on the supply of electricity to large industrial customers in Belgium in 2021.
124 Study (F)2465 of 27 October 2022 on the energy pricing mechanisms in force in 2021 within the electricity supply contracts of large industrial customers of Electrabel SA and Study (F)2466 of 27 October 2022 on the energy pricing mechanisms in force in 2021 within the electricity supply contracts of large industrial customers of Luminus SA.
125 "A European comparison of electricity and natural gas prices for residential, small professional and large industrial consumers," 13 May 2022.

- Unlike last year, the natural gas bill of Belgian households is relatively high compared to our neighbouring countries.
- For Belgian companies, the natural gas bill is generally lower than that of their foreign counterparts. The differences between countries are relatively small.

• Market prices of energy for households and small business consumers

Findings for 2022

In its price report for January 2022[126], the CREG observed that price levels are very high compared to the average price levels of recent years. Electricity parameters reached up to €300/MWh and natural gas parameters close to €115/MWh. Compared to December 2021, energy prices have increased by an average of 40% to 50% for electricity and 55% to 60% for natural gas.

In its price report for February 2022[127], the CREG observed a slight fall in prices. For variable products indexed on a monthly basis, it recorded an average price decline of around 13-14%. The price level of the parameters continued to fluctuate between €200/MWh and €300/MWh for electricity and between €80/MWh and €115/MWh for natural gas. The CREG also observed these developments on the retail market. In the same report, the CREG recommended abandoning the weighted (spot) parameters and the forward parameters, which are based on a single quote on the energy exchange.

In its price report for March 2022[128], the CREG observed that the level of retail prices was similar to that of February 2022, while the level of wholesale prices continued to fluctuate between €160/MWh and €300/MWh for electricity and between €80/MWh and €115/MWh for natural gas. Given the exceptional market circumstances, and in order to encourage suppliers to come back with an attractive fixed-price offer, the CREG believes that temporarily reintroducing a termination fee in the event of early termination of a fixed-price contract could reduce the risk borne by the supplier, encourage it to come back with an attractive fixed-price offer and bring down prices for the consumer.

In its price report for April 2022[129], the CREG observed that the level of electricity and natural gas prices for households was increasing significantly compared to March 2022, for both fixed and variable products. The CREG advocated having monthly parameters based on all quotes for the same period, and argued for scrapping certain parameters that make the offer unnecessarily complex for consumers, when it comes to choosing a variable product. It also reiterated its suggestion to temporarily introduce a termination fee in the event of the early termination of fixed-price contracts.

In its price report for May 2022[130], the CREG observed that the price level of electricity and natural gas was falling, but remained at a very high level. For the first time, the tariff sheets show a price difference in favour of natural gas products indexed monthly on the ZTP basis compared to those indexed on the TTF basis. The CREG also suggested that suppliers add a QR code to their communications with customers, to give them direct access to the tariff sheet applicable to their contract at that time. This would make it possible for consumers to make more informed product choices.

In its price report for June 2022[131], the CREG observed that the price level for variable products on a monthly basis, and the limited number of fixed products, was lower than in the previous month. The products on a quarterly basis remain unchanged. Despite these falls, the general price level remains very high, the main reason being the quasi-structural uncertainty of international energy markets. The price level of the parameters fluctuates between €175/MWh and €285/MWh for electricity and between €81/MWh and €130/MWh for natural gas. The CREG also observed these developments at the level of the fixed and variable electricity and natural gas products on the retail market. As was the case in May, the CREG noted that no commercial price comparison tool included fixed products in its results. Only the regional regulators still display fixed products from Luminus and TotalEnergies in their comparison tools, but once a consumer visits the website of these suppliers, it appears to be quasi-impossible for a new customer to take out a contract for a fixed product.

In its price report for July 2022[132], the CREG observed that the price levels for variable products on a monthly basis, and the limited number of fixed products, was higher than in the previous month. For products on a quarterly basis, prices are falling slightly or remain unchanged. The latter phenomenon is mainly because the previous reference period for quarterly indexations, with the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, resulted in higher quotes on the wholesale markets than the quotes for the second quarter of 2022. The price level of the parameters fluctuates between €194/MWh and €236/MWh for electricity and between €92/MWh and €108/MWh for natural gas. The CREG also observed these developments at the level of the fixed and variable electricity and natural gas products on the retail market.

126 Report (RA)2305/3 of 27 January 2022 on the evolution of prices of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
127 Report (RA)2305/4 of 17 February 2022 on the evolution of prices of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
128 Report (RA)2305/5 of 24 March 2022 on the evolution of prices of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
129 Report (RA)2305/6 of 28 April 2022 on the evolution of prices in April 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
130 Report (RA)2305/7 of 23 May 2022 on the evolution of prices in May 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
131 Report (RA)2305/8 of 7 July 2022 on the evolution of prices in June 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
132 Report (RA)2305/9 of 19 July 2022 on the evolution of prices in July 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.

In its price report for October 2022[133], the CREG observed that the price level for variable products was slightly lower than in September 2022. The products on a quarterly basis, on the other hand, rose significantly. The general price level therefore remains very high. The main reason for this is the quasi-structural uncertainty on the international energy markets. The price level of the parameters was between €370/MWh and €500/MWh for electricity and between €125/MWh and €210/MWh for natural gas. The CREG also observed these developments at the level of the fixed and variable electricity and natural gas products on the retail market. The fixed offer for households on the Belgian energy market has been suspended. Whereas in the past the share of fixed products always fluctuated between 65% and 70%, it only accounted for just under 50% at the end of 2022, and further decreased to just over 20% at the end of the first quarter of 2023. The active offer of households on the Belgian energy market is at a historically low level. For Flanders and Wallonia, this means a fall in the number of suppliers with an active offer of 40% during the period examined. In Brussels, the situation is even more problematic, with only two providers still with an active offer. For variable products, the CREG is in favour of periodic (quarterly) advances that can be automatically adjusted, based on a number of criteria and according to the evolution of the wholesale markets. This can help ensure that advances paid better reflect the reality of the energy markets and can potentially avoid unpleasant surprises when the bill is adjusted. The CREG will consult with the consumer associations on this subject.

In its price report for December 2022[134], the CREG observed that the price level was slightly lower than in November 2022 for variable products on a monthly basis. The products on a quarterly basis remain unchanged. The general price level therefore remains very high. The main reason for this is the quasi-structural uncertainty on the international energy markets. In December 2022, the price level of the parameters fluctuated between €180/MWh and €500/MWh for electricity and between €87/MWh and €213/MWh for natural gas. These developments can also generally be observed at the level of the variable electricity and natural gas products on the retail market. The active offer on the Belgian energy market for households is at a historically low level. For the individual products of a growing number of suppliers, the CREG has observed for some time that elements other than the simple indexations of the price formulas are adapted on a monthly basis, meaning that the evolutions on the wholesale markets are less visible in the price evolutions for the final consumer. Over the past two years, there has been an average increase of 25% in the fixed charge for both electricity and natural gas, which easily represents an additional €25, excluding VAT, on a household's annual bill. As for the increase in the coefficient of the indexation parameter and the mark up, this translates in practice, for both the electricity and natural gas products concerned, into a rise of approximately €100 to €150 in the annual energy bill of an average household. A number of products from one of the suppliers stand out. Over several months, the level of the mark-up is so high that the impact on the annual energy bill of the average household amounts to more than €1,000 for electricity and €700 for natural gas. In order to analyse these trends in more detail and justify whether they are solely due to the rise in costs linked to high market prices, the CREG has conducted a general survey of all suppliers, requesting more details and explanations on the development of the above-mentioned phenomena. For contracts with variable prices, the CREG recommends implementing an automatic quarterly adjustment of the anticipated energy bills. This could help ensure that advances paid better reflect the reality of the energy markets and possibly avoid unpleasant surprises at the time of final settlement.

Energy price databases

Since 2012, the CREG has compiled a database which lists, firstly, all products with a fixed energy component and, secondly, all methodologies applied by suppliers active in Belgium to calculate variable energy prices. The database includes all indexation formulas and parameters applied by the suppliers.

The CREG bases its calculations on the information available on the suppliers' websites, and on the information that the suppliers are obliged to send it each month.

All of the elements of the price formula for the energy component (subscription, indexation parameters and related coefficients, green certificate and cogeneration contributions) are listed separately in the database.

The energy component is then calculated for certain customer types using the relevant annual consumption.

133 Report (RA)2305/10 of 27 October 2022 on the evolution of prices in October 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.
134 Report (RA)2305/11 of 22 December 2022 on the evolution of prices in December 2022 of different products on the retail market compared to wholesale prices.

Figure 7: Monthly evolution of the electricity price in 2022 for a typical residential customer (typical customer = 3,500 kWh/year) (energy component) (source: CREG)

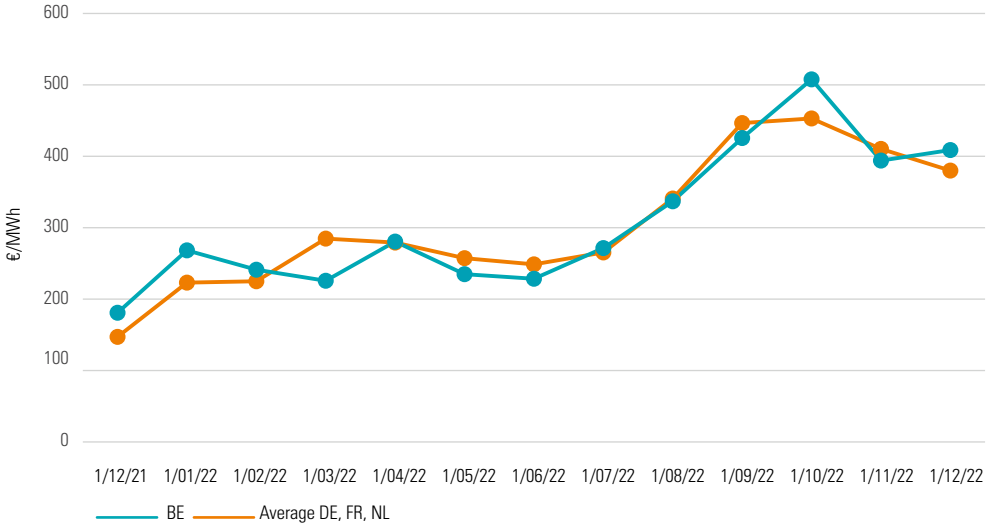


Figure 8: Monthly evolution of the natural gas price in 2022 for a typical residential customer (typical customer = 23,260 kWh/year) (energy component) (source: CREG)

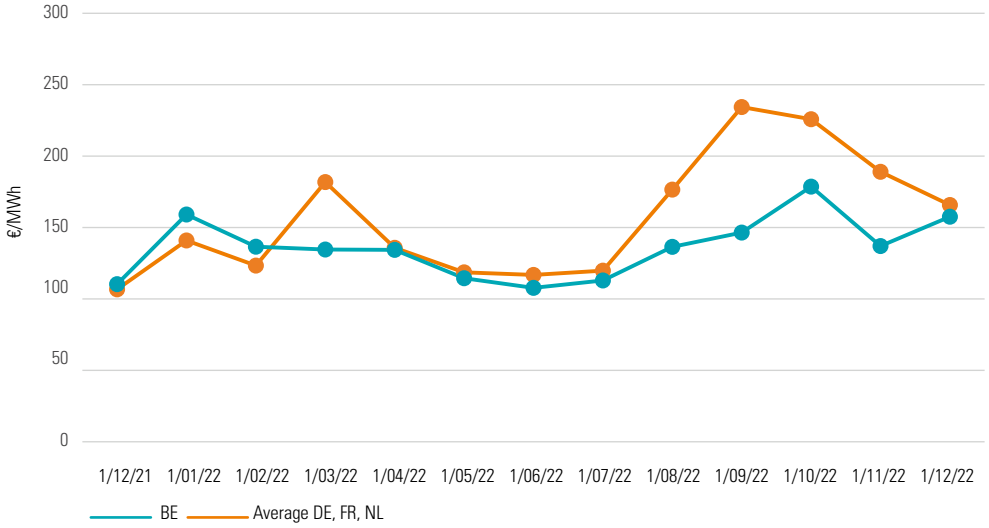


Figure 9: Monthly evolution of the electricity price in 2022 for SMEs and the self-employed (typical customer = 50,000 kWh/year) (energy component) (source: CREG)

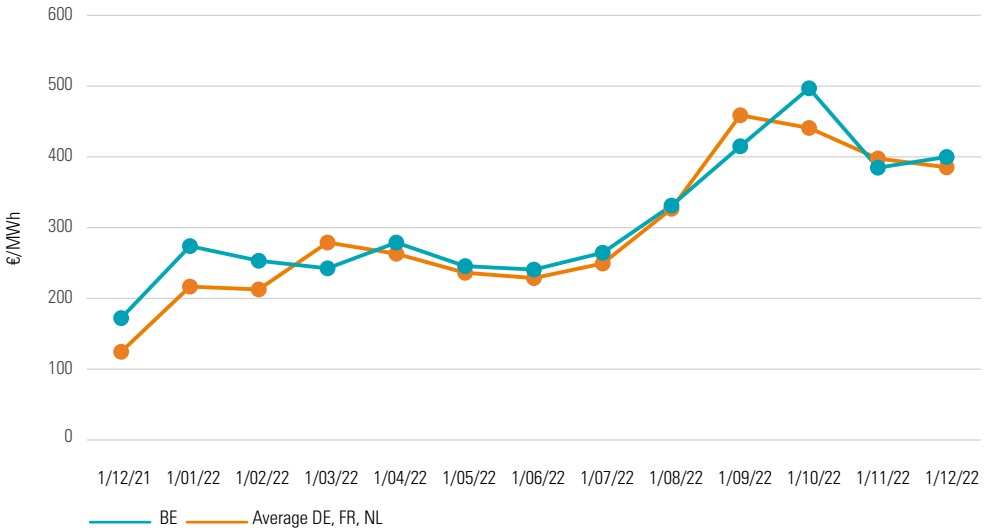
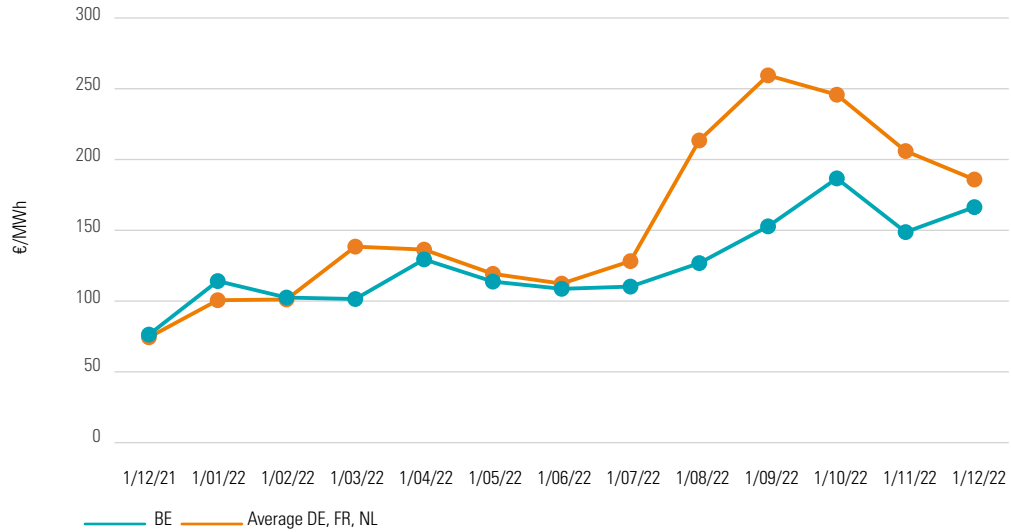


Figure 10: Monthly evolution of the natural gas price in 2022 for SMEs and the self-employed (typical customer = 100,000 kWh/year) (energy component) (source: CREG)



The results are compared on a sample basis with those from the existing supplier calculation modules and price comparison modules.

In the context of its general monitoring role, the CREG also set up a permanent database of energy prices in neighbouring countries (Germany, France, the Netherlands) and the United Kingdom in 2012.

In addition to the energy component, the CREG has also monitored the all-in prices in Belgium and neighbouring countries, on a monthly basis, since 2012.

The results obtained by the CREG are also verified for each neighbouring country, by comparing them with the results obtained via their price simulators.

In addition, in an effort to improve both the content and clarity of its communication, the CREG publishes infographics that provide a clear overview of the number of active suppliers and their product offerings, as well as potential savings.

- **Price components**

In the context of its responsibility over the final price of electricity and gas, the CREG presented the results of the annual update of its study on the price components of electricity and natural gas[135]. Since 2007, the CREG has monitored the evolution of electricity and natural gas prices billed to the final customer. Besides the change in the base price of energy, which follows wholesale market prices, the annual changes in transmission and distribution system tariffs, as well as surcharges, need to be added.

For electricity, the average price billed to Belgian residential customers between 2007 and 2021 rose by 83.71%. In concrete terms, this means an average increase of €576.48/period in Flanders, €343.83/period in Brussels and €486.40/period in Wallonia, for an average consumption of 3,500 kWh/year. The average price paid by business customers in Belgium also rose, by 53.96%.

These evolutions are mainly due to the following components: energy, distribution system tariffs, contributions for renewable energy and cogeneration, public surcharges, energy and VAT (the latter only for residential customers). The size of these different components in the total evolution varies by region, as well as by client type.

Compared to 2020, there has been an average increase of 19.55% for residential customers in Belgium. In concrete terms, this means an average increase of €150.48/period in Flanders, €188.61/period in Brussels and €165.68/period in Wallonia. The average price paid by business customers in Belgium also rose, by 37.07%.

For natural gas, the average price billed to Belgian residential customers between 2007 and 2021 rose by 53.38%. This is an average increase of €558.66/period in Flanders, €577.40/period in Brussels and €814.58/period in Wallonia, for an average consumption of 23,260 kWh/year. The average price charged to professional customers in Belgium rose by 71.63%.

These evolutions are mainly due to the following components: energy, distribution system tariffs, public surcharges and VAT (the latter only for residential customers). The size of these different components in the total evolution varies by region, as well as by client type.

Compared to 2020, there has been an average increase of 55.76% for residential customers in Belgium. In concrete terms, this means an average increase of €623.20/period in Flanders, €632.58/period in Brussels and €638.60/period in Wallonia. The average price paid by business customers in Belgium also rose, by 118.04%.

- **Impact of persistently high prices on wholesale gas and electricity markets**

At the request of the Minister for Energy, the CREG analysed the consequences of the persistently high wholesale prices for gas and electricity.

It highlighted the fact that market players are experiencing financial difficulties, and considered whether certain market players might be particularly exposed to these difficulties due to persistently high wholesale prices for gas and electricity.

The CREG also analysed which market players benefit from the current level of wholesale market prices for gas and electricity, and whether there may be excessive profits.

Lastly, the CREG evaluated the costs of supporting offshore wind farms for 2022 and provided an estimate of these costs up until 2026[136].

At the end of August, the CREG updated its study. It also made concrete recommendations to the Belgian and European authorities, and to consumers[137].

135 Study (F)2407 of 2 June 2022 on the price components of electricity and natural gas.
136 Study (F)2336 of 1 February 2022 on the impact of persistently high prices on wholesale gas and electricity markets.
137 Study (F)2442 of 31 August 2022 on the impact of persistently high prices on wholesale gas and electricity markets.

- **Recommendations to safeguard the competitiveness of businesses and the purchasing power of household customers**

In the context of the energy standard, and based on the findings of the European price comparison published with the regional regulators in May 2022, the CREG submitted recommendations to the government aimed at safeguarding the competitiveness of businesses and the purchasing power of residential customers. As such, it recommends that priority be given to measures aimed at helping households in precarious situations that do not currently benefit from the social tariff, and SMEs connected to the low-voltage grid[138].

- **Supplier product portfolios and possible savings for households**

The CREG carried out a study in July 2022, which provided an overview of the composition of the product portfolios of the different suppliers active on the Belgian market for electricity and natural gas for households, spread over the three regions[139]. The market shares of suppliers and the prices of their energy products give an idea of the actual composition of the energy market.

As of this date, for electricity, the overall figures for Belgium indicate that around 60% of households have a product with a fixed energy component. The CREG observed a considerable fall in this percentage for the first time in years. The fall, from 70% to 60%, is primarily due to the fact that since the end of 2021, the offer of fixed products has started to decline, becoming almost non-existent in the first quarter of 2022. Month after month, customers with fixed-price contracts see their contracts expire, so as time goes on, the proportion of fixed-price contracts in effect decreases.

In Wallonia, based on all contracts, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €100 and €360 for electricity, for around 845,000 households. For natural gas, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €125 and €540 for around 200,000 households. The 10 most expensive electricity products account for 39% of the total market, while the least expensive products account for just 10%. The 10 most expensive natural gas products account for 36% of the total market, while the 10 least expensive products account for just 12%.

In Flanders, based on all contracts, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €100 and €360 for electricity, for around 480,000 households. For natural gas, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €125 and €540 for around 570,000 households. The 10 most expensive electricity products account for 27% of the total market, while the least expensive products account for 12%. The 10 most expensive natural gas products account for 30% of the total market, while the 10 least expensive products account for 9%.

In Brussels, based on all contracts, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €100 and €130 for electricity, for around 70,000 households. For natural gas, the potential savings on an annual basis are between €100 and €160 for around 44,000 households. The 5 most expensive electricity products account for 22% of the total market, while the 5 least expensive products account for just 7%. The 5 most expensive natural gas products account for 42% of the total market, while the 5 least expensive products account for just 2%.

The CREG advised households who opted for a fixed price product with a longer duration before September 2021 to maintain their current contract, in the current context of very high prices. For fixed products with an indefinite duration, the price guarantee is often only valid for one year. Consumers who enter into contracts with an indefinite duration should be aware of this, and when the price guarantee expires, compare the new terms of their contract with the current offer.

138 Opinion (A)2424 of 30 June 2022 on measures to safeguard the competitiveness of businesses and the purchasing power of residential customers.
139 Study (F)2430 of 7 July 2022 on the composition of product portfolios by supplier and possible savings for private individuals on the Belgian market for electricity and natural gas.

3.2.2. Monitoring transparency and market openness

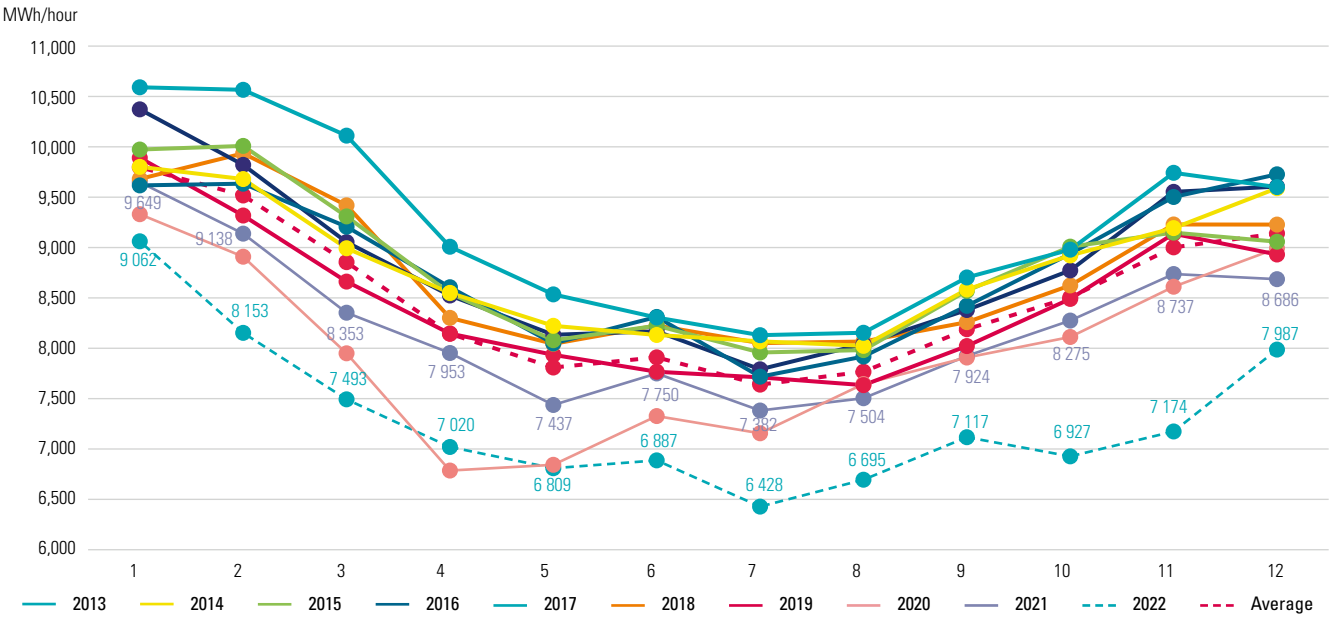
3.2.2.1. Electrical power demand

According to the data submitted to the CREG, the Elia grid load[140], excluding pumped storage power plants, in other words the net offtake plus grid losses, was estimated at 64,000 GWh in 2022, compared with 70,941 GWh in 2021, i.e. a fall of 9.8% from one year to the next. The quarter-hourly peak load was estimated at 12,297 MW in 2022, compared to 12,570 MW in 2021 (source: Elia, for 2022: provisional data, February 2023).

Figure 11 illustrates, by year, the average Elia grid load on a monthly basis for the years 2013 to 2022. Compared to 2017, the fall in the average load was 17.3% in 2022. Compared to 2022, the fall in the average load was 12.6%. These figures were not weighted by meteorological data.

The local generation of the sites connected to the Elia grid was not fully taken into account in these data. Synergrid estimated this local generation at 9.5 TWh in 2022.

Figure 11: Average Elia grid load on a monthly basis from 2013 to 2022 (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)



3.2.2.2. The market share of wholesale production

Table 5 gives an estimate, both in absolute (GW) and relative terms, of the Belgian market shares in electricity generation capacity at the end of each year.

Electrabel still has a significant market share (66%) of the total generation. The second largest player is Luminus, which has a 14% market share in generation capacity.

The HHI, a commonly used concentration index, remains very high and even increased slightly in 2022, with a value of 4,865. By way of comparison, a market is considered highly concentrated when the HHI is higher than or equal to 2,000.

Table 6 gives the same estimate but in terms of actual energy generated. In total, the units connected to the Elia grid generated 73.6 TWh in 2022, which is below the level of generation in 2021 (78.7 TWh).

Electrabel's predominant market share is the same as in 2021, namely 75%. The HHI declined slightly in 2022 to 5,795, reflecting a still highly concentrated market.

140 The Elia grid includes the grids with a voltage of at least 30 kV in Belgium, as well as the Sotel/Twinerg network in the south of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Elia grid load is a calculation based on the injections of electrical energy into the Elia grid. It includes the measured net generation from (local) power stations who inject at a voltage of at least 30 kV, and the balance of imports and exports. The generation installations connected to a voltage less than 30 kV in the distribution systems are only taken into account to the extent that a net injection into the Elia grid is measured. The energy required for pumping water in the storage reservoirs of the pumped storage power stations connected to the Elia grid is deducted. The injections of decentralised generation which inject energy at a voltage lower than 30 kV into the distribution systems are not all included in the Elia grid load. However, the share of this segment in generation has increased significantly in recent years. As such, Elia decided to complete its publication with a forecast of the total Belgian load (source: Elia).

Table 5: Wholesale market shares in electricity generation capacity (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)

Generation capacity (GW)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Engie / Electrabel	9.9	9.9	10.2	10.2	10.1	10.6	10.8	10.8	10.8	11.0	65%	68%	71%	73%	72%	69%	69%	66%	66%	67%
Luminus	2.2	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.3	15%	12%	12%	14%	14%	17%	16%	16%	16%	14%
TotalEnergies	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.6	0%	0%	0%	3%	5%	4%	4%	6%	6%	4%
RWE	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.9	0.9	0.9	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	6%	6%	6%
Eneco	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.7	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%	4%	4%
Others (< 2% in 2022)	2.8	2.5	2.0	0.9	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.3	0.3	0.8	18%	17%	14%	7%	5%	6%	6%	2%	2%	5%
Total	**15.3**	**14.6**	**14.5**	**14.0**	**14.1**	**15.4**	**15.6**	**16.3**	**16.3**	**16.3**	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
										HHI	**4,460**	**4,760**	**5,160**	**5,510**	**5,430**	**5,050**	**5,100**	**4,730**	**4,730**	**4,865**

Table 6: Wholesale market shares in generated electricity (sources: Elia data, CREG calculations)

Generated energy (TWh)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Engie / Electrabel	51.6	42.2	37.9	55.6	55.0	41.3	54.2	51.4	59.1	55.1	73%	69%	68%	79%	77%	70%	73%	75%	75%	75%
Luminus	8.6	7.5	7.3	7.2	8.5	9.7	11.7	7.9	11.3	9.5	12%	12%	13%	10%	12%	17%	16%	11%	14%	13%
Eneco	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.4	2.3	1.9	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	3%
T-Power	0.4	1.4	2.2	2.6	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.8	1%	2%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	2%	2%
RWE	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.1	1.0	1.2	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Others (< 2% in 2022)	9.3	8.4	7.4	3.8	4.4	4.1	4.5	4.5	3.5	2.5	13%	14%	13%	5%	6%	7%	6%	7%	4%	3%
Total	**71.1**	**60.8**	**56.1**	**70.4**	**71.7**	**58.7**	**74.3**	**68.6**	**78.7**	**73.6**	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
										HHI	**5,516**	**5,088**	**4,829**	**6,372**	**6,055**	**5,252**	**5,601**	**5,762**	**5,864**	**5,795**

3.2.2.3. Energy trade

The average price on the Belgian daily market was €244.5/MWh in 2022. This is an exceptionally large rise over previous years. Among other things, these explosive price increases are the result of sharp increases in gas and CO_2 prices, which in turn have led to a sharp rise in the operating costs of marginal generation units in the CWE region (primarily gas and coal-fired power plants) in the second half of 2021 and 2022. These rises also occurred to a similar extent in other bidding zones of the CWE region: €235.4/MWh in Germany, €241.9/MWh in the Netherlands, €264.1/MWh in Austria and €276.3/MWh in France.

Price convergence between the different bidding zones in the CWE region fell significantly in 2022 compared to previous years. This fall confirms the downward trend in price convergence, measured as the number of hours during which all prices between the bidding zones of the bids concerned (Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany/Luxembourg and Austria) diverge by less than €1/MWh. This deterioration is due to the rise in available cross-border capacity, resulting from a number of improvements in general market conditions, namely, record trade volumes putting the market coupling algorithms under strain, and the lack of progress in providing minimum margins for cross-border trade.

In 2022, price convergence across all bidding zones in the CWE region was 35.4% (compared to 49.6% in 2021). In 2015, this rate was still only 20.9%. This number has risen year after year since then (with the exception of 2022). The CREG calculates that prices converged in 2022 with those of France for 40.0% of the hours, the Netherlands for 43.6% and Germany for 42.0%. Belgium did not have any price convergence with any other CWE region bidding zone for 51.4% of hours, compared to 33.2% in 2021.

Both EPEX SPOT and Nord Pool facilitate the daily and intraday market in Belgium. The total volume on the EPEX SPOT daily market was 21.2 TWh in 2022, compared to 20.9 TWh in 2021. The total volume on the Nord Pool daily market was 3.2 TWh in 2022, compared to 2.5 TWh in 2021. The two daily markets together account for approximately 29.9% of the total offtake from the Elia grid.

The intraday market allows market participants, via a public market, to settle changes in their injection or offtake forecasts that occur unexpectedly after the close of the daily market. Examples of such unexpected changes are the unplanned unavailability of a generation plant or changes resulting from updated forecasts of wind and solar energy injections. The implementation of the XBID project in June 2018 facilitated trading in the Belgian intraday market by coupling the Belgian market with the markets of 23 other EU Member States.

The total traded volume on the intraday market of EPEX SPOT rose to 3,962.5 GWh in 2022 from 2,600.1 GWh in 2021. The total traded volume on the intraday market of Nord Pool rose to 472.4 GWh in 2022 from 407.6 GWh in 2021. The weighted intraday price (on the EPEX SPOT market) rose by 140%, to reach €247.0/MWh in 2022 (compared to only €102.0/MWh in 2021).

The wholesale market prices for both long- and short-term contracts rose sharply in 2022. Supply contracts for the following year showed a price of €255.6/MWh in 2022, compared to €86.6/MWh in 2021. In 2022, the average daily market price was lower than the average annual contract price for supply in 2022 (i.e. negotiated in 2021). The average price on the daily market was €244.5/MWh in 2022, compared to €86.5/MWh for contracts negotiated in 2021 for the following year.

Figure 12: Average monthly prices for the period 2015-2022 of the day-ahead market for the supply of electricity in the countries of the CWE region (sources: EPEX SPOT, CREG calculations)

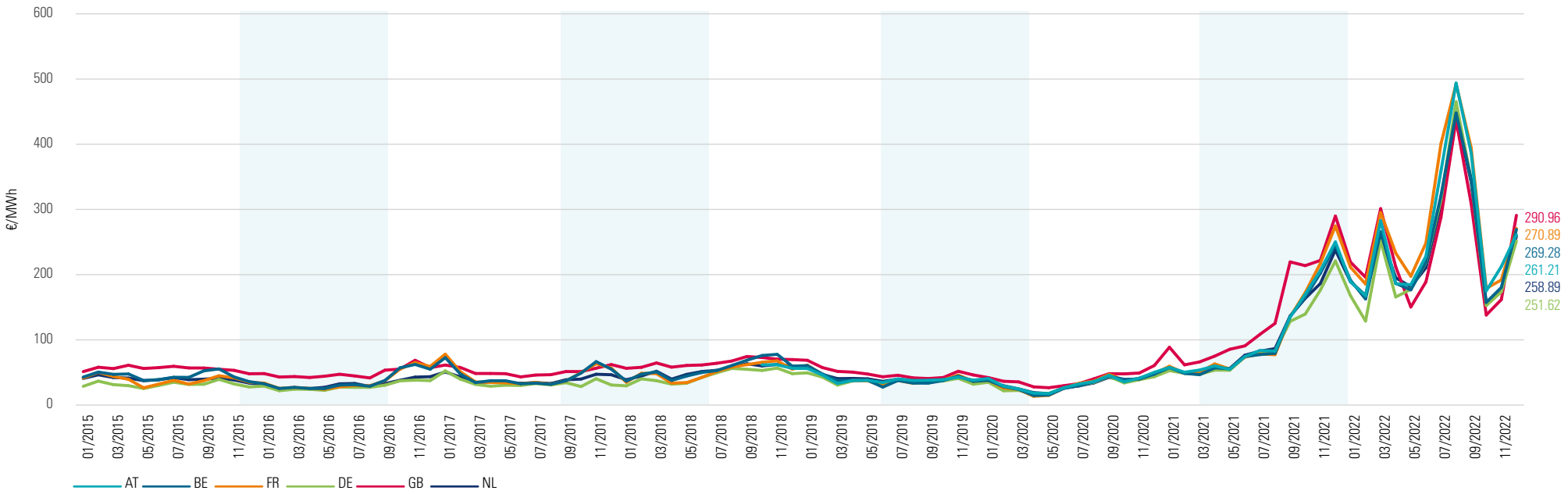


Figure 13: Energy traded and average price on the intraday exchange (sources: EPEX SPOT Nord Pool, CREG calculations)

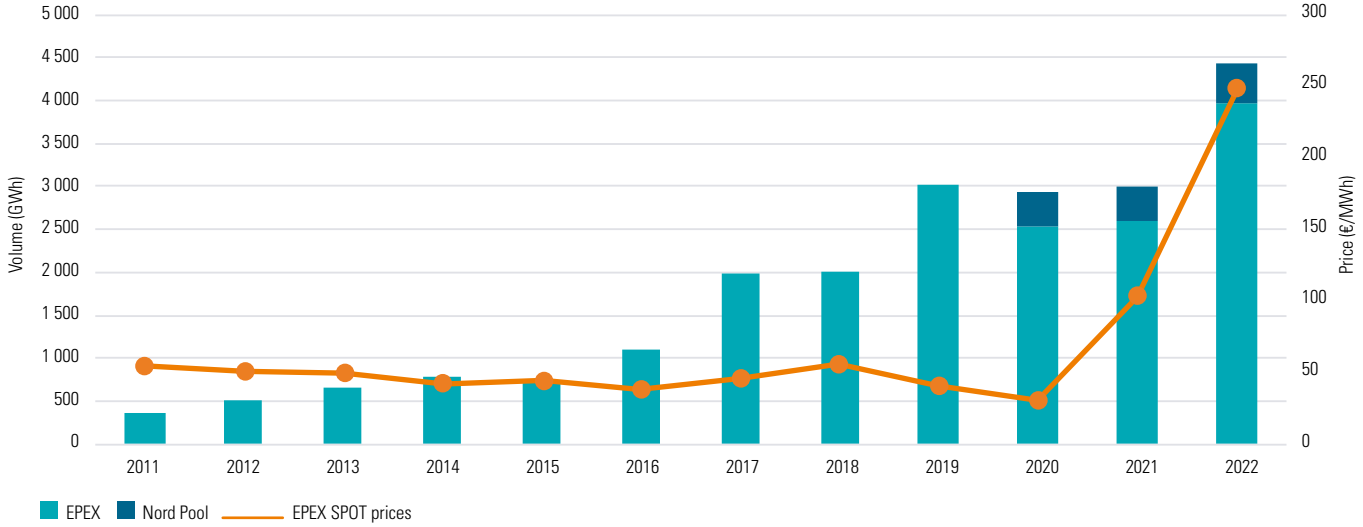
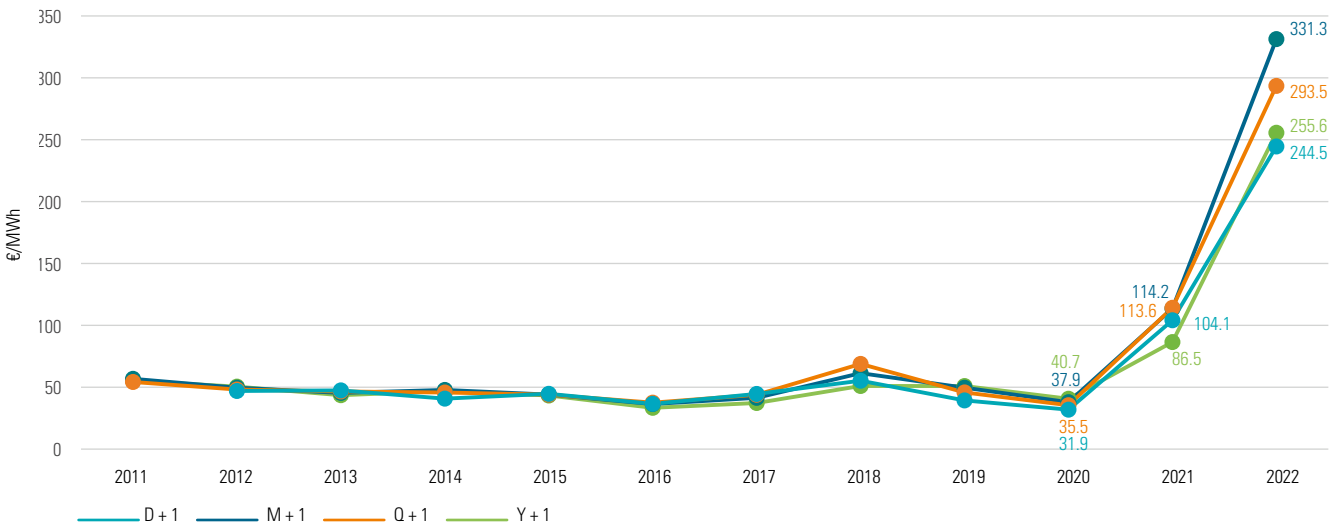


Figure 14: Comparison of the wholesale price for short-term and long-term contracts (sources: EPEX SPOT, ICE Endex, CREG calculations)



3.2.2.4. REMIT

Regulation (EU) No 1227/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on wholesale energy market integrity and transparency (hereinafter "REMIT") lays down a series of rules to prevent and sanction manipulation and insider trading on the wholesale electricity and gas market.

Market participants have to register on a platform and keep their registration data up to date before placing orders on the wholesale market and carrying out transactions. These orders and transactions must be reported to ACER. Market participants also need to publish their inside information on a dedicated platform.

In case of infringements of REMIT, the CREG can impose administrative fines of up to 10% of the turnover of the infringing company on the Belgian electricity or gas market during the last closed financial year. The CREG has published a methodology to clarify the criteria on which the fine is based[141].

In 2022, the CREG continued its ongoing investigation and sanction procedures, and launched various ad hoc investigations and analyses following questions from market participants or on its own initiative, relating to potential violations of REMIT.

Lastly, the CREG assisted the market participants in their procedures or regarding other questions related to REMIT.

3.2.2.5. Charter of best practices for price comparison tools for electricity and gas

The CREG quality label is awarded to service providers who comply with the charter for an efficient provision of information in the context of price comparison for electricity and gas. The aim of this charter is to offer guarantees to consumers that service providers who offer a comparison of electricity and natural gas prices provide objective and quality information.

With this accreditation, the service provider is entitled to use the label of the CREG Charter for a period of two years. During this period, it is obliged to strictly respect all of the provisions of the charter and to comply with the CREG's inspections.

The CREG quality label granted to Pricewise BV as an intermediary for group purchases expired in May 2022.

The online price comparison sites that still had the CREG quality label in 2022 were Comparateur-Energie.be, Monenergie.be and the intermediary for group purchases, Wikipower.

3.2.2.6. Greenhouse gas emissions

The CREG approved the Compass Lexecon study determining the market-based emissions factor for Belgium[142].

The CREG conducted a study on the functioning of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and its impact on the electricity market[143].

141 Methodology for calculating fines in the context of REMIT, 9 December 2021.
142 Decision (B)2364 of 28 April 2022 approving the study determining the market-based CO2 emissions factor for Belgium.
143 Study (F)2408 of 16 June 2022 on the functioning of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and its impact on the wholesale electricity markets.

3.3. Consumer protection

In 2022, the CREG continued to focus on the consumer protection aspect of its role.

• CREG Scan

The CREG Scan, launched in February 2017, is intended for individuals as well as SMEs and the self-employed with a maximum consumption of 50,000 kWh/year for electricity and/or 100,000 kWh/year for natural gas.

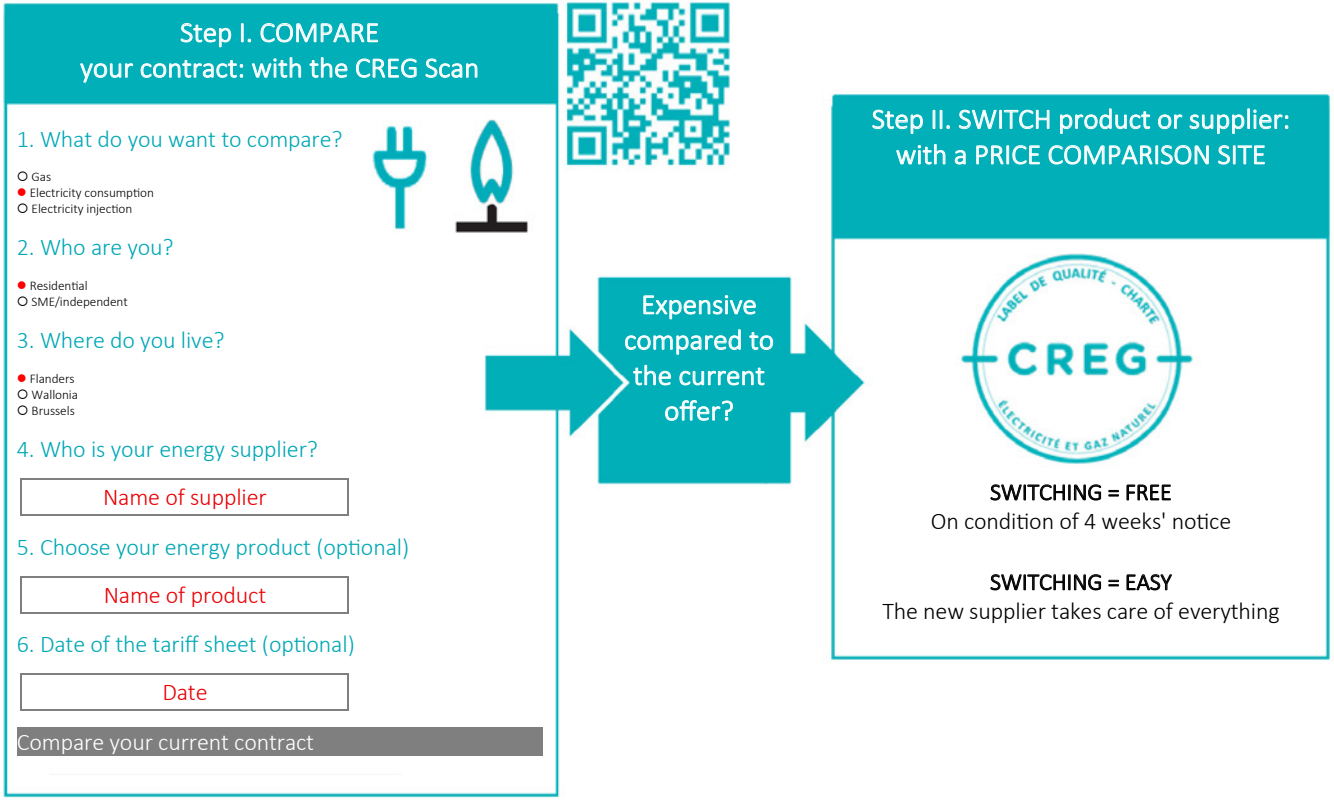
The CREG offers consumers a unique and practical tool, allowing them, in 6 clicks, to compare their contract with the current market offer, even if it is no longer offered to other customers (dormant contract). This comparison is not possible on other price comparison sites, where only the current offer is shown.

In total, the CREG Scan compared 9,962 products (active and dormant) in 2022, where other price comparison sites only compared the 299 active products on the market.

Since 2022, the CREG Scan has also featured the products that pay for the electricity injected into the grid. This feature is intended for consumers with a digital meter and a decentralised generation installation (e.g. solar panels).

The CREG Scan now also shows the fixed fee for the energy component separately.

Lastly, since November 2022, the VREG, the CWaPE, BRUGEL and the CREG have used a harmonised method to calculate the estimated annual cost of variable-price electricity and natural gas contracts.



The new method, applied by the VREG since May 2022, takes into account the energy prices expected for the next 12 months based on available quotes on energy exchanges for future deliveries.

The aim of this calculation method is to provide the most reliable ranking of suppliers' offerings, in the interest of the consumer.

• Consumer information

In 2022, the CREG continued providing information to consumers, regarding prices and their evolution in particular, through:

- price monitoring at wholesale and retail level (see point 3.2.1. of this report);

- the annual study on the evolution of the price components of electricity and natural gas (see points 3.1.2.3. and 3.1.3.5.B of this report);
- the study on the rise in electricity and gas prices in Belgium, which examines the impact of price increases on the energy bills of consumers: households, (small) professionals and industrial consumers (see point 3.2.1. of this report);
- the study on the supply of large industrial customers in Belgium, which aims to improve transparency in the supply of electricity to large industrial customers (see point 3.2.1 of this report);
- the study on the market prices of energy for households and small professional consumers (see point 3.2.1. of this report);
- monthly infographics and dashboards for electricity and natural gas (see points 3.2.1. and 3.1.2.3. of this report);
- the monthly publication of TTF101, TTF103 and ZTP101 gas quotes. TTF103 is primarily used on the residential market and on the SME market for consumption of less than 100,000 kWh/year. TTF 101 and ZTP101 are generally used for higher power consumption;
- the monthly publication of Endex101 and Endex103 electricity quotes. These quotes are used as indexation parameters in variable price contracts for residential and SME consumers. Endex101 provides monthly price indexation while Endex103 works on a quarterly basis;
- the monthly publication of the average Belpex DAM price with the lowest and highest hourly quote. The objective is to alert consumers who have a dynamic price contract to the volatility of prices on the exchanges;
- figures on the evolution of energy prices in Belgium and neighbouring countries. Every six months, the CREG publishes an analysis on the evolution of energy prices in Belgium and neighbouring countries. Every month, the CREG publishes the monthly average of the pure energy component and the total energy bill for Belgium and its neighbouring countries;
- the monthly publication of the composition of the household bill, i.e. the percentages represented by the energy, system costs, fees and VAT components;
- the monthly publication of the minimum price per green certificate for generation by wind turbines in the North Sea during the last twelve months. The CREG issues green certificates every month for the energy generated. The value of a certificate or the minimum price is determined in accordance with Article 14, § 1 of the Royal Decree of 16 July 2002;
- the quarterly publication of the market shares of electricity and natural gas suppliers in our three regions;
- the publication of articles on LinkedIn on price setting;
- handling questions submitted via its online form (see point 5.4. of this report). Due to the large number of questions received from consumers, we have also published several answers to the questions most frequently asked by consumers regarding energy prices, on the 'Contact' page of our website.

The reader is also invited to refer to the work realised by the CREG in the context of the European working groups looking at aspects relating to consumer protection in the area of energy (see point 5.7. of this report).

3.4. Security of supply

3.4.1. Monitoring the balance between supply and demand

• Demand[144]

The Elia grid load was 64.0TWh in 2022, compared to 70.9TWh in 2021, which represents a fall of 9.8% between 2021 and 2022.

Table 7: Elia grid load (energy and peak power) for the period 2013-2022 (source: Elia, 2022 provisional data)

	Energy (TWh)	Peak power (MW)
2013	80.5	13,446
2014	77.2	12,736
2015	77.1	12,634
2016	77.1	12,734
2017	77.3	12,867
2018	76.6	12,440
2019	74.6	12,568
2020	69.9	12,241
2021	70.9	12,570
2022	**64.0**	**12,297**

144 Demand here is the Elia grid load, calculated as the balance of the net generation injected into the Elia grid, imports and exports, minus the energy supplied by the pumped storage plants. It is therefore the sum of net offtake and losses.

• Installed capacity and energy generated

In the course of 2022, the installed generation capacity connected to the Elia grid in Belgium remained constant compared to 2021, increasing from 16,299 MW to 16,304 MW. However, this figure does not yet take into account the shutdown of Doel 3 (1,006 MW) on 1 October 2022.

Table 8: Breakdown by type of power plant of the installed capacity connected to the Elia grid as of 31 December 2022 (source: Elia)

Type of plant	Installed capacity	
	MW	%
Nuclear power plants	4,937	31.5
CGGT and gas turbines	4,930	31.4
Cogeneration	1,009	6.4
Incinerators	223	1.4
Diesel engines	5	0.0
Turbojets	177	1.1
Turbojets	177	0.5
Hydro (without pumped-storage plants)	85	0.5
Pumped-storage plants	1,308	8.3
Onshore wind turbines	308	1.7
Offshore wind turbines	2,260	13.9
Biomass	270	1.7
Storage	75	0.5
Solar	99	0.6
Total	**15,687**	**100**

Table 9: Breakdown by primary energy type of the electricity generated in 2022 by power plants located on sites connected to the Elia grid

Primary energy	Generated energy	
	GWh	%
Nuclear energy[1]	41,744	57.0
Natural gas[1]	17,373	23.7
Fuel[1]	9	0.0
Hydro (including pumped-storage plants)[1]	95	0.1
Wind[1]	7,191	9.8
Solar[1]	171	0.2
Storage[1]	5	0.0
Other[1]	6,648	9.1
Total[2]	**73,236**	**100.0**

1 Source: Elia, provisional data.
2 Source: Synergrid.

3.4.2. Transmission system development plan

The CREG issued its opinion on the draft federal development plan for the period 2024-2034 as submitted by Elia[145]. In this plan, the transmission system operator identifies the capacity needs of the Belgian high-voltage grid for the said period and details the investment programme to achieve these.

Elia did not provide an estimate of the total cost of the investments proposed in the development plan. The CREG therefore requested that Elia provide this information prior to the request for approval from the Minister. Moreover, the CREG requested that the conditions for realising the Triton Link project (approval of which is conditional) be clarified and quantified.

Furthermore, the CREG considered that some information was missing from the draft plan submitted by Elia which would allow it to give a substantiated opinion on the need for and added value of the various projects, and to approve the investments proposed in the development plan, in particular:

- quantitative information on the studies carried out in the context of identifying the system's needs, both on the methodology and the results of these studies;
- information on the methodology of the cost-benefit analysis and the assumptions used for each project analysed;
- a presentation of all the solutions envisaged and feasible (and not only the solutions selected to meet the identified needs) as well as explanations on how the evaluation criteria are taken into account in developing the solution and on how these criteria are possibly quantified;
- explanations on the current and/or future contribution of the R&D projects (on which Elia is currently working) to the identified system needs.

3.4.3. Operational security of the grid

Figure 15 illustrates the evolution of the maximum physical load of interconnections with neighbouring countries, i.e. France, the Netherlands, Germany and the United Kingdom[146]. This physical load is a combination of flows resulting from commercial imports and exports with Belgium and transit flows on the Belgian grid.

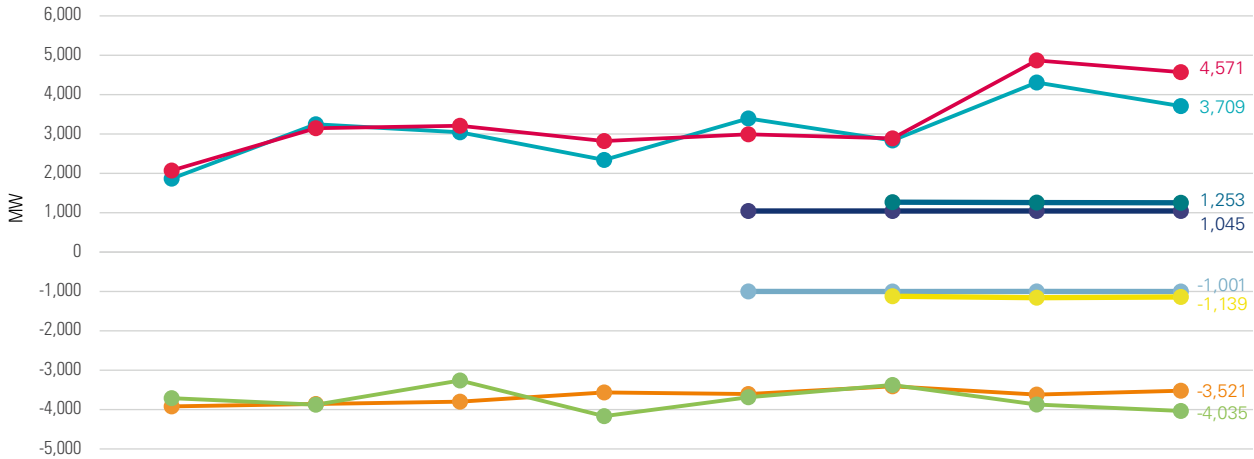
For the Belgian "AC" borders, the maximum export flows fell in 2022 compared to 2021. This is the case both for the southern border with France (4,571 MW in December 2022, i.e. -6.1% compared to 2021) and for the northern border with the Netherlands (3,709 MW in May 2022, i.e. -13.9% compared to 2021). In the import direction, the maximum values observed in 2022 remain in the same order of magnitude: 4,035 MW imported from France and 3,521 MW imported from the Netherlands. The rise in imports in recent years, both in terms of maximum and average values, is linked to the high availability

145 Opinion (A)2445 of 15 September 2022 concerning the draft development plan 2024-2034 of Elia Transmission Belgium SA.
146 The physical load is measured on an hourly basis.

of the Belgian generation capacity, the implementation of the 70% rule for transmission capacity available to the cross-zonal exchange market and reinforcements of the Elia transmission system.

For the "DC" border with the UK, the maximum levels are stable and correspond to the thermal capacity of the NEMO Link HVDC cable. For the border with Germany, the CREG notes that the values shown for the physical flows include not only the flows on the ALEGrO HVDC cable, but also the flows on the interconnector with Luxembourg, i.e. Aubange - Moulaine. The physical flows on this 220 kV line explain why the physical flows with the Germany/Luxembourg (DE/LU) bidding zone are higher than the 1,000 MW capacity of the ALEGrO cable.

Figure 15: Evolution between 2015 and 2022 of the maximum physical load of the interconnections with France and the Netherlands (source CREG, based on Elia data)



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
max. load BE → FR	2,072	3,147	3,209	2,821	2,992	2,889	4,869	4,571
max. load BE → NL	1,866	3,247	3,043	2,341	3,395	2,836	4,308	3,709
max. load FR → BE	-3,710	-3,876	-3,261	-4,167	-3,687	-3,375	-3,872	-4,035
max. load NL → BE	-3,919	-3,858	-3,799	-3,565	-3,605	-3,409	-3,619	-3,521
max. load BE → DE/LU						1,268	1,258	1,253
max. load DE/LU → BE						-1,121	-1,158	-1,139
max. load BE → UK					1,044	1,044	1,045	1,045
max. load UK → BE					-999	-1,001	-999	-1,001

3.4.4. Investments in cross-border interconnections and the internal high-voltage grid

The high-voltage grid must continually evolve to meet the needs of consumers and the market and to guarantee security of supply. Reinforcing interconnections at European level is one of the main challenges in achieving these objectives. Similarly, reinforcing the internal high-voltage grid must enable it to carry the power flows from these interconnections and, for example, from offshore wind turbines.

■ *Planned reinforcements at the northern border*

The Brabo project

At national and international level, the Brabo project reinforces Belgium's north-south axis and the interconnected European grid. It improves the international market's functional possibilities and reduces the dependence of the Belgian generation capacity. The project is being implemented in different phases.

In October 2016, Elia finalised the first phase (Brabo I) which involved the installation of new phase-shifting transformers in Zandvliet and the reinforcement of the Doel-Zandvliet high-voltage 380 kV line.

Brabo II and Brabo III include the creation of an additional 380 kV double overhead link between the Zandvliet and Mercator (Kruibeke) substations, on the Antwerp North-South axis, in order to sustain the planned increase in interconnection capacity at the northern border following the completion of the first phase of Brabo. Securing the increase in industrial consumption in the Antwerp port area (which mainly concerns phase II) and creating capacity for centralised production (which mainly concerns phase III) are also taken into account.

Brabo II, namely the renewal and reinforcement of the existing high-voltage 150 kV line between Zandvliet and Liefkenshoek (Beveren) to 380 kV, was started in 2017, and the final part was implemented on 27 November 2020. In 2022, Elia started work on the reinforcement of the existing high-voltage 150 kV line between Liefkenshoek and the substation in Mercator (Brabo III), to 380 kV. Brabo III, which is intended to increase the export and import capacity at the northern border, should be completed by mid-2025.

The Zandvliet-Rilland project

This project is intended to reinforce the existing 380 kV Zandvliet-Rilland interconnection, by replacing the conductors of the overhead AC link between Zandvliet (Belgium) and Rilland (The Netherlands) with high-end conductors (High Temperature Low Sag technology or HTLS), installing two additional phase-shifting transformers and restructuring the Zandvliet substation.

This enhancement of interconnection capacity at the northern border (combined with the Brabo project) reduces the risk of the border becoming a limiting element for the exchange of increasingly large and variable flows between markets within the CWE zone. The planned commissioning date for this project has been put back from 2022 to 2024.

The Van Eyck-Maasbracht project

The Van Eyck-Maasbracht project, which is under study, involves reinforcing the existing 380 kV Van Eyck-Maasbracht interconnection. The reference solution involves replacing the existing overhead AC conductors between Van Eyck (Belgium) and Maasbracht (Netherlands) with high-end conductors (HTLS technology), installing two additional phase-shifting transformers and restructuring the Van Eyck substation. Other variants are also being analysed. The solution will be examined trilaterally by Elia, TenneT and Amprion.

The planned commissioning date for this project is 2030.

■ *Planned reinforcements at the southern border*

The Avelin-Horta project

This project is intended, firstly, to reinforce the existing 380 kV interconnection between Avelin/Mastaing (France) and Avelgem (Belgium) by replacing the current conductors of the overhead AC link between Avelin/Mastaing and Avelgem with high-end conductors, and secondly, by replacing the current conductors of the overhead AC link between Avelgem and Horta (Zomergem) with high-end conductors.

This project was finalised on 4 November 2022.

The Lonny-Achêne-Gramme project

This project involves reinforcing the existing 380 kV interconnection between Achêne/Gramme (Belgium) and Lonny (France). It will be implemented in several phases.

The first phase of this reinforcement is necessary to allow a better distribution of the flows expected at the southern border by 2025, in anticipation of the nuclear phase-out. The reference solution is to install a phase-shifting transformer on the Belgian side.

The second phase will involve additional reinforcement. The reference solution consists of replacing the current conductors on the 380 kV overhead AC link between Achêne/Gramme (Belgium) and Lonny (France) with high-end conductors, installing a second phase-shifting transformer and restructuring the Achêne and Gramme substations. This second phase of the project is currently under study. It is planned to be commissioned in 2030.

The Aubange-Moulaine project

This project is intended to reinforce the existing 220 kV interconnection between Aubange (Belgium) and Moulaine (France) by installing two phase-shifting transformers at the

Aubange substation. The reinforcement of the southern border will complement the reinforcement at Avelin-Avelgem, and limits the risks of this interconnection becoming a limiting element for the exchange of flows between the markets.

Both transformers were commissioned in 2021.

■ *Planned interconnections between Belgium and the United Kingdom*

The NEMO project is the first 1,000 MW DC submarine cable between Belgium and the UK, linking Richborough in the UK to the Gezelle substation, which is part of the Stevin project in Bruges. Construction work began in mid-2016. Technical delivery of the new connection started in mid-December 2018, and the interconnector began commercial operations on 31 January 2019. Thanks to Nemo Link, market participants can purchase capacity of up to 1,000 MW in both directions, GB-BE or BE-GB, via explicit auctions.

Two other projects, the Nautilus project and the Triton project, are in the study phase and involve analysing the possibility of a new interconnection between Belgium and the United Kingdom, and a new interconnection between Belgium and Denmark, respectively. The reference solution is a 1,000 MW to 1,400 MW direct current (HVDC) submarine cable link that serves both as an interconnector and as a connector with an offshore wind farm ("hybrid interconnector"). On the basis of the provisional results of the study, and bearing in mind that it would take around ten years to develop this infrastructure, the earliest an initial project could come on stream is currently scheduled for 2028.

■ *Planned interconnections between Belgium and Germany*

ALEGrO, a 1,000 MW direct current (HVDC) underground cable link approximately 90 km long, was commissioned on 9 November 2020. Commercial operations started on 18 November 2020 on the day-ahead market, and on 8 December 2020 on the intraday market. This interconnection links the substations at Lixhe (Belgium) and Oberzier (Germany), and is the first direct interconnection between Belgium and Germany with a capacity of around 1,000 MW.

The BE-DE II project is the second interconnection between Belgium and Germany, after ALEGrO. Like the first project, this future interconnection will be the result of a partnership between Elia and Amprion. The latter are currently conducting a bilateral feasibility study. The timing, location, route and capacity will be the subject of further studies.

■ *Planned reinforcement of the internal high voltage grid*

In the Federal Development Plan 2020-2030, Elia presents two ways of reinforcing the internal high-voltage grid, namely, reinforcing the existing overhead lines with HTLS technology, and building new connections.

HTLS technology makes it possible to almost double the transmission capacity of overhead lines. In 2009, Elia was one of the first system operators to adopt this technology on the Mol-Beringen pilot project (150 kV). Since then, Elia has completed HTLS reinforcement work on the Zutendaal-Van Eyck, Horta-Eeklo, Lixhe-Herderen and Mercator-Horta lines. The HTLS reinforcement work on the Avelgem-Avelin line, initially planned for 2021, was completed in 2022. The 380 kV lines on the Massenhoven-Meerhout-Van Eyck line will be reinforced between 2021 and 2024. Finally, between 2025 and 2035, the reinforcement of the lines on the Mercator-Bruegel-Courcelles-Gramme-VanEyck, Mercator-Massenhoven and Mercator-Lint axes is planned.

With regard to new links in Belgium, the draft 2024-2034 federal development plan details the "Boucle du Hainaut" and "Ventilus" projects, which were also included in the Federal Development Plan 2020-2030.

The 'Boucle du Hainaut' project aims to build a new 6,000 MW corridor between the Avelgem substation on the country's southern border and the centre of the country (to be determined) on the Bruegel-Courcelles axis. The aim of the project is to enhance the security and reliability of the grid, so that it can transport cross-border trade flows and, for example, the generation of offshore wind farms. Together with the reinforcement of existing lines with HTLS technology (see above), this project will help complete the Mercator-Van Eyck-Gramme-Courcelles-Avelgem ring. The new Avelgem-Centre corridor is a prerequisite for integrating the rise in offshore generation capacity planned for 2028 in the Modular Offshore Grid - phase 2 (MOG II) project. Commissioning of the Boucle du Hainaut is currently scheduled for 2029-2030.

The Ventilus project aims to build a new 6,000 MW corridor between the Stevin and Avelgem substations in West Flanders to increase offshore generation capacity. Commissioning is currently also planned for 2028-2030.

3.4.5. Security of electricity supply and the CRM

• **Regulation**

The laws and decrees issued in the context of the capacity remuneration mechanism (CRM) and the CREG acts issued in this context are detailed in point 2.2. of this report.

• **2021 T-4 auction: demand curve and parameters**

On the basis of the report by the system operator Elia, the CREG issued an opinion on Elia's proposal for parameters for the T-4 auction in 2021 covering the supply period 2025-2026[147] and a proposal for the demand curve for this auction[148].

147 Opinion (A)2327 of 1 February 2022 regarding the proposal for auction parameters of the report of the system operator for the Y-4 auction in 2022 covering the supply period 2026-2027.
148 Proposal (C)2326 of 1 February 2022 regarding parameters for determining the amount of capacity to be purchased for the Y-4 auction in 2022, covering the supply period 2026-2027.

• Derogation from the intermediate price cap

For the 2022 auction, the CREG adapted the formal requirements governing requests for derogation from the intermediate price cap in the context of the CRM[149]. The purpose of these changes was to make the processing of requests for derogation from the intermediate price cap more predictable for market participants, and to ensure consistency between the assessment of the intermediate price cap and the assessment of the merits of requests for exemption from the intermediate price cap.

The CREG also performed its role of verifying the merits of requests for derogations from the intermediate price cap and communicated its decisions to the market participants concerned.

Lastly, the CREG adapted the Excel version of these formal requirements to make it easier for participants requesting a derogation to enter their details.

• CRM operating rules

In the context of the implementation of the CRM and, in particular, with a view to the auction in October 2022, the CREG laid down the operating rules for the CRM in a decision dated 13 May 2022[150]. These rules were the subject of a proposal submitted by the transmission system operator (Elia) for the first time on 1 February 2022, after being submitted for public consultation. A further public consultation was organised by the CREG on the main changes it intended to make to Elia's proposal.

In accordance with the Electricity Act, these CRM operating rules were approved by Royal Decree on 29 May 2022 (see also Section 2.2. of this report).

• Opinion on the analysis of the 2021 CRM auction

The CREG issued an opinion on the recommendations made by the Directorate-General for Energy following its technical and economic analysis of the bids and the outcome of the CRM auction[151].

• Standard capacity contract

The CREG approved the revised proposal for a capacity contract submitted by Elia[152]. Most of the changes made to the initial version from 20 August 2021 (see Annual Report 2021) are purely formal. They include, for example, adjustments to take account of the version of the operating rules for the capacity remuneration mechanism drawn up by the CREG on 13 May 2022.

• Rejection of an investment file

In the context of the CREG's classification of capacities into the capacity categories which give entitlement to a multi-annual capacity contract, the CREG decided to reject two investment files.

• Validation of auction results

On 13 April 2022, following an additional auction decided by the Minister for Energy, the CREG validated the overall results of the Y-4 auction for the capacity supply period 2025-2026[153].

The CREG validated the results of the Y-4 auction for the capacity supply period 2026-2027 organised by Elia[154].

• Analysis of Elia's adequacy and flexibility study

In 2022, the CREG participated in several consultation committees as part of the preparation of the adequacy and flexibility study for 2023. On 28 November 2022, it also responded to the public consultation organised by Elia on the methodology, basic data and scenarios for the adequacy study and the estimate of the flexibility needs of the Belgian electricity system for the period 2024-2034, including the parameters of the scenario in the context of the "Low Carbon Tender" for 2024-2025.

• Procedure for submitting and processing investment files

In the context of the procedure for submitting and processing investment files laid down in 2022 in the context of the CRM, the CREG updated its "Q&A" document on the procedure and use of the CREG CRM platform.

• Procedure for installing the IT platform with a view to submitting the investment file

On its website, the CREG describes the procedure for using the IT platform to submit the investment file. This file is intended for ex-post control of the classification of a capacity in a capacity category or of an aggregated bid in a capacity category.

149 Decision (B)2356 of 31 March 2022 on the formal requirements for a request for a derogation from the intermediate price cap.
150 Decision (B)2397 of 13 May 2022 laying down the operating rules of the capacity remuneration mechanism.
151 Opinion (A)2406 of 16 June 2022 on the technical and economic analysis of the bids and the outcome of the 2021 CRM auction carried out by the Directorate-General for Energy.
152 Decision (B)2431 of 14 July 2022 on the request for approval of the revised proposal for a standard capacity contract submitted by Elia Transmission Belgium.
153 Decision (B)2372 of 13 April 2022 on the validation of the overall results of the auction four years before the capacity supply period 2025-2026, following the supplementary auction organised by Elia Transmission Belgium.
154 Decision (B)2464 of 27 October 2022 on the validation of the results of the auction four years before the 2026-2027 capacity supply period, organised by Elia Transmission Belgium.

4 The natural gas market

4.1. Regulation

4.1.1. The supply of natural gas

4.1.1.1. Supply to customers

• Federal licences

The supply of natural gas to customers (distribution companies or final customers whose gas offtake at each supply point permanently reach a minimum of 1 million m^3 per year) based in Belgium is subject to a prior individual licence issued by the Minister for Energy (except when this is done by a distribution company on its own distribution system).

Applications for a federal licence to supply natural gas are sent to the CREG, which, after examining the criteria, sends its opinion to the Federal Minister for Energy.

In 2022, the CREG issued an opinion on an application for a licence to supply natural gas from Wingas GmbH[155].

The CREG also proposed that the Minister for Energy withdraw the individual licences for the supply of natural gas from TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited, Ineos Energy Trading Limited and Gazprom Marketing & Trading Limited[156]. The Royal Decree of 12 June 2001 on the general conditions for the supply of natural gas and the conditions for granting licences for the supply of natural gas stipulates that a licence for the supply of natural gas may only be granted to a natural or legal person established in one of the Member States of the European Union. Since the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union and the European Economic Area, this condition is no longer met by these three companies.

Table 10: Companies active on the Belgian market in shipping natural gas in 2022 - Change compared with 2021 (source: CREG)

VOLUME SHIPPED IN BELGIUM (IN TWH)*	2021		2022		Δ2022/2021	
MARKET SHARE IN BELGIUM (IN %)	TWh	%	TWh	%	(%)**	(%-point)***
Antargaz SAS	2.82	1.48	1.32	0.82	-53	-0.7
ArcelorMittal Energy SCA	5.02	2.64	3.76	2.33	-25	-0.3
Axpo Solutions AG	1.07	0.56	0.58	0.36	-46	-0.2
BASF Antwerpen NV			0.81	0.50		
Belgian Eco Energy NV	0.15	0.08	0.09	0.06	-38	0.0
Eneco Energy Trade BV	9.89	5.20	7.72	4.79	-22	-0.4
Energy Global Handel BV	1.13	0.59	0.88	0.55	-22	0.0
Engie SA - Electrabel SA/NV	75.27	39.56	66.50	41.23	-12	1.7
ENI SpA	17.07	8.97	16.79	10.41	-2	1.4
Enovos Luxembourg SA	0.44	0.23				
Equinor ASA	4.77	2.51	5.36	3.32	12	0.8
Essent Sales Portfolio Management BV	2.32	1.22				
European Energy Pooling BVBA	5.71	3.00	3.09	1.92	-46	-1.1
GETEC Energie GmbH	0.27	0.14	0.27	0.17	0	0.0
Lampiris SA	0	0.00				
Luminus NV	21.15	11.12	20.60	12.77	-3	1.7
Novatek Gas & Power GmbH	0.33	0.17				
OMV Gas Marketing & Trading GmbH	3.62	1.90	4.28	2.65	18	0.8
Power Online SA	1.4	0.74	2.21	1.37	58	0.6
Progress Energy Services	0.93	0.49				
RWE Supply & Trading GmbH - UK Desk	2.27	1.19				
Scholt Energy Control NV	0.07	0.04	0.14	0.09	100	0.1
Soc. Europ. de Gestion de l'Energie SA	1.2	0.63	2.38	1.48	98	0.8
TotalEnergies Electricité et Gaz France SA	1.69	0.89	1.10	0.68	-35	-0.2
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Ltd	17.46	9.18				
TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited, London, Meyrin-Geneva Branch			13.08	8.11		
TotalEnergies Power & Gas Belgium SA			0.03	0.02		
Uniper Global Commodities SE	0.49	0.26	0.46	0.28	-6	0.0
Wingas GmbH	13.73	7.22	9.83	6.10	-28	-1.1
GRAND TOTAL	190.3	100	161.3	100	-15	

* These figures concern supplies to customers connected to the transmission system and to offtake points of the distribution system. For separate statistics on supplies to customers connected to the transmission and distribution system, readers are invited to consult the joint report by the four energy regulators on the development of the electricity and natural gas markets in Belgium, on the CREG website (www.creg.be).
** Relative evolution 2022 compared to 2021 (base = 2021).
*** Absolute evolution of market share.

155 Opinion (A)2441 of 31 August 2022 on the granting of an individual permit for the supply of natural gas to Wingas GmbH.
156 Proposals (E)2341, (E)2342 and (E)2343 of 10 February 2022.

• Volume shipped in Belgium

High energy prices prompted belt-tightening and a decline in industrial activity in all Belgian sectors, while the fall in demand was also a political measure aimed at preventing real shortages of natural gas. It is against this backdrop that we should consider the following development in demand in 2022. Belgian natural gas consumption fell by 15.2% (-28.9 TWh) in 2022. Temperature variations in 2022 indicate that heating demand was 15.8% lower than in 2021. Natural gas consumption on the distribution systems was 19.7% lower than in 2021 (81.7 TWh compared with 101.8 TWh in 2021). Industrial consumption of natural gas fell by 16.4%, and consumption of natural gas by natural gas-fired power stations fell by 2.8%.

4.1.1.2. Maximum prices

• For unprotected customers whose supply contract has been terminated

Readers are referred to Section 3.1.2.2. of this report, which also applies to natural gas.

• For protected household customers

In accordance with the legislation in force, the CREG calculated and published the maximum social prices (or 'social tariffs') applicable from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022, from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022, from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 and from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022 for the supply of electricity to protected household customers.

The social tariff for heat came into force on 1 July 2022. It is identical to the social tariff for natural gas in accordance with the Royal Decree of 6 June 2022 setting the social price cap for the supply of heat to protected household customers. Services that are not linked to the energy or system component, in particular, the connection, maintenance and fitting of installations for protected residential customers, are not subject to the maximum prices referred to in the Royal Decree.

The social tariffs for the supply of natural gas amounted to:

- c€2.448/kWh for the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022
- c€2.685/kWh for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022
- c€2.918/kWh for the period from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022 and
- c€3.208/kWh for the period from 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Compared to the last quarter of 2021, the social tariffs applicable in the first quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 10.5% for natural gas. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 194%.

Compared to the first quarter of 2022, the social tariffs applicable in the second quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 9.7% for natural gas. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 265%.

Compared to the second quarter of 2022, the social tariffs applicable in the third quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 8.7% for natural gas. Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 225%.

Compared to the third quarter of 2022, the social tariffs applicable in the fourth quarter of 2022 rose by an average of 9.9% for natural gas (and heat). Without the capping measures, the rise would have been an average of 64%.

These tariffs do not include VAT, the energy contribution, special excise duty and the connection fee (Wallonia). The energy component, as well as the transmission and distribution system tariffs, are included.

The reader is also referred to Section 3.1.2.2. of this report.

4.1.1.3. The evolution and fundamentals of natural gas prices

The reader is referred to Section 3.1.2.3. of this report.

It should be noted that on 1 April 2022, the CREG raised the standard natural gas consumption profile for the residential sector to 17,000 kWh, compared with 23,260 kWh previously. This adjustment follows on from a survey of distribution system operators, the main energy suppliers and consumers in Belgium's three regions.

4.1.2. Transmission and distribution

4.1.2.1. Unbundling and certification of the transmission system operator

The CREG certified Fluxys Belgium SA as the natural gas storage system operator according to the model of total ownership unbundling in accordance with Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 715/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on conditions for access to the natural gas transmission networks and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1775/2005[157].

There were no changes in Fluxys Belgium's shareholdings and ownership structure in 2022.

157 Decision (B)2471 of 15 December 2022 on the request for certification of Fluxys Belgium SA-storage system operator.

4.1.2.2. Corporate governance

A. Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG

The CREG issued a favourable opinion on the independence of Ms Cécile Flandre as independent director of Fluxys Belgium for a period of six years until the end of the Ordinary General Meeting of shareholders in 2025[158].

The CREG took cognisance of the activity report 2021 of the Corporate Governance Committee of Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG in the context of a check regarding the application of Article 8/3 of the Gas Act and an evaluation of its effectiveness with regard to the requirements of independence and impartiality of system operators.

The CREG also took cognisance of the report by the compliance officer on compliance with the programme of commitments by staff of Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG in 2021. This programme of commitments is intended to prevent any discrimination between grid users and/or categories of grid users.

B. Balansys

The CREG approved the request for the appointment of Ms Valérie Vandegaart as compliance officer of Balansys SA, as well as the conditions governing the mandate or the conditions of employment, including the duration of the mandate of the compliance officer[159].

The CREG received the 2021 compliance and monitoring report on the commitment programme relating to the activities of Balansys SA from the compliance officer.

The compliance officer found that the members of the Board of Directors of Balansys meet the requirements of Article 8/3, §1er /1, paragraph 3 of the Belgian Gas Act and Article 37 of the Luxembourg Gas Act, as well as the Balansys articles of association.

C. Interconnector Limited

The structure and shareholdership of Interconnector Limited did not change in 2022. Fluxys and SNAM still hold 76.32% and 23.68% of the company's shares, respectively.

4.1.2.3. Technical operation

A. Licences for the transmission of natural gas

The construction and operation of any natural gas transmission facility is subject to a prior licence issued by the Federal Minister for Energy after consulting a number of bodies, including the CREG.

In 2022, the CREG issued six favourable opinions in this context[160].

B. The balancing model

The evolutions in the market-based balancing model in force since 1 October 2012 set out in our 2013 annual activity report (pages 55-56) were still current in 2022.

C. The rules governing network security and reliability, and standards and requirements for quality of service and supply

Pursuant to Article 86 of the Code of Conduct, the transmission system operator for natural gas needs to implement a monitoring system to ensure the quality and reliability of the operation of its transmission system, and the provided transmission services for natural gas.

This monitoring system makes it possible to determine the quality parameters for:

- frequency of interruptions and/or reductions
- average duration of interruptions and/or reductions
- cause of and remedy for such interruptions and/or reductions
- portfolio of natural gas transmission services.

In 2022, no services were interrupted or reduced.

D. The time taken by the transmission system operator to carry out connections and repairs

In accordance with the Gas Act, the CREG is responsible for monitoring the time taken by the natural gas transmission system operator to carry out connections and repairs.

In 2022, a new connection was made to the public distribution system. This connection took 61 months to complete.

In 2022, there were 5 repairs following accidents or incidents, and 21 repairs during maintenance periods. One of the 5 unplanned repairs was carried out in one day, one in two days

158 Opinion (A)2395 of 5 May 2022 on the independence of Ms Cécile Flandre as an independent director of Fluxys Belgium SA.
159 Decision (B)2402 of 24 November 2022 on the request for the appointment of Ms Valérie Vandegaart as compliance officer of Balansys SA and the approval of the conditions governing the mandate or the conditions of employment, including the duration of the mandate of the compliance officer.
160 Opinions (A)2347 and (A)2348 of 17 February 2022, Opinion (A)2369 of 24 March 2022, Opinion (A)2461 of 6 October 2022, Opinion (A)2467 of 13 October 2022 and Opinion (A2502) of 22 December 2022.

and all were carried out after consultation with, and without impact on, shippers or end customers. The 21 repairs carried out during planned maintenance periods were carried out in order to avoid any impact on service delivery. They were all limited in time (usually a few days) and carried out in collaboration with the final customer and/or the shippers concerned.

E. The code of conduct

The Law of 21 July 2021 amended Article 15/5undecies of the Gas Act, giving the CREG the power to adopt, by means of a decision, a code of conduct for the management of the natural gas transmission system.

This code concerns:

- the conditions for connection and access to the transmission system, as well as access to the natural gas storage facility and the LNG facility;
- the conditions for the provision of balancing services; and
- the conditions of access to cross-border infrastructure, including capacity allocation and congestion management procedures.

After organising a public consultation, the CREG adopted the new code of conduct by Decision of 31 August 2022[161]. It came into force on 20 September 2022.

• Fluxys Belgium

In 2022, at Fluxys Belgium's request, the CREG approved a number of amendments to the regulatory documents for the transmission of natural gas.

The amendments include:

- the possibility of injecting hydrogen (H2) into the natural gas network and the alignment of the H/L conversion service with the ongoing programme to convert customers from L-gas to H-gas[162];
- adapting the quality specifications to allow hydrogen to be injected into the natural gas transmission network and enabling final customers to obtain information on the output capacity subscribed by their shipper[163];
- the subscription and allocation of entry services from the Dunkirk LNG terminal in order to allow network users reserving newly subscribed send-out capacity at the Dunkirk LNG terminal to acquire entry services on Fluxys Belgium's entry/exit transmission network at the same time[164];
- inclusion in the standard storage contract and the storage access regulation of the filling target and the filling trajectory imposed by Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2022[165];
- the lowering of the minimum Wobbe index applicable to certain (virtual) interconnection points and the modification of the natural gas allocation process by the distribution system operator[166].

• Fluxys LNG

The CREG approved Fluxys LNG's request for approval to amend the LNG access regulations for the Zeebrugge LNG terminal, the terminalling programme, the access regulations for loading LNG trucks and the LNG contract for loading LNG trucks[167].

The main changes include a rise in the residual storage capacity and an extension of the subscription period, additional measures for "threat to heel" situations, a rise in the number of LNG truck loading slots that can be offered, a change in the billing procedure for LNG truck loading, a revision of the indicative docking plan so that more LNG slots can be offered, marketing unused LNG services and the allocation of daily storage and send-out capacity on a "first committed, first served" basis.

The CREG also approved the changes made by Fluxys LNG to the service programme for the LNG installation and to the LNG access regulations for loading trucks[168]. The main changes to the LNG regulatory documents are the introduction of auctions as a process for allocating LNG truck-loading services.

• Interconnector Limited

The CREG approved the proposed amendments submitted by Interconnector Limited to its standard natural gas transmission contract[169] and to its access contract and access regulations (with the exception of Article 7, which deals with responsibility

161 Decision (B)2411 of 31 August 2022 on the establishment of a code of conduct for natural gas.
162 Decision (B)2331 of 3 February 2022 on the request from Fluxys Belgium SA for approval of the proposed amendment to the standard natural gas transmission contract, the access rules for natural gas transmission and the amended natural gas transmission programme.
163 Decision (B)2332 of 17 February 2022 on the request from Fluxys Belgium SA for approval of the proposed amendment to the standard final-customer connection contract.
164 Decision (B)2419 of 16 June 2022 on the request from Fluxys Belgium SA for approval of the proposed amendment to the access rules for natural gas transmission and the natural gas transmission programme.
165 Decision (B)2470 of 27 October 2022 on the request from Fluxys Belgium SA to approve the proposed amendment to the standard storage contract, the glossary of definitions, Annexes B, C1, C2, D1 and F to the storage access regulation and the storage service programme.
166 Decision (B)2474 of 17 November 2022 on the request from Fluxys Belgium SA for approval of the proposed amendment to the access rules for natural gas transmission and the natural gas transmission services programme.
167 Decision (B)2403 of 2 June 2022 on the request for approval for the amended LNG access regulations for the Zeebrugge LNG terminal, the amended terminalling programme, the amended access regulations for loading LNG trucks and the amended LNG contract for loading LNG trucks.
168 Decision (B)2499 of 15 December 2022 on the request for approval of the amended service programme for the LNG facility and the amended LNG access regulations for truck loading.
169 Decision (B)2325 of 10 March 2022 on Interconnector Limited's proposal to amend the Access Agreement with INT, INT's access code and the access programme

for the quality of natural gas, and Part H, which deals with the quality requirements for natural gas[170].

F. Measures to guarantee security of supply

The European Commission's Gas Coordination Group coordinates the application of Regulation (EU) 2017/1938 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2017 concerning measures to safeguard the security of gas supply and repealing Regulation (EU) No 994/2010, published on 28 October 2017. The CREG represents Belgium therein, alongside the designated competent authority, the Directorate-General for Energy.

This regulation lays down rules to promote regional cooperation in Europe to manage emergency situations. A legal framework is provided for the development of a solidarity mechanism between European Member States, in order to continue supplying protected customers. This cooperation involves drawing up risk analyses, preventive action plans and emergency plans, which are monitored by the Gas Coordination Group.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 put the Gas Coordination Group on high alert to safeguard Europe's natural gas supply. The Gas Coordination Group's activities and initiatives have intensified. The emphasis has been on replacing Russian natural gas with new sources of natural gas (mainly LNG) while maintaining security of supply. To this end, various "emergency regulations" were drawn up, including the gas storage regulation of 29 June 2022[171] and the Regulation to reduce demand of 5 August 2022[172]. These two regulations were closely monitored by the Gas Coordination Group, with the aim of guaranteeing a sufficient quantity of natural gas in storage in the EU to cover the 2022-2023 winter period, and also to reduce the demand for natural gas for essential consumption. These two temporary regulations are producing positive results on the ground.

Another emergency regulation that merits attention is the Regulation enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, reliable price benchmarks and exchanges of gas across borders, of 19 December 2022[173]. This regulation lays down standard rules for solidarity between European Member States, going beyond Regulation (EU) 2017/1938, where applying solidarity was left to bilateral negotiations between Member States, resulting in only a limited number of agreements between Member States to date.

Similarly, within the Gas Coordination Group, the focus on security of supply has been broadened by examining not only the availability of natural gas but also how affordable it is. This partly explains why Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 also contains rules on price comparisons, demand aggregation and group purchases. For the sake of completeness, we should also mention a fourth (temporary) emergency regulation from 22 December 2022[174] concerning a market correction mechanism for excessive natural gas prices.

The work of the Gas Coordination Group has made a significant contribution to the development of emergency measures and the control of natural gas supply in Europe. The CREG worked together with the Directorate-General for Energy in 2022 to provide feedback for the preliminary drafts of the emergency regulations, based on the specific features of the Belgian situation. The CREG also collaborated on applying the necessary measures in Belgium, and on providing the corresponding reports. This involved, in particular, achieving the objectives for natural gas storage as stipulated in the emergency Regulation (EU) 2022/1032. For the CREG, it has always been crucial to intervene only temporarily in the market mechanism and the related price signal, insofar as the shocks of sudden changes in the market situation meant that it had to intervene, in order to guarantee the supply of natural gas.

4.1.2.4. System tariffs and LNG tariffs

A. The transmission system, storage facility and LNG facility

a) Tariff methodology

Regulatory period 2020-2023

As mentioned in its 2018 annual report, in June 2018 the CREG approved the definitive decision laying down the methodology for determining transmission, storage and LNG tariffs for the period 2020-2023.

Regulatory period 2024-2027

On 14 March 2022, the CREG, Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG concluded an amendment to the agreement of 16 December 2021 relating, on the one hand, to the procedures for adopting the tariff methodology for the natural gas transmission system, the natural gas storage facility and the LNG facility and, on the other hand, to the procedures for approving tariff proposals and amending tariffs.

170 Decision (B)2490 of 30 November 2022 on Interconnector Limited's proposal to amend the Interconnector Access Agreement (IAA), the Interconnector Access Code (IAC) and the Interconnector Access Programme (IAAS).
171 Regulation (EU) 2022/1032 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2022 amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1938 and (EC) No 715/2009 with regard to gas storage.
172 Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1369 of 5 August 2022 on coordinated demand-reduction measures for gas.
173 Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 of 19 December 2022 enhancing solidarity through better coordination of gas purchases, reliable price benchmarks and exchanges of gas across borders.
174 Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2578 of 22 December 2022 establishing a market correction mechanism to protect Union citizens and the economy against excessively high prices.

On 18 March 2022, a consultation meeting was held between the CREG, Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG on a preliminary draft tariff methodology[175].

On 2 June 2022, the CREG, Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG concluded a second amendment to the above-mentioned agreement of 16 December 2021.

On 30 June 2022, the CREG adopted Decision (Z)1110/12 laying down the tariff methodology for the natural gas transmission system, the natural gas storage facility and the LNG facility for the regulatory period 2024-2027. This decision was preceded by a public consultation from 21 April to 12 May 2022.

This methodology is based on proven principles, which have been refined and supplemented to improve the performance of the system operator, promote market integration and security of supply, and encourage research and development. The regulation therefore aims to ensure a fair balance between the quality of the services provided on the one hand, and the costs borne by system users on the other.

Fluxys Belgium will use this methodology to draw up its tariff proposals. The tariffs will be known during the course of 2023.

On 13 October 2022, the CREG, Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG concluded a third amendment to the above-mentioned agreement of 16 December 2021.

The CREG also published model reports, including guidelines for drafting them.

On 22 December 2022, the CREG worked out the final modalities for determining the incentives for Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG over the period 2024-2027, in particular, the method for calculating the indicators used and the method for setting targets[176]. This decision was preceded by a public consultation.

b) Tariffs

■ *Transmission tariffs*

Fluxys Belgium's tariff proposal for 2020-2023, approved by the CREG on 7 May 2019, stipulated that the transmission tariffs would be adjusted if the evolution in the regularisation account deviated from its envisaged trajectory.

To support consumers in the current context of high natural gas prices and in accordance with the agreement on the methodology for the period 2024-2027, Fluxys Belgium and the CREG decided to reduce transmission tariffs by 10% from 1 July 2022.

■ *Storage tariffs*

The tariffs for natural gas storage services at Loenhout were adjusted on 1 July 2022 on the basis of the tariff adjustment formula approved on 7 May 2019.

On 14 February 2022, the Gas Act was amended to allow a reserve price lower than the regulated tariff in the case of storage capacity allocation via public auctions (see also Section 2.8. of this report). The shortfall was covered by the regularisation account. In this way, all available storage was sold and then filled, which enhanced security of supply and avoided dependence on Russian gas.

■ *Balancing tariffs*

The CREG approved the proposal for the 2023 balancing tariffs submitted by Balansys. The daily imbalance charge and intraday charge are maintained at their current level, and the neutrality charge is reduced to - €0.1/MWh[177].

■ *LNG terminal tariffs*

As indicated in our previous annual report, on 27 June 2019, the CREG approved new tariffs for the use of the Zeebrugge LNG terminal for the period 2020-2044.

■ *Interconnector tariffs*

In 2022, following a public consultation, Interconnector Limited submitted two changes to its pricing methodology for approval by the CREG and the UK regulator Ofgem. These mainly concerned a harmonisation of the publication of tariffs between the two sales channels and the possibility of pricing and billing in euros.

The CREG approved the proposed modifications[178].

c) Balances

■ *Fluxys Belgium*

The CREG decided that the application of the tariffs by Fluxys in 2021 would result in a net decrease in the regularisation account of the transmission activity of €49,980,625, bringing the balance to €250,039,916 on 31 December 2021, and an increase in the regularisation account of the storage activity

175 The minutes of the meeting are published on the CREG website.
176 Decision (B)656G/49 of 22 December 2022 on the final modalities for determining the incentives for Fluxys Belgium and Fluxys LNG during the period 2024-2027.
177 Decision (B)2121/4 of 17 November 2022 on the balancing charge for the purposes of neutrality and the value of the small adjustment for the period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.
178 Decision 1442/9 of 24 February 2022 on the pricing methodology for the access contract with Interconnector Limited and Interconnector Ltd's access code, and Decision (B)1442/11 of 30 November 2022 on the pricing methodology for the access contract with Interconnector Ltd and Interconnector Ltd's access code.

of €7,712,675, bringing the balance to €52,965,598 on 31 December 2021.

By using a large part of the regularisation account of the transmission activity, the CREG was able to achieve a tariff reduction of 10% for transmission system users from 1 July 2022[179].

■ *Fluxys LNG*

The CREG decided that the application of the tariffs by Fluxys LNG in 2021 would result in a net increase in the IRR suspense account for the terminalling activity of €12,832,543, taking its balance to €71,275,204 on 31 December 2021[180].

■ *Interconnector*

In the context of its verification role, more specifically on the reporting for the financial year 2021, the CREG decided that the application by Interconnector of the tariffs during the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021 resulted in an increase in the regularisation account (regulatory credit) of 4.439 kGBR, which reached a cumulative amount of 27.917 kGBP on 31 December 2021[181].

B. Distribution systems

The reader is invited to consult Section 3.1.3.5.B of this report.

4.1.3. Cross-border issues and market integration

4.1.3.1. Access to cross-border infrastructure

The revised European TEN-E Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of 30 May 2022[182] aims to support investments that help bring about the energy transition in Europe. Project promoters had until 15 December 2022 to submit project proposals to the European Commission for the Project of Common Interest (PCI) or Project of Mutual Interest (PMI) selection process. Only projects that cross at least one territorial border are eligible[183]. PCI status allows projects to benefit from accelerated and adapted permit procedures, as well as adapted regulatory conditions. The revised TEN-E regulation no longer takes natural gas projects into account, but resolutely opts for hydrogen projects. The conversion of natural gas infrastructure to facilitate the emergence of a hydrogen market is an important starting point in this respect. In this sense, TEN-E also refers to the category of smart gas networks, highlighting investments that enable or facilitate the integration of low-carbon and, above all, renewable gases into the network.

A cost-benefit analysis of PCI/PMI projects for the various countries located in the area of impact of these projects has remained an important part of the TEN-E regulation. The objective is to grant possible cross-border cost compensation, without which projects would not be implemented. Subsidies from the European Commission to help finance the necessary work may only be granted as a last resort, i.e. if the market cannot cover the financing of the investment costs and there are nevertheless significant positive externalities associated with the project, such as sustainable development, market integration and interoperability, security of natural gas supply and flexibility, competition, etc. Incorporating climate objectives and, in particular, the reduction of CO_2 emissions is an increasingly important element in identifying priority energy projects.

The first EU list under the revised TEN-E regulation is planned for the end of 2023. In the meantime, a selection procedure for candidate projects is underway within European regional working groups in which the energy regulators are co-represented. The CREG follows up on these activities within the limits of its current remit regarding the development of hydrogen infrastructures. The legal framework for hydrogen infrastructure is currently being developed. In any event, the CREG is already studying the possibilities for reusing natural gas transport infrastructure, and adapting new investments for natural gas transmission, so that this can also be used for hydrogen transport. The development of hydrogen projects will obviously continue to depend on changing needs, the technical possibilities and the final cost-benefit analysis.

The CREG is involved in the selection and monitoring procedure for PCI/PMI and, in close consultation with the other energy regulators and ACER, is also helping implement the revised TEN-E regulation. This represents a major challenge for hydrogen projects in a market that is yet to develop. Among other things, the CREG is calling for a revision of the legal framework where necessary, in order to gradually include alternative gas projects (e.g. hydrogen) and projects to integrate gas and electricity for a sustainable energy supply. This includes, among other things, an assessment of the costs and benefits for Belgium that may arise from PCI/PMI projects abroad and any compensation for costs arising from these international projects.

179 Decision (B)656G/47 of 16 June 2022 on the adapted tariff report including the balances introduced by Fluxys Belgium SA concerning the operating year 2021.
180 Decision (B)657G/24 of 12 May 2022 on the tariff report including the balances introduced by Fluxys LNG SA concerning the operating year 2021.
181 Decision (B)1442/10 of 19 July 2022 on the tariff report including the balances submitted by Interconnector Limited for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2021.
182 Regulation (EU) 2022/869 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2022 on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure, amending Regulations (EC) No 715/2009, (EU) 2019/942 and (EU) 2019/943 and Directives 2009/73/EC and (EU) 2019/944, and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013.
183 In the case of a land border within the European Union, the TEN-E regulation refers to a PCI. In the case of a land border with a third country, the TEN-E regulation refers to a PMI.

4.1.3.2. Consistency of the transmission system investment plan with the European network development plan

The reader is invited to consult Section 4.4.2. of this report.

4.1.3.3. Market integration

Belgium and its neighbouring countries account for almost 60% of the European natural gas market. Situated at the heart of the main gas corridors in North-Western Europe, Belgium is involved in a large number of cross-border exchanges of natural gas.

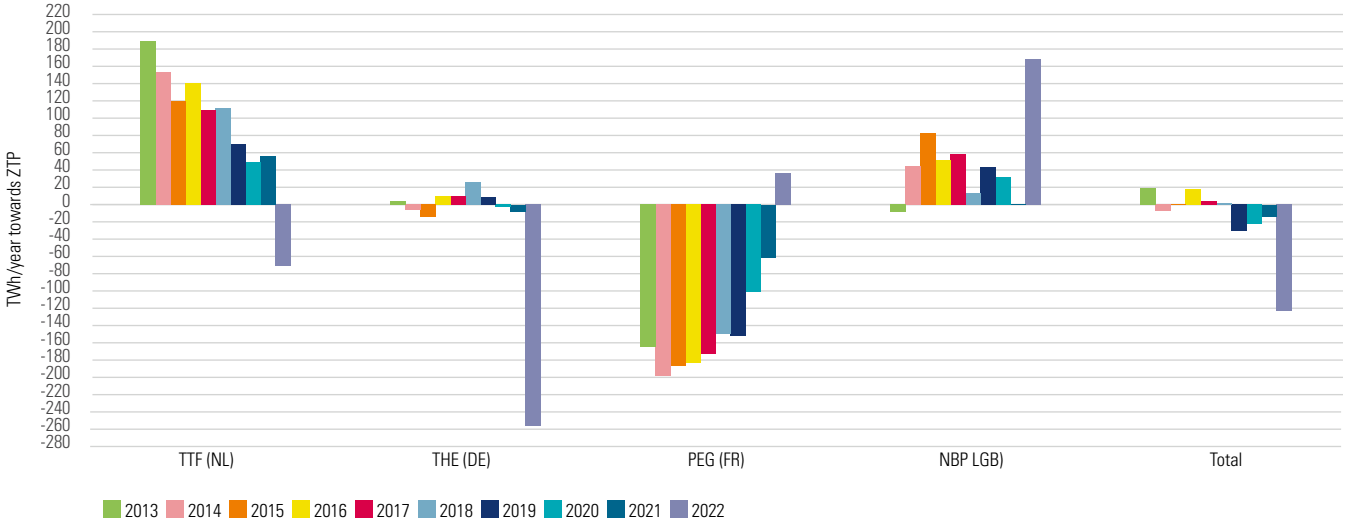
The war in Ukraine has prompted a major reshuffle in cross-border transactions, with natural gas from Russia being largely replaced by natural gas from the west (LNG).

In 2022, net transactions of natural gas from the United Kingdom via the Interconnector to Zeebrugge amounted to 168.2 TWh. By way of comparison, the net flow of natural gas to the UK was 0.9 TWh in 2021. While the Netherlands is normally a net exporter of natural gas to Belgium, partly due to Dutch L-gas destined for Belgium (and subsequently also for France), the balance of trade shows a total of 71.4 TWh from Belgium to the Netherlands for the year 2022. Transactions to Germany are an alternative to Russian natural gas supplies for the German market. Exports to Germany amounted to 256.4 TWh, which is 1.6 times Belgium's total natural gas consumption. This large west-east flow of natural gas was possible in part because France also exported natural gas to Belgium (36.8 TWh), whereas France has traditionally been heavily dependent on natural gas flows transiting through Belgium. It can be asserted that the investment to make cross-border interconnection points two-directional was a highly worthwhile one in terms of security in 2022. Nevertheless, the sudden inversion of dominant natural gas flows from the east into dominant natural gas flows from the west has resulted in entirely new system configurations that have led to congestion.

It was already known that the Belgian market has a highly flexible natural gas supply pattern. This is due to the intense cross-border exchange of natural gas in Belgium and the choice of different sources depending on market conditions. 2022 also showed that the import possibilities at Zeebrugge are playing a key role in managing Europe's natural gas supply crisis and in finding alternatives to Russian natural gas in the short term.

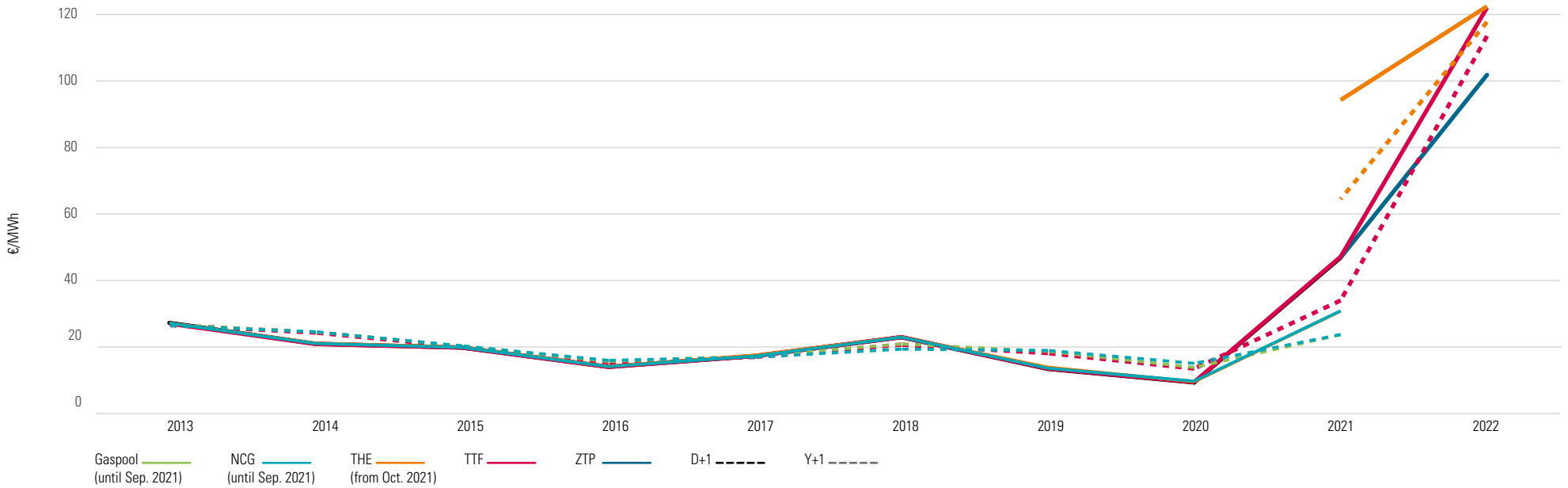
The price curves in Figure 17 show the average annual day-ahead price of natural gas (D+1) for the Belux market (ZTP), the Netherlands (TTF) and Germany (NCG, Gaspool which have been unified in THE since 1/10/2021)[184] respectively (in €/MW). These lines almost coincide. This indicates that a smooth cross-border exchange of natural gas is possible between Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, leading to price convergence. The dotted lines show the average annual year-ahead gas price (Y+1) for the Netherlands and Germany. Given the good price convergence on the short-term market, the long-term price for the Netherlands and Germany can also be used as a reference for the Belgian market. The average gas price on the short-term market has more than doubled in 2022 in the three natural gas hubs. On ZTP, the average price of natural gas D+1 rose from €46.9/MWh in 2021 to €101.9/MWh in 2022. The average price of gas on the long-term market rose even more sharply. On TTF, the average price of natural gas Y+1 rose from €34.0/MWh in 2021 to €113.5/MWh (x 3.3). These average

Figure 16: Net natural gas transactions between the Belgian (Belux) ZTP natural gas market and border markets from 2013 to 2022 (H-gas and L-gas) (sources: CREG, data gasdata.fluxys.com)



184 The merger of the German gas market areas Gaspool (GPL) and Netconnect Germany (NCG) into a new single market area, called Trading Hub Europe (THE), took place on 1 October 2021. Consequently, the figures for Gaspool and NCG for 2021 have been calculated on a 9-month basis (January to September).
9-month basis (January to September), while the figures for THE have been calculated on a 3-month basis (October to December).

Figure 17: Average annual natural gas prices on the day-ahead and year-ahead markets (sources: CREG calculations, based on Gaspool, NCG, TTF, ZTP and TTF)



prices conceal significant price fluctuations (volatility), which reflect the exchanges but also the uncertainties under which the market operates. The resulting price signal is extremely valuable, both in effectively distributing the relative scarcity of natural gas, in ensuring that consumers make efficient choices in terms of savings and investment in alternative solutions and in attracting new energy flows. This price mechanism continued to operate during the natural gas crisis.

4.2. Competition

4.2.1. Price monitoring at wholesale and retail level

- **The supply of natural gas to large industrial customers**

The CREG carried out a new study on the supply of natural gas to large industrial customers in Belgium in 2021[185]. These customers, directly connected to the Fluxys Belgium grid, accounted for 24.5% of the consumption of Belgian final customers in 2021.

An analysis of the supply contracts shows that they are mainly short-term contracts (1, 2 or 3 years). In 2021, these supply contracts accounted for 30%, 39% and 25% of contracts, respectively.

88.2% of these customers have variable price contracts based on gas prices, around 10% of customers have a fixed-price contract and three customers (1.7% of the total) have a contract indexed to oil prices.

The market for industrial customers directly connected to the Fluxys Belgium grid remains dynamic and competitive. However, despite the rise in the HHI index and the increase

185 Study (F)2410 of 8 September 2022 on the supply of natural gas to large industrial customers in Belgium in 2021.

in volume switch rates, this market segment still needs to be monitored.

• Gas prices on the Belgian market in 2021

The CREG analysed the market, price formation, price level, price breakdown and billing in the various segments (import, resale, supply to residential and industrial customers and to power stations) of the Belgian natural gas market in 2021[186].

The Belgian natural gas market remains open to competition, with 40 active suppliers in 2021. The market shares of the main suppliers (Engie Electrabel, Total Energies Gas & Power, Eni SpA Belgium and Luminus) stabilised or increased slightly, depending on the segment analysed.

The study analyses prices and gross sales margins in the various market segments. Interestingly, in 2021, prices on the retail market were lower than prices for industrial customers connected to the transmission system. This is explained by the fact that 60% of retail customers had a fixed-price contract, compared with only 10% of industrial customers connected to the transmission system, even though prices rose sharply from autumn 2021.

• Other studies

The reader is also invited to consult Section 3.2.1. of this report.

4.2.2. Monitoring transparency and market openness

• REMIT

The reader is invited to consult Section 3.2.2.4. of this report.

• Charter of best practices for price comparison tools for electricity and gas

The reader is invited to consult Section 3.2.2.5. of this report.

4.3. Consumer protection

The reader is invited to consult Section 3.3. of this report.

4.4. Security of supply

4.4.1. Monitoring the balance between supply and demand

A. Natural gas demand

In 2022, the war in Ukraine led to an unprecedented supply crisis. Natural gas consumption (161.3 TWh) was 15.2% lower than in 2021 (190.2 TWh). Temperature variations in 2022 indicate that heating demand was 15.8% lower than in 2021. Natural gas consumption fell in all three segments: -19.7% on the distribution systems, -16.4% for industrial natural gas consumption and -2.8% for natural gas consumption by natural gas power plants.

In 2022, the average price of gas on the short-term market more than doubled compared with 2021. On ZTP, the average price of natural gas D+1 rose from €46.9/MWh to €101.9/MWh. The average price of gas on the long-term market rose even more sharply. On TTF, the average price of natural gas Y+1 rose from €34.0/MWh to €113.5/MWh (x 3.3).

186 Study (F)2503 of 22 December 2022 on prices on the Belgian natural gas market in 2021.

Figure 18: Breakdown by user segment of Belgian demand for H-gas and L-gas in 2021 and 2022 (source: CREG)

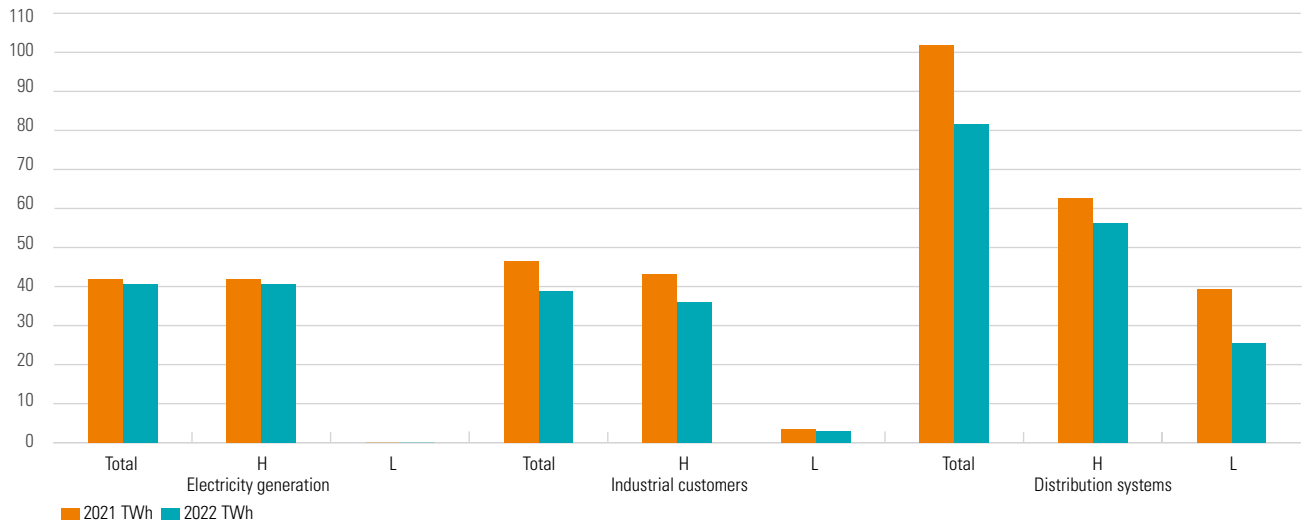
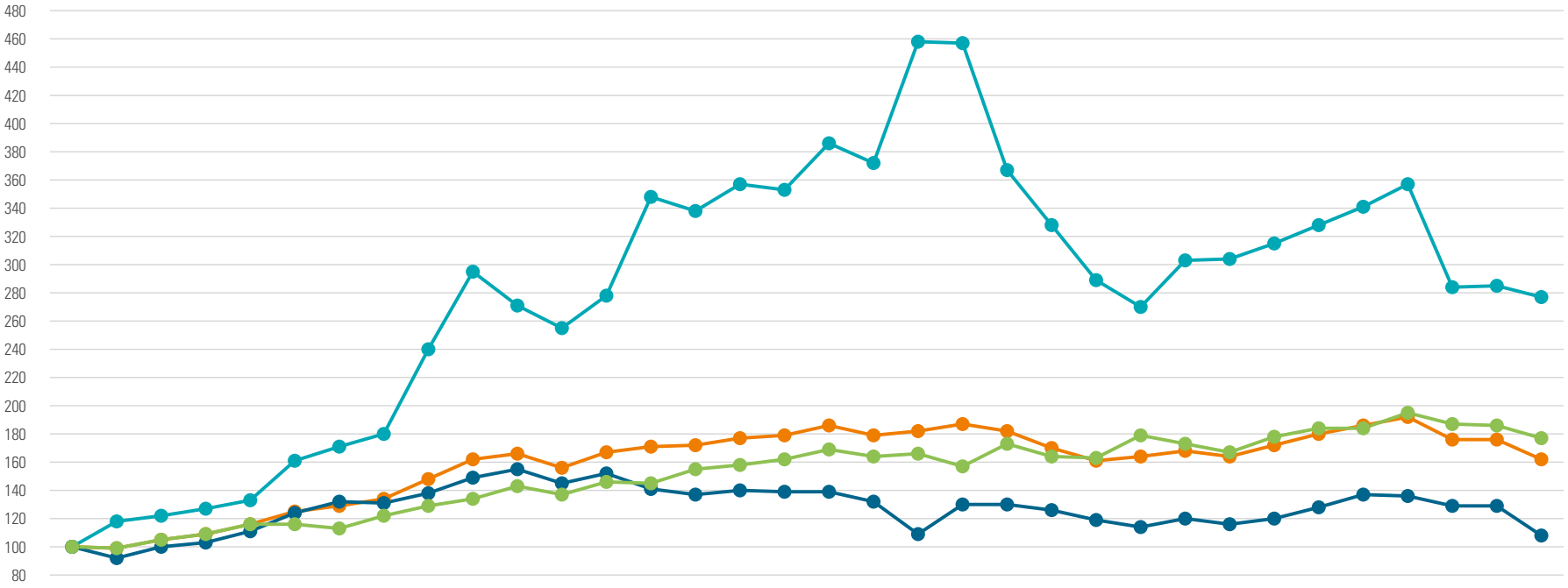


Table 11: Breakdown by user segment of Belgian demand for natural gas between 2013 and 2022 (in TWh) (source: CREG)

User segment	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	**2022**	**2022/2021**
Distribution	97.9	79.6	88	93	91.9	92.8	93.2	89.2	101.8	**81.71**	**-19.7%**
Industry (direct customers)	42.8	41.2	43.1	41.8	43.4	46.1	49.4	49	46.6	**38.94**	**-16.4%**
Electricity generation (centralised capacity)	42.5	39.7	44.6	44.7	46.3	48.2	50.2	52.5	41.8	**40.66**	**-2.8%**
Total	183.2	160.4	175.8	179.4	181.5	187.1	192.8	190.7	190.2	**161.3**	**-15.2%**

Figure 19: Trend in natural gas consumption by user segment over the period 1990-2022 (1990=100), adjusted for climate variations (source: CREG)



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Residential and equivalent	100	99	105	109	116	116	113	122	129	134	143	137	146	145	155	158	162	169	164	166	157	173	164	163	179	173	167	178	184	184	195	186	177
Industry	100	92	100	103	111	124	132	131	138	149	155	145	152	141	137	140	139	139	132	109	130	130	126	119	114	120	116	120	128	137	136	129	108
Electricity generation	100	118	122	127	133	161	171	180	240	295	271	255	278	348	338	357	353	386	372	458	457	367	328	289	270	303	304	315	328	341	357	285	277
Total	100	99	105	109	116	125	129	134	148	162	166	156	167	171	172	177	179	186	179	182	187	182	170	161	164	168	164	172	180	186	192	176	162

B. The supply of natural gas

Natural gas suppliers can choose from a range of entry points for access to the natural gas transmission system, both to carry out national and international natural gas transactions and to supply their Belgian customers with H-gas. Customers consuming L-gas are supplied from the Netherlands. LNG imports via the Zeebrugge terminal accounted for 20.4% of the average import portfolio for the Belgian market in 2022. Zeebrugge (Zeepipe (NO), Interconnector (GB)) is Belgium's main supply point, accounting for a 57.8% share in 2022. Together with the LNG terminal, Zeebrugge therefore supplies 78.5% of Belgium's gas liquidity.

The supply portfolios of individual natural gas suppliers give rise, overall, to a supply distributed according to contract type. The share of long-term contracts concluded with natural gas producers directly with a remaining term of more than five years is 14% (39% in 2021). Total supply through supply contracts signed directly with natural gas producers amounted to 15% (43% in 2021). Net supply on the wholesale market amounted to 85% (57% in 2021). The supply crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine has had a major impact on the types of contracts in the supply portfolio.

Figure 20: Breakdown of natural gas inflows by entry zone in 2022 (source: CREG calculations, based on gasdata.fluxys.com data)

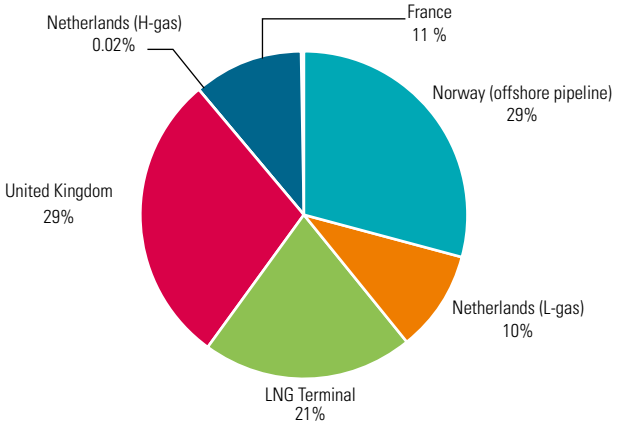


Figure 21: Composition of the average supply portfolio of suppliers active in Belgium in 2022 (source: provisional supplier data, CREG consolidation)

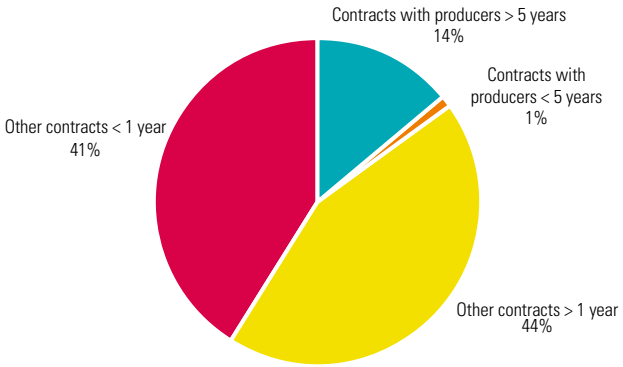
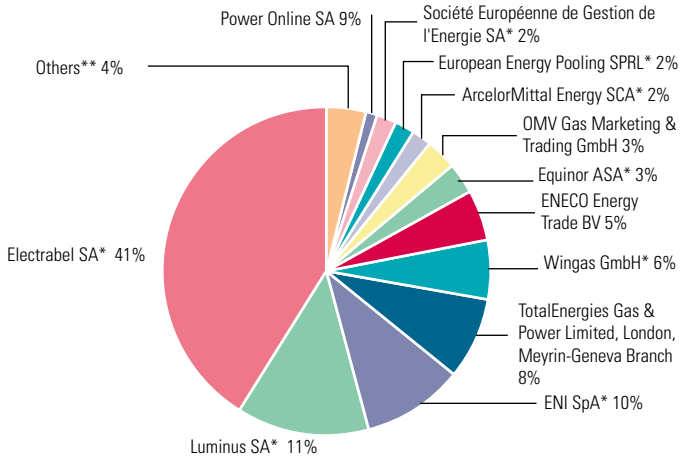


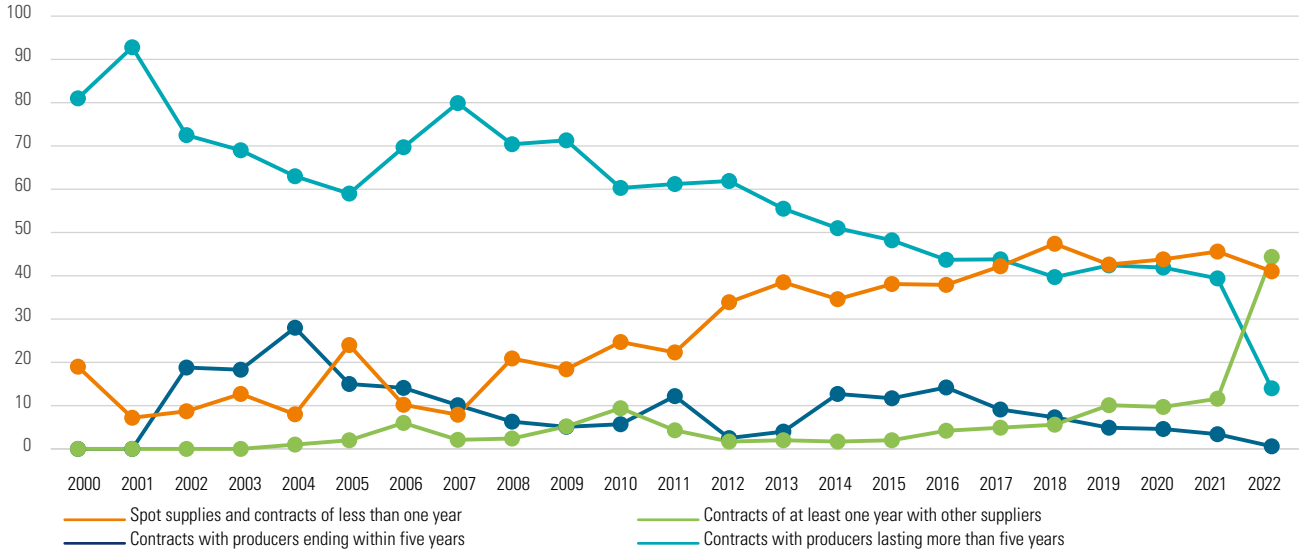
Figure 22: Market shares of supply companies on the transmission network in 2022 (source: supplier data, CREG consolidation)



* Holders of a federal supply permit during 2022.

** Supply companies active on the transmission system, each with a market share of less than 1 %: Axpo Solutions AG, Belgian Eco Energy NV, Energy Global Handel B.V., Enovos Luxembourg S.A., GETEC Energie GmbH, Lampiris SA, Novatek Gas & Power GmbH, Power Online SA, Progress Energy Services, Scholt Energy Control NV, Société Européenne de Gestion de l'Énergie S.A., TotalEnergies Electricité et Gaz France and Uniper Global Commodities SE

Figure 23: Composition of the average supply portfolio for the Belgian natural gas market between 2000 and 2022 (shares in %) (source: provisional supplier data, CREG consolidation)



In a note dated 25 February 2022, the CREG provided an overview of the natural gas supply situation and the degree of Belgium's dependence on natural gas on the single European market for natural gas[187]. This contribution is based on the current volatility on the natural gas market, which is causing natural gas prices and the resulting electricity prices to rise to unprecedented levels, in turn fuelling inflation. On the basis of monitoring reports published by ACER, the FPS Economy, the CREG, ENTSOG, the European Commission and Fluxys Belgium, the CREG has proposed an analysis to identify the appropriate energy policy.

187 Note (Z)2351 of 25 February 2022 on natural gas supplies and Belgium's dependence on natural gas

4.4.2. Monitoring the transmission system operator's investment plans

The natural gas transmission system managed by Fluxys Belgium has developed into a major crossroads for transmission pipelines in North-Western Europe, with a record number of links with neighbouring transmission systems. Import capacity is more than ten million cubic metres of natural gas per hour (100 GWh/h), with natural gas flowing in both directions.

Boosted by Europe's ambitious energy and climate objectives, the use of green gas such as biomethane and the conversion of electricity (particularly solar and wind power) into hydrogen (and possibly synthetic methane at a later date) will help determine the future of natural gas infrastructure. In any case, the natural gas infrastructure has the potential to make a major contribution to a cost-effective energy transition, not least because storing large volumes of electricity remains a difficult obstacle to overcome.

In February 2022, Fluxys Belgium drew up an indicative ten-year plan for the development of the grid (2022-2031) in accordance with Article 15/1, § 5 of the Gas Act. The CREG assessed this plan against ENTSOG's ten-year network development plan (TYNDP 2022) and the North West Gas Regional Investment Plan (NW GRIP 2020) of the North West European system operators, without finding any inconsistencies. This indicative investment plan was drawn up taking into account the energy and geopolitical situation at the end of 2021. It therefore did not take into account the consequences of the war in Ukraine, which led to an unprecedented supply crisis. In addition to the repercussions on demand for natural gas, the crisis has led to a major reorganisation of natural gas supply routes. Natural gas from Russia has been largely replaced by natural gas from the west (LNG). Fluxys Belgium is working on an updated indicative investment plan for the period 2023-2032, that takes this situation into account, and will be published in the first half of 2023.

It was already known that the Belgian market has a highly flexible natural gas supply pattern. This is due to the intense cross-border exchange of natural gas in Belgium and the choice of different sources depending on market conditions. 2022 also showed that the import possibilities at Zeebrugge are playing a key role in managing Europe's natural gas supply crisis and in finding alternatives to Russian natural gas in the short term.

A major transition underway is the conversion of the L-gas transmission system to a Belgian market (an integrated Belux market) for natural gas supplied exclusively with H-gas. The aim is to follow the indicative L/H conversion timetable proposed by Synergrid, the federation of electricity and gas system operators in Belgium, with a view to the complete phase-out of L-gas by the end of 2024.

In collaboration with the CREG, Fluxys Belgium has devised an efficient system to allow suppliers to convert to H-gas with a certain degree of flexibility and thus continue to supply customers who have already converted. During the conversion period in France, the transmission capacity required to supply L-gas to France will still be available. The timetable for the end of 2024 is based on re-using the existing infrastructure as much as possible in order to avoid investments that would only be necessary for the conversion period. The gradual adaptation to a market supplied exclusively with H-gas is part of the indicative ten-year plan for network development.

The energy transition and the adaptation of the existing natural gas transmission infrastructure to alternative gases (e.g. hydrogen) are currently the main challenges at both Belgian and European level. Fluxys Belgium and the CREG are jointly analysing the possibilities of optimising the existing natural gas infrastructure for the energy transition.

4.4.3. Forecasts of future demand, available reserves and additional capacity

• Demand

In view of the many current uncertainties and the energy transition policy that is in full development, forecasts of future gas demand are highly hypothetical and may change in the short term if market conditions and policy evolve.

Above all, the current geopolitical situation is clearly impacting all of the factors that determine gas demand. There is uncertainty regarding, for example, the competitive position of natural gas in the energy mix (in particular, for wholesale users), the economic outlook and the role of natural gas, as well as the introduction of alternative gases such as biomethane and hydrogen (power-to-gas) in the transition to a low-carbon economy.

The forecasts also depend on replacing demand for L-gas, which is expected towards the end of 2024 according to the L/H conversion plan set out in the indicative ten-year plan for the development of the Fluxys Belgium grid (see point 4.4.2. of this report). Accelerated convergence towards an integrated H-gas market in a context of stagnating or even falling demand for natural gas, coupled with an energy transition, will prompt a rethink of the gas market, and it is currently difficult to predict the ultimate structure of this market.

• Supply

As of 31 December 2022, 26 companies had a permit to supply H-gas to the Belgian market (as in 2021). The rate of diversification envisaged for importers as a whole is very high, both in terms of sources and supply routes. Driven in particular by the organisation of the market at European level, the natural gas market is seeing more and more short-term transactions, as well as increased trading, greater volatility, more international arbitrage and price coupling between European markets. In Belgium, conditions are favourable for

attracting and allocating natural gas flows, and could become even more so in view of the gradual transition to an integrated H-gas market by the end of 2024. Maintaining market liquidity in Belgium is essential both for Belgium's security of supply and for that of other North-Western European markets.

As regards the supply of L-gas, there are currently 14 suppliers (17 in 2021) (also active on the Belgian H-gas market) who were exclusively assigned to the Hilvarenbeek/Poppel interconnection point for supply from the Netherlands. Developments on the Belgian L-gas market will be determined to a significant extent by the gradual conversion of L-gas customers to H-gas. The current timetable in Fluxys Belgium's indicative investment plan 2022-2031 envisages that the conversion will be completed by the end of 2024.

4.4.4. Covering peak offtake

The peak offtake of natural gas in 2022 was recorded on Monday 10 January. At that time, Belgian natural gas consumption was 934 GWh (1,148 GWh in 2021), i.e. 2.1 times the average daily consumption. The distribution systems accounted for 60% of the peak offtake. 24% was used to generate electricity. The remaining 16% was industry offtake.

This peak daily consumption was covered by a range of natural gas sources. Some 34% came directly from the Norwegian gas fields in the North Sea, and reached Zeebrugge via the Zeepipe. Natural gas flows arriving on the Belgian market via France covered 19% of peak demand. L-gas from the Netherlands covered 15% of peak demand. In addition, 14% of this peak demand came from the LNG terminal at Zeebrugge, 13% from the UK via the Interconnect at Zeebrugge and 5% from underground storage at Loenhout.

Figure 24: Breakdown of peak offtake by user segment in 2022 (source: CREG)

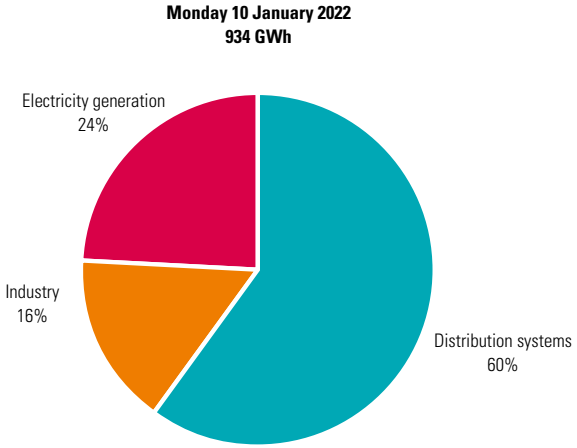
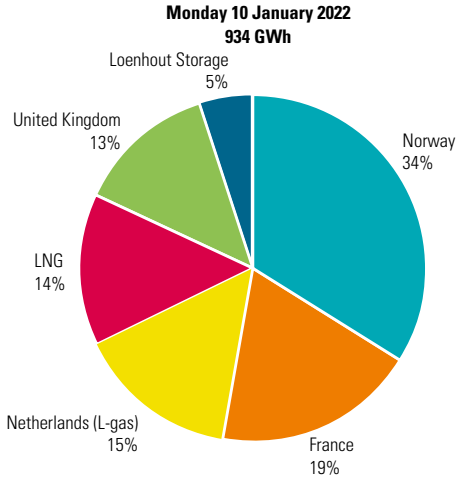


Figure 25: Breakdown of natural gas sources to cover peak demand in 2022 (source: CREG calculations, based on gasdata.fluxys.com data)



5 The CREG

5.1. The CREG's Board of Directors and staff

The Board of Directors is responsible for the operational management of the CREG and performs all acts necessary or useful for the performance of the tasks entrusted to it by the Electricity Act and the Gas Act.

It is chaired by Koen Locquet, who is also Director of General Affairs. The other two directors are Laurent Jacquet, Director of price control and accounts, and Andreas Tirez, Director of technical operations for the electricity and natural gas markets.

As of 31 December 2022, in addition to the three members of the Board of Directors, the CREG had a staff of 66.

5.2. Gas and Electricity Advisory Board

The Gas and Electricity Advisory Board is a consultative body and discussion forum set up under the CREG and the Federal Minister for Energy.

Its remit, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Minister, is to set out guidelines for the application of the Electricity Act and the Gas Act and their implementing decrees, to formulate an opinion on any question referred to it by the CREG Board of Directors and to act as a forum for discussion on energy policy objectives and strategies.

The Advisory Board met eight times in plenary session in 2022. It was chaired by Peter Claes and vice-chaired by Mathieu Verjans[188].

The participation of the Federal Minister for Energy or a representative of the Minister enabled the Advisory Board to focus its work on the most urgent aspects, and to be kept regularly informed of government concerns regarding gas and electricity. Question put forward by members to the Minister and her representative also served to inform the latter of the Advisory Board's concerns.

The Advisory Board issued one opinion in 2022, namely opinion CC220922-076 "on Hydrogen". The Advisory Board also published a study it commissioned from the Flanders Business School on the Princess Elisabeth maritime area[189].

A new Royal Decree on the composition and operation of the Advisory Board was published in the Belgian Official Gazette on 7 March 2022 and a Ministerial Decree of 16 May 2022 appointed its members[190].

5.3. Policy note, the annual report and the comparative report on the CREG's objectives and achievements

In accordance with the Electricity Act, on 20 October 2022 the CREG drew up its general policy note for 2023[191]. The general policy note sets out the objectives that the CREG will pursue in 2023, in accordance with its statutory duties and in the context of the strategic guidelines for energy drawn up by the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government. Each specific objective pursued is detailed, as are the resulting activities for 2023, with a list of deliverables and an indicative deadline for completion.

The policy paper accompanies the CREG's draft budget for 2023. Both were sent to the President of the Chamber of Representatives and to the Chair of the Commission for Energy, Environment and Climate (hereinafter the Energy Commission) and presented at a CREG hearing before the said Commission on 29 November 2022.

A comparative report[192] was also drawn up comparing the objectives set out in the general policy note for 2021 and their actual achievement in 2021. This report, together with the CREG's 2021 annual activity report, was sent on 29 April 2022 to the Federal Minister for Energy, the President of the Chamber of Representatives and the full members of the Energy Commission. In its general policy note for 2021, the CREG identified 14 issues, the multiple objectives of

188 The full list of members of the Consultative Council is available on the CREG website.
189 The opinion and the study are available at http://www.creg.info/AR-CC/fr/publications.html.
190 Ministerial Decree of 16 May 2022 appointing members to the Consultative Council for gas and electricity (Belgian Official Gazette of 13 June 2022).
191 General Policy Note (Z)2437 for the year 2023, 20 October 2022.
192 Comparative Report (Z)2353 of the objectives set out in the CREG's general policy note and the achievements for 2021, 21 April 2022.

which were to be achieved through various deliverables. The comparative report indicates the extent to which each action has been achieved, with a justification if achievement was only partial or if it was not achieved at all. It forms an appendix to the CREG's annual report.

5.4. Handling questions and complaints

In 2022, the CREG continued to voluntarily handle questions and complaints addressed to it by consumers, companies in the sector, lawyers, consultants, researchers, students, government departments or international bodies.

It also continued its collaboration with the Federal Energy Mediation Service, the three regional energy regulators (BRUGEL, CWaPE and VREG) and the Federal Public Service Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and Energy (Directorate-General for Economic Inspection and Directorate-General for Energy), the result of an agreement concluded in 2011 whereby the departments concerned agreed, in particular, on the procedure for handling questions and complaints that do not fall within the remit of the department that receives them. In the context of this collaboration, in February 2022 the CREG sent its complaints statistics for 2021 to the Federal Energy Mediation Service, which has an annual reporting obligation to the European Commission. In 2021, the CREG handled a total of 629 questions and 294 complaints (understood as any form of dissatisfaction).

A Complaints Task Force was also set up in 2022 at the request of the Federal Minister for Energy. This task force, made up of the Economic Inspectorate (EI), the Federal Energy Mediation Service and the CREG, meets every quarter and shares its complaints statistics in a note sent to the Minister.

Lastly, due to the large number of questions received from consumers in 2022, we have now also published several answers to the questions most frequently asked by consumers regarding energy prices, on the 'Contact' page of our website.

5.5. Sustainable development within the CREG

To ensure that its work is firmly anchored within the framework of the energy transition, the CREG has conducted an internal review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2020, it set up a sustainable development working group, to develop a systematic sustainability policy.

At the start of this initiative, this working group, supported by all the staff, identified the most relevant SDGs for the CREG through a series of interactive workshops.

One main SDG, four central SDGs and two related cross-cutting goals were selected:

- SDG 7: Affordable and clean energy (the main SDG)
- SDG 13: Climate action
- SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production
- SDG 1: No poverty
- SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions (cross-cutting)
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals (cross-cutting).

The question of which SDG could have the greatest impact on (the work of) the CREG was decisive in this respect.

The ultimate aim is to gradually integrate these SDGs, while also developing them, into the CREG's operations (at an internal and operational level) and into the performance of its tasks and activities at a more strategic level. To this end, a new section on sustainability was included in mid-2022 in the overview document attached to each item submitted to the Management Committee.

The working group has also started work on the first sustainability plan (to be drawn up and approved by the Management Committee in 2021). This includes a number of sustainable development strategies (SDS) and a pathway for developing and integrating these strategies into both the internal operational functioning and the strategic policy of the CREG.

In terms of collaboration, in 2022 the CREG took part in the "Climate Tables Energy" meetings organised by the FPS Environment and DG Energy, in the context of updating the National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030. It also made an active contribution to updating the NECP 2021-2023.

In 2022, the CREG also collaborated on a consultation on "sustainable energy development" carried out for the Minister for Energy with the aim of identifying the sustainability issues on which the Minister for Energy needs to focus in the coming years. The aim is to implement the decision of the Council of Ministers to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into the Ministers' general policy notes, based on sustainability matrices. In this context, the CREG was designated by the Minister as one of the priority stakeholders for this initiative.

Lastly, the working group also drew up a series of internal communications in the field of education and awareness-raising, in order to familiarise CREG staff more and in a dynamic manner with Agenda 2030, the SDGs and the SDSs of the CREG (implementation of step 1 of the SDG Compass process).

5.6. Presentations given by the CREG

Table 12: Overview of presentations made by members of the CREG in 2022

ORGANISING AUTHORITY	EVENT	PRESENTATION TITLE	DATE
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT ad-hoc Energy Crisis Ad-hoc werkgroep Energy Crisis	La gestion des prix de l'énergie : les conséquences pour les ménages et les entreprises Beheer van de energieprijzen: gevolgen voor de huishoudens en de ondernemingen	12/01
		Update on the European gas market and impact on gas and electricity prices	12/01
CREG	Beweging.academie vzw	De stijgende energieprijzen	17/01
CEER	GA	Energy price developments	20/01
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT fonctionnement marchés gaz et électricité WG marktwerking gas en elektriciteit	Étude (F)2307 relative aux prix pratiqués sur le marché belge du gaz naturel en 2020	24/01
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT fonctionnement marchés gaz et électricité WG marktwerking gas en elektriciteit	Étude 2285 sur la fourniture d'électricité des grands clients industriels en Belgique en 2020	24/01
		Scarcity pricing: an introduction & incentives	24/01
SPF FOD Économie	Stakeholder Conference Belgian Offshore energy from and for everyone	Study on the eligibility and award criteria to be recommended and the financial conditions for the competitive tendering procedure for the Princess Elisabeth Zone	28/01
FORBEG	Fournisseurs sur le marché - Leveranciers op de markt	Update on the gas market	14/02
ACER	EFM Policy paper meeting	Electricity Forward market - CREG suggestions	21/02
	Rencontre du RWADE, de la FDSS et d'IGE	Étude relative à la hausse des prix de l'électricité et du gaz naturel en Belgique	22/02
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT fonctionnement marchés gaz et électricité WG marktwerking gas en elektriciteit	Note (Z)2328 relative aux évolutions marquantes sur les marchés de gros belges de l'électricité et du gaz naturel en 2021 Nota (Z)2328 over de opvallende evoluties op de Belgische groothandelsmarkten voor elektriciteit en aardgas in 2021	23/02
ELIA	Energy Management Strategy workshop (EMS)	Accepted market practices according to REMIT	24/02
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	Proposition de la CREG sur la capacité à acheter et le prix (courbe de demande) et avis de la CREG sur les paramètres d'enchère (facteurs de réduction, IPC...) CREG-voorstel over aan te kopen capaciteit en prijs (vraagcurve) en CREG-advies over veiling-parameters (reductiefactoren, IPC,...)	09/03
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	La tarification sur le marché de l'énergie De prijsvorming in de energiemarkt	15/03
C.P.A.S.	Journée Inter-C.P.A.S.	Comprendre la crise énergétique actuelle et ses enjeux pour l'avenir	15/03
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT énergie renouvelable WG hernieuwbare energie	Avis sur le Modular offshore Grid phase 2 : projet d'extension du réseau de transport en mer	16/03
ODE	O(DE)Nmoetingen (maandelijkse webinar)	Extreme prijzen in day-aheadmarkten: observaties, theorie en analyse	18/03
ABC/BMA	GT windfall profits	Étude sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité	21/03
FORBEG	Leveranciers op de markt - Fournisseurs sur le marché	Gasmarkt stand van zaken	22/03

ORGANISING AUTHORITY	EVENT	PRESENTATION TITLE	DATE
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT composants des prix WG prijzencomponenten	Quatrième rapport de monitoring de l'extension des tarifs sociaux électricité et gaz naturel aux BIM Vierde monitoringverslag over de uitbreiding van de sociale tarieven elektriciteit en aardgas naar BVT	29/03
Core TSOs	Core consultative group	Observation on the Core DA FB MC Interpretation of the parallel run results	29/03
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT composants des prix et fonctionnement marchés gaz et électricité WG prijzencomponenten & marktwerking gas en elektriciteit	Étude (F)2336 sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité Studie (F)2336 over de gevolgen van de aanhoudende hoge groothandelsmarktprijzen voor gas en elektriciteit	29/03
ACV/CNE	Comprendre la crise énergétique actuelle	Comprendre la crise énergétique actuelle	31/03
ELIA	WG EMD & SO (Electricity Market Design & System Operations).	70% MACZT COMPLIANCE REPORT - 2021	31/03
ELIA	Belgian Grid	CREG Gedragscode - Elektriciteit: Stand van zaken	01/04
SRBE-KBVE	New Concepts for Electricity Pricing	Fundamental principles - Wholesale electricity price and scarcity pricing	01/04
CPCP	Énergie, climat et précarité : un cocktail explosif?	Les mécanismes européens de fixation des prix	19/04
IKW	Note 2351 - Nota 2351	Approvisionnement en gaz naturel et dépendance au gaz naturel de la Belgique Aardgasbevoorrading en aardgasafhankelijkheid van België	21/04
IKW	IKW Énergie	Réponses de la CREG aux questions complémentaires de la ministre de l'Énergie sur l'étude relative à la persistance de prix élevés sur le marché de gros du gaz et de l'électricité Antwoorden van de CREG op de bijkomende vragen van de minister van Energie over de studie over gevolgen van de aanhoudende hoge groothandelsmarktprijzen van gas en elektriciteit	26/04
CREG	Workshop on scarcity pricing	Wholesale electricity price and scarcity pricing	29/04
		Scarcity pricing mechanism: legal issues	29/04
		Description and justification of the design	29/04
Umons	Séminaire UMONS Energy Markets - édition 2022	Electricity and gas markets in Belgium: important issues regarding prices and regulation	06/05
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	Presentation and walk-through of the ACER final assessment of the EU Electricity Market Design	10/05
CWAPE	Colloque à l'occasion des 20 ans de la régulation du secteur en Wallonie	Le principe d'indépendance du régulateur : pierre angulaire de la régulation des marchés	17/05
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	Avis de la CREG sur la proposition de loi du PVDA-PTB institu- ant une taxe spéciale sur les surprofits dans le secteur de l'énergie Advies van de CREG over het wetsvoorstel van de PVDA-PTB tot instelling van een bijzondere overwinstentaks in de energiesector	24/05
Commission d'accompagnement Service de lutte contre la pauvreté - Begeleidingscommissie Steunpunt tot bestrijding van armoede		Les tarifs sociaux et les prix de l'énergie	09/06
École des Mines de Paris	Tarifs sociaux en pratique : cas de la Belgique	Les tarifs sociaux - cas de la Belgique	10/06
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	GT fonctionnement marchés électricité WG marktwerking elektriciteit	Study (F)2355 on the functioning and price evolution of the Belgian wholesale electricity market - Monitoring report 2021	14/06

ORGANISING AUTHORITY	EVENT	PRESENTATION TITLE	DATE
ELIA	Belgian Grid	CREG Code de bonne conduite - Électricité : Projet de décision et consultation publique CREG Gedragscode - Elektriciteit: Ontwerpbeslissing en openbare raadpleging -	23/06
CREG	WG FEBEG	Work-in-progress gas market	05/07
Cabinet Van der Straeten	IKW Énergie	Étude sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité	06/09
		Avis (A) 2424 relatif à des mesures visant à sauvegarder la compétitivité des entreprises et le pouvoir d'achat des clients résidentiels	06/09
Kabinet Van der Straeten	Werkvergadering	Winterplan 2022-2023: 250MW reservecapaciteit voor netevenwicht	13/09
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	Étude sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité Studie over de gevolgen van de aanhoudende hoge groothandels-marktprijzen voor gas en elektriciteit	13/09
EC -DG ENER	Energy Platform Task Force - Workshop with Member States	What should be the role of the Joint Purchase Mechanism for Gas?	16/09
CREG	Séance d'information aux fournisseurs de chaleur Informatiesessie voor warmteleveranciers	Tarif social chaleur : remboursement des créances via la CREG Sociaal tarief warmte: terugbetaling van vorderingen via de CREG	19/09
CEER	CEER specialised training on electricity market design and renewables	Analysis of the Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Project's go-live	22/09
		General introduction to the training	22/09
		Fundamental principles of electricity market design	22/09
		Incentives in balancing electricity markets	23/09
Kabinet Van der Straeten	IKW Énergie	Advies 2394 over een premiesysteem voor de toepassing van het sociaal tarief bij onuitvoerbare gevallen (collectieve verwarmingsketels buiten een sociale woning)	04/10
KUL	Guest course	Organisatie van elektriciteitsmarkten en marktkoppeling in een Europese context	10/10
Febeliec	Febeliec Energy Forum	High energy prices & energy market design – a regulator's view	12/10
ELIA	WG EMD & SO	Analysis of the Core Flow-Based Market Coupling Project's go-live	14/10
ACER	Core NRA meeting	CREG's study on the Core DA FBMC and the impact of validation adjustments and allocation constraints	18/10
ACER	Future Policy TF	Alternative Hub definition	24/10
Conseil consultatif - Adviesraad	WG SOS - GT SOS	Low Carbon Tender : de nood, invloed van de low carbon vereiste op de markt en compatibiliteit met EU-kader - Enchère bas carbone : nécessité, impact de l'exigence bas carbone sur le marché et compatibilité avec cadre européen	23/11
Chambre - Kamer	Audition - Hoorzitting	Budget - Note politique générale 2023 Begroting - Algemene beleidsnota 2023	29/11
ACER	Core NRA meeting	CREG analysis over 2nd amendment of the Core Intraday Capacity Calculation Methodology	19/12
		CRE & CREG's observations on the functioning of the Core FBMC and recent capacity reductions	20/12

5.7. The CREG and other bodies

5.7.1. The CREG and the European Commission

The new geopolitical reality and the turbulence on the energy markets, including high energy prices and the necessary reorganisation of Europe's natural gas supply, prompted the European institutions to come up with a whole new dynamic to confront this situation in 2022.

The European Commission took the first step in this direction on 8 March 2022 by calling for joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy in the REPowerEU plan[193]. Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, calls were made for Europe to wean itself off Russian fossil fuels well before 2030, starting with natural gas. Europe has been facing rising energy prices for several months, but the situation is getting worse on account of the war.

The European Commission is building on the toolkit for the October 2021 Communication on energy prices[194], which helps Member States mitigate the impact of high prices on vulnerable consumers. This toolkit remains an important framework for national measures, confirming that prices can be regulated in exceptional circumstances. However, additional guidelines also clarify how Member States can redistribute revenues from high energy profits and emissions trading to consumers.

The Commission's toolbox on energy prices from October 2021 has helped citizens and businesses to cope with the high energy prices of recent months. 25 Member States, including Belgium, have taken measures that are already reducing the energy bills of around 70 million households and several million micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

In addition, the European Commission has announced that it will study all options for emergency measures, including temporary price limits, to prevent gas prices from having a knock-on effect on electricity prices. It will also assess options for optimising the design of the electricity market, taking into account the final report of the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) on the advantages and disadvantages of alternative pricing mechanisms to keep electricity affordable without disrupting supply, and further investment in the green transition.

This eventually led to specific European Council regulations in the second half of 2022, which were targeted and envisaged as emergency interventions, but only for a limited period. These measures have resulted in various additional tasks for the CREG, including:

- examining additional certification for Fluxys Belgium SA as a storage system operator[195] in order to reduce the risk of third-party influence; and
- applying a cap on market revenues for energy products (electricity)[196] in order to return excess revenues to consumers in addition to the marginal cost.

Since the invasion of Ukraine, the case for a rapid transition to clean energy has never been stronger or more self-evident. This transition needs to dramatically accelerate, to make Europe much less energy dependent on unreliable suppliers and volatile fossil fuels. Although the work to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal published in November 2019 was put on the back burner more in 2022, these objectives are still valid. Building a competitive, sustainable and secure market therefore remains, more than ever, Europe's priority strategy.

In this context, the CREG fulfilled its advisory role in 2022 by assisting the federal government at various meetings under the presidency of the European Commission. These included cross-border meetings of the Gas Committee and the Electricity Committee to monitor and approve changes to the network codes, meetings of the Gas Coordination Group on security of supply and the development of gas infrastructure in the European interest and meetings of the Electricity Coordination Group on the security and adequacy of electricity supply, the development of electricity interconnections and cyber security.

The CREG also followed the work of the North Seas Energy Cooperation (NSEC) of the European Commission and the North Sea countries concerned. More specifically, and in collaboration with the Directorate-General for Energy, the CREG played an active role in the work of two specific working groups which are part of the new NSEC structure: Support Group 1 "Hybrid and joint projects" and Support Group 4 "Delivering 2050". The latter focuses on the "Challenges ahead to 2050", which include visionary ideas such as hub-and-spoke concepts, power-to-x and other potential offshore technologies.

In the context of these activities, the CREG also actively participated in forums chaired by the European Commission, including the European Gas Regulatory Forum, the European Electricity Regulatory Forum, the Citizens' Energy Forum and the Energy Infrastructure Forum (see points 5.7.4. to 5.7.7. below).

The CREG has also sent Belgium's national report for 2021 to the European Commission and ACER. This report was drawn up in close collaboration with the regional regulators (BRUGEL, CWaPE and VREG) and the Federal Energy Mediation Service. It includes the measures taken and the results obtained for each of the statutory missions of these bodies.

193 Joint European action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy (europa.eu).
194 EUR-Lex - 52021DC0660 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu).
195 Gas storage (europa.eu).
196 EUR-Lex - 32022R1854 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu).

Lastly, and in consultation with the regional regulators where relevant, the CREG took part in a number of consultations and reports by European bodies, in the context of the harmonisation and integration of the European gas and electricity market. In 2022, these covered the following topics: DG ENER survey on the allocation of costs and benefits for offshore infrastructure in EU sea basins, DG ENER online survey on NRA independence and DG ENER survey on energy storage.

5.7.2. The CREG within ACER

ACER (Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators) was established by the third energy package to encourage the completion of the internal energy market for both electricity and natural gas.

The three objectives it has set out based on the enacted legislation are:

- a more competitive integrated market offering consumers more choice;
- an efficient energy infrastructure which guarantees the free movement of energy and access to new energy sources across borders, thereby improving security of supply for businesses and consumers in the European Union; and
- a controlled and transparent energy market where consumers are guaranteed fair prices that reflect costs and where abuses are avoided.

In 2022, ACER carried out activities for each of these objectives, depending on the challenges that arose on the energy market. ACER still devotes a large part of its resources, via the monitoring of network codes and guidelines, to the implementation of the Clean Energy for All Europeans (CEP) legislative package, published on 14 June 2019. This work has been supplemented over the years by new responsibilities, including the Green Deal approved by the European bodies at the end of 2021 and the objectives of the carbon-neutral energy policy.

While ACER continues to focus on its legal mandate, it also exercises its advisory role for the European bodies as the European agency on the functioning of the energy markets. Since energy prices in Europe reached unprecedented levels in mid-2021, in collaboration with national energy regulators, ACER started to assess the main drivers, dynamics and future prospects of energy prices in Europe, as well as their potential impact on European wholesale markets and consumers. *An interim assessment published in November 2021 was further developed in April 2022 in a Final assessment of the EU Wholesale Electricity Market Design*[197].

In this latest publication, ACER confirms that the energy crisis, which ultimately affected all of 2022, is essentially due to a gas price shock, with a knock-on effect on electricity prices. In this respect, ACER believes that the current design of the electricity market is not to blame for the current crisis. On the contrary, in ACER's view, the existing market rules, thanks to the links created between the energy markets within the European Union, have to some extent helped to mitigate the current crisis. Nevertheless, ACER identifies 13 different measures to ensure the future of the current electricity market design. It therefore lays the foundations for the European Commission to launch a process to adjust the design of the electricity market by the end of 2022.

ACER also provided the European Commission with detailed information on the situation regarding natural gas storage in the EU Member States[198], based on information provided by the CREG and the other national energy regulators. This information was published against a backdrop of heightened vigilance with regard to a possible disruption in natural gas supplies, and prompted EU leaders to decide, in August 2022, to replenish European storage facilities for the winter of 2022-2023.

■ *Gas Working Group*

The CREG is closely involved in ACER's Gas Working Group (GWG). It holds the vice-presidency.

In 2022, the ACER GWG issued four formal opinions on the ENTSOG Summer Supply Outlook 2022, the ENTSOG Winter Supply Outlook 2022/2023, the ENTSOG Ten-Year Network Development Plan 2022 and the ENTSOG Annual Work Programme. The GWG also approved the PCI (Projects of Common Interest) Monitoring Report and a note on re-using natural gas infrastructure for pure hydrogen.

The various task forces of the ACER GWG worked on other reports, including the "9th Annual Report on Contractual Congestion at Interconnection Points".

A large part of the work of these task forces focused on dealing with questions raised by market participants on the FUNC transparency platform. This platform was set up to provide more clarification on the European network codes and also, in particular, to create greater flexibility in reserving firm transmission capacity at interconnection points.

197 ACER's Final Assessment of the EU Wholesale Electricity Market Design.pdf (europa.eu), 29 April 2022.
198 ACER Report on Gas Storage Regulation and Indicators.pdf (europa.eu), 7 April 2022.

Lastly, and in cooperation with the CEER GWG, the ACER GWG approved the reference publication on the monitoring of the wholesale natural gas and decarbonised gas markets.

■ *Electricity Working Group*

ACER's EWG is made up of the following task forces (TF):

- the CACM TF: ensures the introduction of the CACM (Capacity Allocation and Congestion Management) network code
- the FP TF: responsible for drawing up the Future Policy for the electricity market
- the FCA TF: responsible for implementing the FCA (Forward Capacity Allocation) network code relating to the allocation of long-term transmission capacity
- the EB (Electricity Balancing) TF: responsible for balancing matters in the control area
- the INF TF: responsible for matters relating to the ten-year network development plan of the ENTSO-E (European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity)
- the SOGC (System Operation and Grid Connection) TF: responsible for matters relating to system operation and connection to the grid
- the Adequacy & CRMs TF: responsible for implementing methodologies linked to the European assessment of resource adequacy and the possible national introduction of a capacity mechanism.

In 2022, the CREG co-ordinated the CACM, FCA and EB task forces.

ACER's EWG focused its activities on the implementation of the European CACM, FCA, SO and EB regulations, which required a large number of coordinated decisions at European or regional level (the CREG, as the regulator for Elia, is part of the regional groupings of regulators in the Core capacity calculation region). These coordinated decisions demand considerable work and follow a highly formal process set out in the European regulations and in the operating rules of the respective groupings. These decisions are detailed in Section 3.1.4.3. of this report.

The CREG EWG also played a coordinating role in drafting ACER's annual market monitoring report and in preparing the implementation of the Clean Energy Package, for example, the modalities for implementing the rule of 70% of the capacity offered for cross-zonal exchanges. In addition, the CREG played an important role within the EWG in drafting a joint position paper by CEER and ACER on identifying improvements to be made to the European (cross-border) electricity markets in the long term.

Lastly, ACER EWG played a coordinating role between the participating regulators, in particular, in the review of approval procedures for various directives (CACM, FCA, EB and SO), in the planned revision of the CACM Regulation (CACM 2.0) and in the development of coordinated positions in consultations of the European Commission, including the consultation on the possible revision of the internal electricity market.

■ *ACER REMIT Committee*

In 2022, the activities of the working group focused on various themes: market monitoring in a context of high energy prices, ACER's coordination of REMIT cases and the revision of REMIT following new developments on the energy markets.

A consolidation of the existing MMoU between the regulators and ACER was approved. Among other things, this will allow information to be shared with financial and competition regulators.

A lot of work has been carried out in response to the European Commission's request to analyse the rise in energy prices. Various discussions have taken place on this subject in the working group, in order to report on the problems in the different Member States and to measure the impact on cases of market abuse.

In addition, ACER surveyed the regulators on the missions they are tasked with, firstly in terms of coordinating cases using the tools made available and communicating with the regulators, and secondly in terms of monitoring the energy markets. Discussions were subsequently held with a view to improving the areas requiring attention (e.g. ACER's responsiveness, better communication from regulators on cases, etc.).

The last point discussed concerned the review of REMIT in light of the changing reality of the energy market and the adjustments made to the financial regulations following the rise in energy prices. This discussion will continue in 2023.

■ *Legal Experts Network*

The Legal Experts Network (LEN), set up within ACER in December 2017, is a network made up of legal experts from ACER and national regulators, including the CREG. The aim of the LEN is to provide ACER, BoR and ACER's working groups with support and expert advice on issues of a technical-legal nature. There was no activity within the group in 2022.

■ *Questionnaires*

The CREG played an active role in drafting the following ACER questionnaires and responded to them within the context of the harmonisation and integration of the European electricity and gas markets:

1. *Transmission and Distribution Tariff questionnaires*
2. *ACER Implementation Monitoring Report on "System Operation Guideline and the KORRR": CREG input to Monitoring Questionnaire (SOGL)*
3. *Survey - DG ENER Study on "Assessing the independence and effectiveness of National Regulatory Authorities*

(NRAs) in the field of energy - Support for a Commission report on Member States' compliance with the principle of independence"

4. *ACER Distribution Tariff questionnaire*
5. *Analysis of the independence of NRAs through the recent ECJ case-law - RBM WS - input -*
6. *ACER questionnaire for the review of projects in the draft TYNDP 2022 and other cross-border relevant projects*

These questionnaires serve as the basis for reports, status reviews, position papers and other ACER documents. They not only provide a detailed description of the differences and similarities between Member States, but also provide information on the degree of application of European legislation in each Member State. The European Commission in turn uses these documents as a basis for legislative initiatives.

5.7.3. CREG within CEER

As a founding member of the CEER (Council of European Energy Regulators), the CREG actively participates in the discussions, deliberations and decisions of the CEER General Assembly, which met on 8 occasions in 2022. Since 22 March 2019, the position of Vice-Chairman of the CEER has been held by Mr Koen Locquet, acting Chairman of the CREG Management Committee.

In 2022, the CEER launched its new three-year strategy. Europe's energy regulators, including the CREG, will strive to contribute to a carbon-neutral society and economy by "Empowering consumers in the energy transition"[199]. Among other things, this includes:

- enabling energy system integration: integrating renewables and incentivising innovation;
- placing consumers at the centre of energy markets with consumer-centric dynamic regulation, empowering consumers to actively contribute to and benefit from a flexible energy system; and
- ensuring open, well-functioning and resilient markets nationally and in Europe: delivering flexibility and new business models.

The CREG actively participated in the meetings of the CEER working groups (and work streams created within these working groups) as chair, co-chair, vice-chair or member.

■ *Electricity Working Group*

The EWG is made up of 4 work streams:

- a Renewables work stream (RES WS) responsible for issues related to renewable energy;
- a Future Policy work stream (FP WS), responsible for market design issues and related policy initiatives;
- an Incentives Regulation and Efficiency Benchmarking work stream (IRB WS) responsible for issues related to incentive regulation, analysing the European regulatory frameworks and TSO cost-efficiency benchmarking; and
- an Infrastructure work stream (INF WS) responsible for infrastructure and network planning issues.

In 2022, among other things, the CREG worked on the design of long-term electricity markets and the energy transition, in particular, in terms of support in identifying improvements to be made to these (cross-border) markets to promote liquidity and hedging opportunities for market participants. In addition, the CREG helped draft a position paper on integrating offshore bidding zones to support the integration of renewable energies.

■ *Gas Working Group*

The Gas Working Group (GWG) of European energy regulators deals with issues relating to European gas transmission systems and the EU gas market. The CREG holds the vice-presidency.

The GWG works closely with ENTSO-G, GIE, GSE and GLE on various aspects, as well as with other market participants and the ACER and CEER working groups.

In 2022, the CEER GWG analysed the regulation of long-term energy storage from a sectoral coupling perspective. An opinion was subsequently published on the proposal for a regulation amending Regulations (EU) 2017/1938 and (EC) 715/2009 on conditions for access to natural gas transmission networks. A webinar was held on this subject with 415 stakeholders.

The CEER GWG closely followed the legislative process on the Hydrogen and Decarbonised Gas Market Package and the Methane Emissions Regulation. In particular, the CEER GWG gave its opinion on the proposals to the European Commission. CEER also prepared information packs on the successive revisions made by the Presidency of the Council, on the proposed amendments and on the reports of the relevant committees of the European Parliament.

Lastly, the CEER GWG produced a report on small-scale LNG services in the EU.

199 2022-2025 Strategy - ceer.eu.

■ *Market Integrity and Transparency Working Group*

The Market Integrity and Transparency Working Group (MIT WG) addresses the issues of transparency and supervision of energy trading, including the interrelationship of wholesale energy market legislation and relevant financial market legislation.

The working group's activities in 2022 focused on three themes: implementation of REMIT at national level, the energy crisis, financial regulation and links with REMIT.

With regard to the implementation of REMIT at national level, a questionnaire was drawn up to obtain an overview of the situation in the various Member States. Additional questions were added by some regulators, on the one hand on the alerts from the REMIT potential case detection tools, in terms of number, frequency and triggering of investigations and, on the other hand, on the type of data monitored by the regulators in their market supervision role. A summary report was drawn up and shared within the group after all the regulators had responded to the questionnaire.

With regard to the energy crisis, various presentations and discussions focused on the context of high prices on the energy markets and on the CO_2 market, as well as on measures to deal with this energy crisis.

With regard to the monitoring of financial regulations and links with REMIT, the working group followed the discussions and proposed changes to financial regulations following the rise in energy prices.

■ *Regulatory Benchmarking Workstream*

The Regulatory Benchmarking Workstream (RBM WS) met on 9 occasions in 2022.

The group's discussions and work primarily focused on dynamic regulation, the internal organisation and independence of national regulatory authorities, tariff procedures and dynamic price contracts.

With regard to dynamic regulation, the workstream took the initiative of organising a webinar on 22 June 2022 for CEER members and stakeholders, to shed light on the challenges of this regulation and to present CEER's recent publications and work on the subject.

The group also discussed the implementation of Article 11 of the Electricity Directive on dynamic prices and tariff procedures, respectively, prior to drawing up a specific report on each of these issues in the various Member States on the basis of a specific questionnaire.

The internal organisation of the national regulatory authorities, including aspects relating to their independence, as well as the work programme for 2023, were also the subject of specific attention within the workstream.

■ *Customers and Retail Markets Working Group*

The Customers and Retail Markets WG (CRM WG), of which the CREG is an active member, focuses its work on the position of consumers and the protection of their interests on the liberalised market, on the one hand, and the operation of the retail market on the other, in order to establish optimum competition in the interests of consumers.

The CRM WG is particularly attentive to the new dimensions of the consumer on the energy market and, in particular, the active role that consumers are called upon to play on competitive and integrated energy markets. As such, the CRM WG closely monitors consumer protection, provides vulnerable consumers with tools, warns of potential loopholes in certain technological or commercial innovations and ensures that consumers have sufficient means to act in accordance with the principles of the new European legislative packages (such as price comparison tools, the right of action, information on bills, sufficient understanding of the market) and make informed choices on the energy market.

The CRM WG is made up of 5 work streams (WS), as well as the Partnership for the Enforcement of European Rights (PEER).

The Customer Empowerment Work Stream (CEM WS) looks at certain aspects of the retail market, such as billing to final customers, complaints handling, alternative dispute resolution procedures, price comparison tools and the protection of vulnerable energy consumers.

The Innovation and Retail Markets Work Stream (IRM WS) looks at issues related to a well-functioning retail market, such as the introduction of smart meters, dynamic energy prices and the design of electricity and natural gas retail markets. It focuses on how to empower consumers through increased competition between market players and to increase the level of consumer choice by establishing robust market procedures and metering services. Its aim is to empower energy consumers, while ensuring that they are adequately protected.

The Monitoring Customer Empowerment Work Stream (MCE WS) is mainly involved in drafting the chapter on consumer protection and empowerment in ACER-CEER's annual market monitoring report.

The Monitoring Retail Markets Work Stream (MRM WS) is responsible for drafting the CEER (only) monitoring report on the retail market and managing the CEER national indicators database.

The Retail Markets Roadmap Work Stream (RMR WS) coordinates the self-assessment between regulators, in order to obtain a harmonised assessment of retail markets in each Member State. The aim of this group is to obtain a clear picture of the gaps in retail markets by 2025.

The CRM WG is also responsible for the PEER (Partnership for the Enforcement of European Rights) initiative within CEER. This initiative was launched by European energy regulators to strengthen the enforcement of European consumer rights through better cooperation between authorities at EU level. The PEER brings together the authorities involved in protecting and/or supporting European consumers, with a cross-sectoral approach. These include data protection authorities, consumer associations, ombudsmen, competition authorities and sectoral regulatory authorities (e.g. energy, telecommunications, finance, etc.). One of the aims is to exchange best practice, so that if necessary we can adapt or propose appropriate solutions that are more in line with our respective sectoral needs.

Lastly, in 2022 the CRM WG took part in various workshops and conferences, including the annual Citizen's Energy Forum in Dublin organised by the European Commission in a "hybrid" format. Furthermore, the CRM WG participated in the Rapid Reporting Team, tasked by the General Assembly with providing monthly updates on the energy crisis and collecting data based on contributions from the working groups.

■ *Distribution Systems Working Group*

The Distribution Systems Working Group (DS WG) deals with developments and potential developments in the field of energy distribution, their consequences for the regulatory framework, as well as topics related to the current and future activities of distribution system operators, namely: quality of supply of electricity and natural gas, cyber security, smart grids, distribution tariffs and flexibility in the management of distribution systems.

In 2022, the DS WG finalised and published the following documents:

- the 7th CEER-ECRB Benchmarking Report on the Quality of Electricity and Gas Supply, which provides in-depth surveys and analyses of the quality of electricity and natural gas supply across Europe. It includes recommendations for good regulatory practice to maintain a good level of continuity of supply, voltage quality and commercial quality for customers across Europe.
- the CEER Paper on Regulatory Sandboxes in Incentive Regulation, which aims to clarify and provide a framework for the various tools that national energy regulators can use to facilitate innovation in the context of the incentive regulation of system operators.

■ *Legal Affairs Committee*

The CREG plays an active role in the Legal Affairs Committee (LAC).

In 2022, the CREG held the Chair and Vice-Chair of this committee (which reports directly to the CEER General Assembly, as in previous years).

The LAC advises on the legal and institutional aspects of implementing the Clean Energy Package and on the various legislative and regulatory texts under the EU Green Deal. Upon request, the LAC also provides specific legal support to other CEER working groups, task forces and work streams. It also handles specific legal questions from national regulators concerning the implementation of European regulatory provisions.

In 2022, as usual, the LAC handled ad hoc questions from national regulators concerning the implementation of European energy regulations, including a series of ad hoc questions on the practical application of the requirements for certification and unbundling of transmission system operators, public price comparison tools, authorisations linked to the development of new generation capacity (solar power plants) and the implementation of the provisions of the European directive on cooperation and exchanges of information between national regulators as well as cooperation within ACER.

Following in-depth discussions between the national regulators, the LAC developed this last question on the implementation of Article 61(1) of Directive (EU) 2019/944 in a note "on information exchanged between NRAs (obligations and procedural aspects)", presented as an internal document to the General Assembly.

The LAC also organised a specific workshop in May 2022 in collaboration with the Hungarian regulator, during which explanations were given on the recent decision of the Court of the European Union in HUAT cases T-684/19 and T-704/19 MEKH vs ACER.

In addition, two questionnaires were drawn up and submitted to the national regulators as preparatory work for the LAC deliverables, one on "Energy communities" and the other on the "Status report on the unbundling of transmission and distribution system operators". The responses to the second questionnaire have been processed and a small sub-team, the Unbundling Drafting Team, has started drafting the status report on this basis. This report will be completed in 2023 and presented at a public workshop.

Lastly, as usual, the LAC organised a two-day legal training course delivered by the CEER Training Academy, entitled "Specialised Training on Legal Challenges in an Evolving Regulatory Framework", which took place as a hybrid event in October 2022 and included a guided visit to the European Parliament with a Q&A session. The CREG once again played an active role in organising this training course. The LAC vice-Chair, from CREG, led the composition of the programme as co-course director and chaired some of the sessions.

■ *International Relations Group*

The International Relations Group (IRG) is the group within CEER responsible for maintaining relations with colleagues in third countries and international institutions in the field of energy regulation. The main aim of creating an international network is to exchange best regulatory practice around the world, to optimise the supply of specific regulatory advice to the authorities.

As a member of this group, the CREG has supported CEER for several years by hosting delegations from all over the world. However, no delegations came to Brussels in 2022, in the aftermath of the pandemic. The CREG therefore limited itself to providing online training and presentations as part of the international training courses. The CREG discussed with CEER representatives in 2022 how the CREG can further support CEER in the EU4Energy programme. This is a programme supported by the European Commission to promote carbon neutrality and the transition to clean energy in the countries in the Eastern Partnership (with a particular focus for CEER on Armenia and Azerbaijan).

■ *Questionnaires*

The CREG played an active role in drafting the following CEER questionnaires and responded to them within the context of the harmonisation and integration of the European electricity and gas markets:

1. *Revision of the 2015 CEER recommendations on green offers*
2. *Questionnaire on digitalisation of the Energy Sector*
3. *Questionnaire survey on High Prices - Phase I*
4. *Survey - DG ENER Study on "Assessing the independence and effectiveness of National Regulatory Authorities (NRAs) in the field of energy"*
5. *CEER LAC Questionnaire: "Status report on unbundling 2022 survey"*
6. *Market Monitoring Report Surveys - quality indicators*
7. *Market Monitoring Report Surveys - quality indicators - 4 surveys*
8. *Questionnaire supplementary survey on High Prices*
9. *CEER REMIT questionnaire on Target Organisation and REMIT Implementation at national level*
10. *CEER 2023 Work Programme - online resource poll*
11. *Status Review RES Support Schemes 2022*
12. *Wholesale electricity indicators (2021 data)*
13. *Wholesale gas indicators (2021 data)*
14. *Review RES Support Schemes 2022*
15. *CEER Training needs 2023*

These questionnaires serve as the basis for reports, status reviews, position papers and other CEER documents. They not only provide a detailed description of the differences and similarities between Member States, but also information on the degree of application of European legislation in each Member State. The European Commission in turn uses these documents for legislative initiatives.

5.7.4. The European Gas Regulatory Forum

The European Gas Regulatory Forum, which took place in Madrid, is a platform for consultation on the development of the internal market for natural gas in Europe. Member States, European regulators (including the CREG) and all other European stakeholders participate under the chairmanship of the European Commission. In 2022, the 36th edition of the forum took place on 11 and 12 May.

Following Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 24 February 2022 and the increase in geopolitical tensions, it was already reasonable to assume that security of natural gas supply would be one of the main points of discussion at this forum. But as security of supply in most of Europe falls within the remit of the Member States, the stakeholders at the forum only provided feedback on the filling trajectory and burden sharing for gas storage, as discussed between the European Council and the European Commission. The market participants stressed the importance of a well-functioning market, in addition to the filling targets for natural gas storage that already existed, but not in all Member States.

However, the priority focus on Europe's gas supply did not prevent discussions within the forum on the use of renewable and low-carbon gases on the gas market. The regulatory package published in December 2021 by the European Commission[200] leaves room to propose initiatives that stimulate hydrogen trade and supply beyond the borders of the European Union. The stakeholders are also taking the opportunity to submit comments on the European Commission's published proposal. This is mainly feedback on the stricter unbundling obligations for the system operators, the imposed tariff model with targeted discounts and Inter TSO Compensation and the possibilities for converting existing natural gas installations to hydrogen.

Renewable and alternative energy sources are part of the new REPowerEU Communication of 23 March 2022, which reinforces the previous green energy and biomethane objectives of the Fit for 55 package (FF55). Every opportunity must be taken to reduce dependence on Russian natural gas. But the forum also warns that these new targets for renewable and low-carbon gas are huge. Indeed, there are currently few alternative gases available on a large scale in large parts in Europe.

200 A new European framework to decarbonise gas markets (europa.eu).

5.7.5. The European Electricity Regulatory Forum

The European Electricity Regulatory Forum, which took place in Rome, is a platform for consultation on the development of the internal market for electricity in Europe. Member States, European regulators (including the CREG) and all other European stakeholders participate under the chairmanship of the European Commission. The 37th meeting of the forum was held on 9 and 10 June 2022.

The forum reaffirmed that high energy prices, particularly in the electricity market, are causing problems for consumers, but criticised the various top-down emergency measures being discussed at the European Council. Market participants are calling for harmonised measures supported in a transparent, bottom-up manner. Nevertheless, the Member States and the European Commission stress that the situation has changed. What used to be a purely technical discussion has now taken on an additional political dimension. Regulated tariffs will join profitable tariffs, which is a major departure from the past. The forum is asking energy experts to rise to the challenge and think about how to make the market model more robust.

In addition to topical issues and ongoing discussions on the future market model, the forum has also addressed the implementation of current regulations. The continued harmonisation of the 70% rule (i.e. 70% of cross-border capacity must be offered to the market), the go-live of the regional coordination centres (RCCs) from 1 July 2022 and the difficult preparation of the first European resource adequacy assessment (ERAA) by ENTSO-E were discussed.

Lastly, the forum welcomed the introduction of market coupling with implicit allocation for the daily market and continuous trading and implicit allocation (XBID) for the intraday market. Nevertheless, overall implementation of the existing network codes and guidelines is slow. Regulators are therefore calling for adjustments to the governance structure in order to eliminate conflicts of interest between the current players.

5.7.6. The Citizens' Energy Forum

The Citizens' Energy Forum, held once again in Dublin in 2022, discussed the role of active and concerned consumers within a competitive, efficient and fair retail market. This forum, organised by the European Commission, gives consumer organisations, NGOs and local market participants the opportunity to enter into discussion, within working groups, with representatives from different Member States, regulators (including the CREG) and key European players.

The 14th forum, held on 24 November 2022, placed more emphasis than previous editions on actions taken by individuals and local players to help people prepare for the difficult winter ahead following the geopolitical crisis. There was also a discussion of what can still be done once winter has begun. The forum traditionally focuses on low- and middle-income consumers and the solutions available to them.

An unprecedented rise in energy costs and the cost of living is hitting energy consumers hard, particularly low-income households, but also retail and industry. The forum highlights the short-term need for support and structural solutions. It is a challenge to find the right balance between targeted support and the need to avoid disconnections during the winter, but it can also be an opportunity to put consumers at the centre of the energy transition, so that they become the driving force behind it.

In the short term, for consumers, energy efficiency must improve substantially, as must access to locally generated renewable energy sources. In this context, the forum advocates promoting decentralised energy systems and 'prosumer' models, through targeted communications tailored to different consumer groups.

Legal, technical and financial services at municipal level can provide citizens with technical and capacity-building support to help them implement renewable energy and energy efficiency projects from A to Z. Digital tools and access to data can help consumers better manage their energy costs.

5.7.7. The Energy Infrastructure Forum

This forum, chaired by the European Commission, brings together the main market participants on the subject of infrastructure. Participants include members of the regional groups set up for the corridors that are important for the European Union's energy supply (Member States, system operators, regulators and project promoters), as well as representatives of several European institutions (the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee) and European organisations (NGOs, ENTSO-E, ENTSO-G, ACER, INEA and the EIB).

The 8th Energy Infrastructure Forum took place on 2 and 3 June 2022 in Copenhagen. This edition urged stakeholders to give further impetus to the development of the European infrastructure identified in the ten-year network development plans. With regard to the scenario guidelines worked out in this context, the forum emphasised that the "energy efficiency first" principle must serve as a basic reference for future investments.

To better follow up and evaluate the development of network infrastructure, the forum would like to see European "smart grid" indicators developed by the European Commission, ENTSO-E and the EU DSO Entity. Investments in smart and digital grids should guarantee interoperability and greater resilience of the European system. Active and coordinated management of the system, using renewable resources, demand flexibility and energy storage, is essential to achieve the ambitious Fit for 55 targets by 2030.

The Forum also stresses that creating new offshore network infrastructure will require unprecedented investment in a relatively short period of time, and argues that effective cost-sharing between the beneficiaries is crucial, and should not be limited to cases where only EU funding is requested. It is up to ACER and the relevant national regulators to learn from practices already in place, such as incentives, early investment, system tariffs and other relevant regulatory tools that can be envisaged to support offshore infrastructure projects.

5.7.8. The CREG and other national regulators

In 2022, the CREG continued to maintain good direct contact with its European counterparts. Once the travel restrictions were lifted, it ensured that personal and physical contact was maintained at the highest level with neighbouring countries. High-level meetings were held in 2022 with Dutch and German counterparts.

Thanks to a strategic partnership with the European Commission, the French-speaking network of energy regulators continued to develop its activities under the chairmanship of the Beninese regulator, with a particular view to exchanging best regulatory practice and facilitating technical cooperation and collaboration between regulators on a range of topical issues.

In 2022, this network, in which the CREG is a member of the Coordination Committee and the Communications Committee, organised two workshops and its fifth General Assembly. The first workshop, organised in a hybrid format from 28 June to 1 July, in collaboration with the European Commission, and more specifically with the Global Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) of the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), focused on the theme of regional integration and cross-border trade. Part of the event was devoted to an in-depth technical workshop tailored to the specific needs of the network's member countries, organised by the TAF and with the following themes as the focus: the prerequisites for integrating regional markets, transmission system interconnections and the integration of renewable energies in the development of regional markets.

From 5 to 8 December 2022, the network held its fifth general meeting and joint workshop with the TAF, also in a hybrid format.

The General Assembly was marked by the transition from the presidency of Benin to the presidency of Quebec, and by the appointment of Morocco as vice-president of the network. The workshop was devoted to energy transition, innovation and efficiency.

At the end of the transition period agreed between the United Kingdom and the European Union, the CREG monitored the implementation of a temporary alternative commercial arrangement on the interconnection with the United Kingdom (Nemo Link). To this end, since 1 January 2021, interconnection capacity has been explicitly allocated in the various timeframes (long-term, daily and intraday). At the same time, the CREG has been working with the regulators from other countries neighbouring the United Kingdom (mainly France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland) on the implementation of the trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the EU. The development of a Loose Volume Coupling method, through which capacity is allocated on interconnectors between the UK and continental Europe, has been the main project in this respect. In consultation with Ofgem and at the request of Elia and Nemo Link, the CREG also approved improvements to the explicit capacity allocation procedures already in place.

In addition to these direct bilateral contacts with its neighbouring counterparts, the CREG also answered questions on various subjects from the regulatory bodies of the Netherlands, Italy, Germany, France, Ireland, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Latvia, England, Greece, Slovakia and Poland.

The European Regulators Forum, set up to fulfil the obligation of all national energy regulators in the European Union to take joint decisions (known as "all NRA decisions") on joint proposals from all transmission system operators (known as "all TSO proposals"), did not meet in 2022, as was the case in 2021. This is due to the fact that, since the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2019/942 on 1 January 2020, all new methodologies requiring a joint European decision are sent directly to ACER.

At regional level, in 2022, the CREG was part of the Core region (for interconnections with the neighbouring continental countries of France, Germany and the Netherlands) for

the continued development of harmonised rules for the allocation of short- and long-term capacity, and part of the Continental Europe synchronous zone for the management and maintenance of the balance within all interconnected grids with a grid frequency of 50 Hz. Lastly, the CREG is also part of the Central Europe system operation region, which coordinates the regional implementation of the SO regulation.

A decision was approved in the Core region, making changes to the previously approved and implemented regional fallback procedures for unified daily and intraday market coupling. The activities in the Core region were mainly focused on facilitating the entry into force of the day-ahead flow-based market coupling (the "Core DA FB MC Project") on 9 June 2022, and analysing how it functioned.

In addition, the necessary preparations are underway to approve the changes to the methodologies for calculating intraday capacity and their implementation in mid-2023.

Within the Continental Europe synchronous zone, several decisions were approved, in particular, the methodology for the minimum activation period for FCR suppliers and the updated definition of LFC blocks.

Within the system operation region, the establishment and designation of the Coreso and TSCNet regional coordination centres was approved for 2022.

5.7.9. The CREG and the FSMA

The cooperation protocol between the CREG and the Financial Services and Markets Authority (FSMA) approved in December 2016 sets out the terms of cooperation between the two authorities for the exchange of information and expertise, in order to guarantee the integrity and transparency of the energy markets. This agreement is important given the growing interaction between REMIT and the financial world.

In addition to this agreement, contacts may be made with the FSMA on other matters as well.

In 2022, the CREG had contacts with the FSMA in connection with the rise in prices on the energy market and the measures put in place by the European Commission to tackle this.

5.7.10. The CREG, Parliament and the Federal Government

The excellent relationship that the CREG maintained with the Federal Parliament and the Federal Government in 2022 continued in the same vein as in previous years. In 2022, the CREG once again responded to various invitations from the Commission for Energy, the Environment and Climate to make its expertise available and take part in meetings on various energy topics which were the subject of debate (see the table of presentations in Section 5.6. of this report). As such, at the meeting of 29 November 2022, following a detailed presentation, the general policy note and the proposed budget for 2023 were unanimously approved.

The CREG made its expertise available not only to Parliament, but also to the competent federal ministers and the government. Notes, studies and reports were drawn up to provide additional insight into the management of the energy crisis and its consequences in terms of the need to accelerate the energy transition, and more specifically Europe's dependence on fossil fuels. Contributions were also made in the context of implementing emergency measures adopted at European level, with a particular view to protecting final consumers from the damaging effects of the current crisis.

5.7.11. The CREG and regional regulators

The CREG's informal collaboration with the three regional regulators (BRUGEL, CWaPE and VREG) continued in 2022 within Forbeg. Six plenary meetings were organised. The CWaPE held the presidency in the first half of the year and the VREG in the second half. The CREG also chairs the "Information exchange", "Europe" and "Distribution systems" working groups.

Throughout 2022, weekly consultations were held with the regional regulators on the situation on the wholesale and retail markets in Belgium. The aim was to rapidly discuss the problems identified with suppliers, balance responsible parties and shippers, and to immediately assess the potential impact on each market segment. This made it possible to monitor the procedures more closely and timetable the implementation of the regulations on alternative suppliers in the various regions, with the aim of guaranteeing supplies to affected consumers in the event of a supplier going bankrupt.

In 2022, as in previous years, the 'Information Exchange' working group ensured that the four regulators published a joint annual report on the evolution of the Belgian energy market. Using a statistical overview of the markets for electricity and natural gas, the regulators monitor developments in these markets and the evolution of competition in Belgium[201]. The working group is also responsible for completing the market indicators for gas and electricity used by ACER and CEER for the consumer and retail market monitoring report, as well as the Belgian national report.

The "Europe" working group held eight meetings in 2022. This working group provides the formal framework for the CREG to perform its remit as national regulator and to represent Belgium within CEER and ACER. It ensures that European dossiers circulate easily between the four Belgian regulators. As in previous years, it focused on the issues discussed in the various European forums, at the CEER General Assembly and on the ACER Board of Regulators. The European Commission's various legislative initiatives were closely followed, including the hydrogen and decarbonisation package and the various

201 Joint report on developments on the electricity and natural gas markets in Belgium, 2021, published 15 July 2022.

emergency measures adopted by the European Council in the form of regulations.

The remit of the "distribution system" working group is to inform the regional regulators of the activities of the CEER DS WG, to present the documents on the agenda to the regional regulators so that they can provide feedback and therefore facilitate the exchange of information between Belgian and European regulators. In 2022, the working group met eight times and continued the discussions on the work of the CEER DS WG (see Section 5.8.3. of this report).

The CREG also took part in the "electricity", "tariffs", "consumers", "gas", "renewable energy sources" and "smart meters" working groups set up within Forbeg.

5.7.12. The CREG and the Belgian Competition Authority

As mentioned in previous annual reports, the general collaboration between the CREG and the Belgian Competition Authority (BCA) was formalised in a Royal Decree of 3 December 2017, pursuant to which systematic collaboration was established between the two bodies.

In this context, the fifth annual meeting between the two bodies was held in 2022. In addition to the points raised in the context of their general collaboration, specific topics were also discussed at the meeting. These pertained to the measures taken in the context of the energy crisis, in particular, the implementation by the CREG of measures relating to excess profits, the implementation of the ECN+ Directive and the related changes within the BCA. The collaboration in the context of REMIT was also evaluated.

The annual meeting also discussed implementing a mechanism for reporting energy issues of potential interest to the other body.

In addition, there were formal and informal contacts between the CREG and the BCA in 2022 concerning specific competition cases.

5.7.13. The CREG and the Belgian academic world

In accordance with its strategic objectives, the CREG regularly collaborates with the Belgian academic world, by taking part in conferences and scientific activities, and by giving lectures on subjects related to its areas of expertise in the context of university courses.

Since 2015, it has also awarded an annual prize for the most innovative energy-related dissertation in line with its remit. In this way, the CREG aims to support innovation and encourage the development of the energy sector. In each language community, a cheque for €2,500 is reserved for the winners.

The 2021 prize, awarded on 16 May 2022, was exceptionally awarded to three Master's theses: Elise Meersseman for her thesis entitled "Participation of wind power producers in electricity reserve markets via an aggregator", Idriss Fattahi for his thesis entitled "Scenario-based and Robust Optimization for joined electricity and gas economic dispatch" and Maxime Druez for his thesis entitled "Robustness of Electrical Grid Reliability Indicators".

5.8. The CREG's finances

5.8.1. Financing the funds

Under the Programme Law of 27 December 2021, the system of federal contributions for electricity and natural gas in force since 2003 ended on 31 December 2021 and was replaced by a system of excise duties on electricity and natural gas. As such, at the end of 2022, new Royal Decrees concerning the financing of the electricity fund[202] and the gas fund[203] were promulgated[204].

Under this new excise system, from 1 January 2022, the CREG has called upon the FPS Finance directly for the resources it needs to pay into each of the funds it manages, subsequently paying the amounts due to the various beneficiaries.

However, 2022 can be characterised as a hybrid or transitional year insofar as the proceeds of the federal contribution to energy from 2021 were still collected, and degressions (exemptions) were still refunded to suppliers.

In addition, 2022 saw a number of legislative changes to counter the negative effects of rising energy prices on the most vulnerable consumers[205]:

- the extension of the BIM social tariff over the four quarters of the year and the payment, by the FPS Economy, of two

202 Royal Decree of 6 December 2022 laying down the calculation method applicable for determining the resources needed to achieve the objectives referred to in Article 21 bis, § 1" of the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market and the modalities for the management of funds referred to therein by the Commission for the Regulation of Electricity and Gas (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 December 2022). This Royal Decree follows the CREG's proposal (C)2368 of 31 March 2022.

203 Royal Decree of 6 December 2022 laying down the calculation method applicable for determining the resources needed to achieve the objectives referred to in Article 15/11, § 1 bis of the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gaseous and other products through pipelines and the modalities for the management of the funds referred to therein by the Commission for Electricity and Gas Regulation (Belgian Official Gazette of 30 December 2022). This Royal Decree follows the CREG's Proposal (C)2367 of 31 March 2022.

204 It should be noted that the previous Royal Decrees of 24 March 2003 for electricity and 4 April 2014 for gas still apply to requests made by suppliers to the CREG for reimbursement of degressivity and exemption for cogeneration gas and international institutions.

205 Readers are also referred to Sections 2.1. and 2.6. of this report, which cover social tariffs and various forms of government assistance.

supplements in the first and fourth quarters to the CREG (see below);
- payment of the second instalment of €88 million[206] to energy suppliers who granted the BIM social tariff in 2021;
- a €100 heating bonus for all residential customers with an electricity supply contract for their home on 31 March 2022, and an electricity bonus (€122) and a natural gas bonus (€270) for all residential customers with an electricity and/or natural gas supply contract for their home on 30 September 2022, either at a fixed price (and which was concluded or renewed after 30 September 2022) or at a variable price;
- an additional indexation of €3.4 million for the social energy fund for electricity and gas (which will not be paid until early 2023).

The cost of all these measures was covered by the State budget. The CREG received these sums from the FPS Economy before transferring them to the beneficiaries

A. The federal contribution for natural gas and the natural gas excise duty

Fluxys Belgium benefited from a refund of the federal contribution for gas in 2022, while Wingas[207] only communicated the degressivity it granted to its customers (no federal charge for gas billed to its customers during the last quarter of 2021).

Most of the natural gas companies that granted reductions (degressivity/exemptions) to their customers submitted their final requests for reimbursement to the CREG during the first quarter of 2022.

As regards excise duties, the FPS Finance paid a total of €96,840,518 into the three different gas funds managed by the CREG (see below).

- Exemptions and degressivity

The natural gas companies that were unable to re-invoice their final customers in full for the federal contribution for gas (for consumption in 2021) could still submit their final applications for reimbursement of the reductions granted to the CREG in 2022.

In 2022, the CREG therefore reimbursed the natural gas companies as follows:

- €4,720,667 corresponding to the exemption from the federal contribution levied on natural gas intended for the generation of electricity supplied to the grid (power stations and high-quality cogeneration units);
- €77,589 corresponding to the exemption from the federal contribution granted to international institutions;
- €4,733,306 corresponding to gas degressivity refund claims submitted by natural gas companies;
- €2,200,649 corresponding to a request for adjustment of the gas degressivity for 2021 submitted by four final customers with a consumption site that had been billed separately by several suppliers.

An amount of €336,133 in federal contributions (not paid to the CREG by the operator of the Wingas direct pipeline on account of the degressivity granted to its customers) was also divided between the different funds of the federal contribution for gas.

These reimbursements were made using the resources still available in the various funds and the various calls for funds made to the FPS Finance during the year. In 2022, SPF Finances also made an advance of €5,214,190 available to the CREG, to cover all requests for reimbursement of gas degressivity. At the end of the financial year, €29,454.71 had not been used and will therefore be repaid to SPF Finances by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

- Irrecoverables

In 2022, the regularisation of the 0.7% statutory fixed surcharge, intended to cover natural gas companies against the shortfall in federal contributions that they were unable to recover from their customers due to non-payment, generated net income of €232,683. This amount was divided at the end of the year between the various funds financed by the federal contribution for natural gas.

B. The federal contribution for electricity and the electricity excise duty

In the first quarter of 2022, the electricity transmission system operator, Elia Transmission Belgium, paid the CREG (for the final time) the federal contribution invoiced to its customers in the previous quarter for the CREG fund, social energy fund, denuclearisation fund and protected customers fund.

For their part, during the first quarter of 2022, most of the electricity companies that granted reductions (degressivity/exemptions) to their customers submitted their final requests for reimbursement to the CREG.

When their accounts were closed for the year in 2021, the distribution system operators sent the CREG the certified statement of the difference between their income and their expenditure on the 2021 federal contribution for electricity. In 2022, the CREG therefore regularised the surplus federal contributions for electricity for 2021 of all distribution system operators. The following amounts were paid into the four funds linked to the federal contribution.

206 The first instalment was paid in 2021.
207 As of 31 December 2022, only Wingas operated a direct pipeline in Belgium.

Table 13: Distribution between the funds managed by the CREG of the surplus federal contribution for electricity of the distribution system operators (in €) (source: CREG)

FUND	2022	2021	2020	2019
CREG	931,695	761,459	738,219	901,627
Denuclearisation	6,030,214	5,168,504	5,032,151	6,244,277
Greenhouse gasses	0	0	0	0
Social energy	2,565,907	2,216,828	2,242,958	2,876,452
Protected customers	9,727,584	7,935,957	7,770,400	10,075,462
TOTAL	**19,255,399**	**16,082,748**	**15,783,728**	**20,097,818**

With regard to excise duties, the FPS Finance paid the CREG a total of €85,506,025 into the four electricity funds managed by the CREG (see below).

• Exemption and degressivity

The electricity companies that were unable to re-invoice their final customers in full for the federal contribution for gas (for consumption in 2021) could still submit their final applications for reimbursement to the CREG in 2022.

In 2022, the CREG therefore reimbursed the electricity companies as follows:

- €731,355 corresponding to the exemption from the federal contribution granted to international institutions;
- €8,219,593 corresponding to electricity degressivity refund claims submitted by electricity companies.

An amount of €20,470,655 in federal contributions (not paid to the CREG by Elia Transmission Belgium on account of the degressivity granted to its customers) was also divided between the different funds of the federal contribution for electricity.

These reimbursements were made using the resources still available in the various funds and the various calls for funds made to the FPS Finance during the year. In 2022, SPF Finances also made an advance of €27,407,640 available to the CREG, to cover requests for reimbursement of electricity degressivity. At the end of the financial year, €39,751.91 had not been used and will therefore be repaid to SPF Finances by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

• Irrecoverables

In 2022, the regularisation of the 0.7% statutory fixed surcharge, intended to cover electricity companies against the shortfall in federal contributions that they were unable to recover in previous years from their customers due to non-payment, generated net income of €191,720. This amount was divided at the end of the year between the various funds financed by the federal contribution for electricity.

C. The offshore surcharge

The offshore surcharge has also been abolished since 1 January 2022 and replaced by a system of excise duties for electricity. This surcharge was levied by Elia Transmission Belgium on its final customers and electricity companies, which then passed it on to their own customers.

In 2022, the CREG nevertheless still had to reimburse Elia Transmission Belgium and the electricity companies that had granted their customers degressivity on this surcharge. The CREG therefore reimbursed them €38,530,111 and €70,076,647, respectively.

During 2022, SPF Finances made an advance of €110,368,597 available to the CREG, to cover all requests for reimbursement of offshore degressivity.

5.8.2. The funds

A. The CREG Fund

At its plenary session on 22 December 2021, the Chamber of Representatives set the amount intended to cover the CREG's operating costs for 2022 at €17,041,874.

B. The Social Energy Fund

For the year 2022, the amounts earmarked for the PCSW to help them in their mission of guidance and financial social assistance in energy matters were indexed (€5,232,867) thanks to the balance still available in the dormant "fixed reductions for heating with natural gas and electricity" fund (see point F below).

In addition, the Law of 23 December 2021 and the Royal Decree of 20 May 2022[208] enabled the social energy fund for electricity and gas to be indexed once again, to €3.4 million. This amount was recorded as at 31 December 2022.

In 2022, the Social energy fund made it possible to pay the PCSW their fourth instalment for 2021 (€14,887,310) as well as all four instalments for 2022 requested by the PPS Social Integration (€62,917,247).

208 Royal Decree of 20 May 2022 on administrative, budgetary and management control (Belgian Official Gazette of 10 June 2022).

The total income recorded in 2022 for this fund was €56,909,713, broken down as follows:

- €12,938,252 relating to the funds from the federal contribution for electricity and the degressivity (including €2,565,907 for regularisation with the distribution system operators of the 2021 federal contribution for electricity);
- €23,994,780 relating to various calls for funds made to the FPS Finance via excise duties on electricity;
- -€247,013 relating to the funds from the federal contribution for natural gas and degressivity;
- €20,223,694 relating to various calls for funds made to the FPS Finance via excise duties on gas;

At the end of the financial year, €12,815,165.16 had not been used and will therefore be repaid to SPF Finances by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

C. The Denuclearisation Fund

A total of €65,506,570 was recorded in the denuclearisation fund in 2022, broken down as follows:

- €30,406,570 from the federal contribution for electricity and degressivity (including €6,030,214 from the regularisation of the federal contribution for electricity with the distribution system operators);
- €35,100,000 relating to various calls for funds made to the FPS Finance via excise duties on electricity.

The CREG was therefore able to pay ONDRAF/NIRAS the entire €69,000,000[209] that was earmarked for 2022.

Given that, as of 1 January 2022, the denuclearisation fund had financial resources of €3,613,096, the CREG called in less than expected from the FPS Finance to cover its obligations to ONDRAF/NIRAS.

The financial surplus is justified by the collection of federal contributions which were higher than estimates.

As a result of this reasonable budget management, the CREG owed less funds to the FPS Finance.

At the end of the financial year, €135,064.67 had not been used and will therefore be repaid to SPF Finances by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

D. The Greenhouse Gas Fund

Despite the lack of revenue in the greenhouse gas fund[210], the resources still available in this fund made it possible to pay the fixed statutory amount of €3,600,000 for 2022 into the organic budget fund of the DG Environment of the FPS Public Health, Safety of the Food Chain and Environment, intended to finance the federal policy for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2022, this payment was made for the last time.

As of 31 December 2022, the fund's assets totalled €29,745,039.

•The Kyoto JI/CDM fund

The Kyoto Joint Implementation/Clean Development Mechanism fund, also managed by the CREG, brings together the cash from the greenhouse gas fund specifically earmarked for financing projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that will enable Belgium to achieve its targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

Since 2017, the DG Environment no longer calls on the fund to acquire CO_2 emission credits.

As at 31 December 2022, the fund's assets totalled €15,006,481.

E. The Protected Customer Funds for Electricity and Natural Gas

Initially, from a budgetary perspective, the Protected Customers Fund for electricity amounted to €144,400,000 and the Protected Customers Fund for natural gas to €123,800,000. These amounts were intended to cover the main mission of these funds.

The total amount of the various subsidies received by the FPS Economy in 2022 (for electricity and natural gas) for the two protected customer funds was €2,588,523,000. This sum was paid to the CREG, which then immediately repaid it to the electricity and natural gas suppliers.

As at 31 December 2022, the protected customers fund for electricity showed a balance in favour of the FPS Finance of €10,022,838, while the protected customers fund for natural gas showed a balance in favour of the FPS Finance of €3,393,118. These amounts will be repaid by 30 June 2023 at the latest.

F. The Fund for Fixed Reductions for Heating with Natural Gas and Electricity

This fund, which has been inactive since 2012 and is also known as the "heating bonus" fund, was used to cover the cost of the 2022 indexation of the social energy fund, i.e. €5,232,867.

As at 31 December 2022, the fund's assets totalled €0.00.

5.8.3. Accounts 2022

Since 1 January 2013, the CREG has kept its accounts in accordance with the principles laid down in the Law of 22 May 2003 on the organisation of the budget and accounting of the Federal State and in accordance with the chart of accounts

209 Royal Decree of 19 December 2018 setting the amounts envisaged for the financing of nuclear liabilities BP1 and BP2 for the period 2019-2023 (Belgian Official Gazette of 28 December 2018).

210 Royal Decree of 13 December 2021 amending the Royal Decree of 24 March 2003 laying down the details of the federal contribution intended to finance certain public service obligations and the costs associated with regulating and monitoring the electricity market (Belgian Official Gazette of 17 December 2021).

defined by the above-mentioned Royal Decree of 10 November 2009.

The CREG's total expenses for 2022 amounted to €16,040,616, a rise of 4.24% compared to 2021 (see Table 16). However, the actual expenditure was in fact €16,314,584. The difference is due to investments, provisions and depreciation. These expenses are not cash items and therefore have no budgetary impact.

Table 14: Differences between 2022 costs and 2022 expenditure (in €) (source: CREG)

Costs	16,040,616
Expenditure	16,314,584
Variance to be justified	**-273,968**
Investments	815,915
Various provisions	-164,298
Depreciation	-377,649
Total	**273,968**
Variance	**0**

Total revenue from the electricity sector amounts to €16,474,361.

Total revenue from the natural gas sector amounts to €5,034,445.

The total revenue for the CREG is therefore €21,508,806.

Table 16: Profit for the year in general accounting terms 2022 (in €) (source: CREG)

Income	(a)	€21,508,806
Costs	(b)	-€16,040,616
Profit	(c) = (a) - (b)	+€5,468,190

Table 15: Breakdown of accounting profit as at 31 December 2022 (in €) (source: CREG)

		Electricity sector (69%)	Gas sector (31%)
Income	**Total**	**Fed. contr. & deg.**	**Fed. contr. & Deg.**
Coverage of operating costs 2022	21,446,644.01	16,431,468.94	5,015,175.07
Other sundry and exceptional income (716)	58,060.70	40,061.88	17,998.82
Financial income (75) - Write-back of dep.	4,101.38	2,829.95	1,271.43
Sub-total of CREG income (1)	*21,508,806.09*	*16,474,360.78*	*5,034,445.31*
Overpayment by the gas sector	0.00		0.00
Sub-total of regularisations (2)	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Total income 2022 (3)=(1)+(2)	**21,508,806.09**	**16,474,360.78**	**5,034,445.31**
Costs			
Actual costs 2022	16,040,615.72	11,068,024.85	4,972,590.87
Specific costs electricity	0.00	0.00	
Specific costs gas	0.00		0.00
Total costs 2022 (4)	**16,040,615.72**	**11,068,024.85**	**4,972,590.87**
CREG Profit 2022 (3)-(4)	**5,468,190.37**	**5,406,335.93**	**61,854.44**

As a result of the foregoing, the 2022 financial year will end with an overall surplus of income recorded by the CREG in relation to its expenses, of €5,468,190, divided between a surplus of €5,406,336 for the electricity sector and a surplus of €61,854 for the natural gas sector.

As a result of the abolition of the federal contribution mechanism, the accounting profits for 2022 will no longer be returned to final customers via the downward correction mechanism for future federal contribution unit values. Regularisation of the federal contribution part of the unit balance of each fund (including the CREG fund) will be effected during 2023 and 2024 with the FPS Finance.

As at 31 December 2022, the balance sheet total, consolidated with the funds, was €450,663,338 (see Table 20).

The following tables provide a summary of the budget outturn accounts for expenditure and revenue.

Table 17: Summary of the 2022 budget outturn account (in €) (source: CREG)

Budget outturn account	€17,041,874
Expenditure	-€16,314,584
Balance (+)	€727,290

The CREG's budget for 2022 was set at €17,041,874. Actual expenditure amounts to €16,314,584, corresponding to 95.73% of this budget.

The balance of commitments from previous years (2020 and 2021) still open at the close of the 2022 financial year amounts to €123,408 (CEPA, security audit, Aon opinions). The balance of commitments for the 2022 financial year amounts to €334,008 (legal and economic studies, software, hardware, etc.). These two amounts will have an impact on the results of the general and budgetary accounts when they are settled/assumed in 2023.

Table 18: Summary of the 2022 budget outturn account (SEC result) (in €) (source: CREG)

Revenues	€21,508,806
Expenditure	€16,314,584
Profit	€5,194,222

Table 19: Income statement as at 31 December 2022 (in €) (source: CREG)

	2022	2021
Staff costs	**12,881,408**	**12,271,797**
Remuneration and costs	12,312,390	11,867,645
Change in provision for end-of-mandate benefits for members of the Management Committee	136,096	81,094
Change in provision for holiday pay	97,381	14,530
Recruitment costs	5,687	16,813
Continuing training, seminars	48,152	49,484
Staff car expenses	281,703	242,231
Bodies	**0**	**27,317**
Consultative Council remuneration (attendance fees and various contributions)	0	27,317
Sub-total "Staff costs"	**12,881,408**	**12,299,114**
External experts	**851,341**	**1,046,834**
External studies	516,383	788,179
PR	23,450	61,221
Translators, revisers, social secretariat	129,559	109,519
Legal assistance	181,950	87,914
General costs	**1,923,011**	**1,777,291**
Rent and common charges	912,371	854,907
Parking	56,767	51,657
Maintenance of premises and security	130,294	120,117
Equipment support and maintenance	275,888	242,817
Documentation	131,515	138,255
Telephone, post, Internet	18,274	22,258
Office supplies	4,757	1,373
Meeting and representation expenses	37,390	27,496
Travel expenses (including abroad)	8,224	2,357
Membership of associations	45,302	45,171
Insurance, taxes and miscellaneous	302,229	270,882
Depreciation	**377,649**	**258,959**
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	377,649	258,959
Financial expenses	**7,207**	**6,642**
Others	7,207	6,642
Sub-total "Other operating expenses"	**3,159,207**	**3,089,726**
TOTAL COSTS	**16,040,616**	**15,388,840**
Income (surcharges and fees)	**15,978,454**	**15,206,146**
Federal contribution for electricity and natural gas	21,425,027	17,508,115
Transfer of irrecoverable electricity and natural gas funds	20,117	19,000
CREG electricity regularisation year n	5,406,336	-1,093,149
CREG natural gas regularisation year n	61,854	-1,236,820
Miscellaneous fees	1,500	9,000
Financial income	**4,101**	**19**
Income from current assets	4,092	14
Other financial income	9	5
Sundry and exceptional income	**58,061**	**182,675**
Other exceptional income	58,061	182,675
TOTAL INCOME	**16,040,616**	**15,388,840**
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	**0**	**0**

Table 20: Balance sheet as at 31 December 2022 (in €) (source: CREG)

ASSETS	2022	2021
FIXED ASSETS		
Intangible and tangible fixed assets	**1,153,446**	**718,953**
Building fixtures	62,509	83,250
Furniture and rolling stock	63,373	54,615
IT equipment	1,027,565	581,088
Financial fixed assets	**785**	**655**
Miscellaneous guarantees	785	655
CURRENT ASSETS		
Amounts receivable within one year	**352,908,028**	**225,598**
Trade receivables	2,447	1,215
Other receivables	352,523,763	396
Receivables from funds	381,818	223,987
Cash and cash equivalents	**95,567,632**	**172,856,808**
CREG fund	17,106,363	9,828,264
Social energy fund (06)	9,319,639	26,247,898
Greenhouse gas fund (04)	29,745,039	33,284,011
Denuclearisation fund (09)	20,957	3,613,096
Kyoto JI/CDM Fund (05)	15,006,481	14,972,767
Protected customer fund electricity (07)	12,304,517	38,836,415
Protected customer fund natural gas (08)	11,281,392	35,820,935
Heating bonus fund (03)	0	5,232,867
Electricity degressivity fund (10)	138,725	1,411,838
Offshore degressivity fund (13)	103,397	939,333
Natural gas degressivity fund (14)	90,568	2,138,892
Irrecoverable fund electricity (11)	263,893	291,053
Irrecoverable fund natural gas (15)	186,380	238,534
Cash boxes	280	904
Suspense and regularisation accounts	**1,033,447**	**906,346**
TOTAL ASSETS	**450,663,338**	**174,708,359**

LIABILITIES	2022	2021
SHAREHOLDER EQUITY		
Profit carried forward	**1,314,222**	**1,314,222**
CREG sectoral reserve	**4,260,468**	**2,445,648**
ELECTRICITY	2,939,723	1,687,497
Gas	1,320,745	758,151
PROVISIONS		
End-of-mandate benefits for members of the Management Committee	**936,970**	**800,874**
AMOUNTS PAYABLE		
Amounts payable within one year	**3,492,413**	**3,037,480**
Trade payables	580,971	343,731
Tax, salary and social security debts	2,911,441	2,693,750
Miscellaneous debts	**431,345,614**	**163,232,626**
Social energy fund (06)	12,816,206	26,322,513
Greenhouse gas fund (04)	29,745,039	33,284,011
Denuclearisation fund (09)	136,713	3,664,234
Kyoto JI/CDM Fund (05)	15,006,481	14,972,767
Protected customer fund electricity (07)	157,624,247	38,914,933
Protected customer fund natural gas (08)	215,445,922	36,054,115
Heating bonus fund (03)	0	5,232,867
Electricity degressivity fund (10)	138,725	1,413,286
Offshore degressivity fund (13)	103,397	939,333
Natural gas degressivity fund (14)	90,493	2,138,892
Irrecoverable fund electricity (11)	229,263	295,459
Irrecoverable fund natural gas (15)	9,129	215
Suspense and regularisation accounts	**9,313,652**	**3,877,510**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**450,663,338**	**174,708,359**

5.8.4. Auditor's Report for the year ended 31 December 2022

In the context of the audit of the accounts of the COMMISSION FOR ELECTRICITY AND GAS REGULATION ("CREG"), we hereby present our auditor's report. It includes our report on the audit of the accounts as well as the other legal and regulatory requirements. This is an integrated whole and is indivisible.

We have been appointed as auditor by the Board of Directors of 8 March 2021. This designation, in accordance with Article 25 §5 of the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market, was duly approved on 15 April 2021 by the Federal Minister for Energy.

Our mission as auditor expires on the date of the Board of Director's meeting deliberating on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023. We have performed the audit of the accounts of the COMMISSION FOR ELECTRICITY AND GAS REGULATION (CREG) for the second year.

REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Unqualified opinion

We have audited the accounts of the CREG, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2021, the profit and loss account for the year then ended and the notes to the accounts, characterised by a balance sheet total of €450.663.338 and a profit and loss account showing a result for the year of €0, in accordance with the Royal Decrees of 24 March 2003 and 2 April 2014, and the Programme Law of 27 December 2021 organising the financing of the CREG.

In our opinion, these accounts give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities and financial position of the CREG as at 31 December 2022, as well as that of its results for the year then ended, in accordance with the accounting standards applicable to the CREG.

Basis of the opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' section in this report. We have complied with all of the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of accounts in Belgium, including those regarding independence.

We have obtained from the Board of Directors and Company officials the explanations and information necessary to perform our audit.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors for the preparation of accounts

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting standards applicable to the CREG, and for such internal control as the Board of Directors determines is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the Board of Directors is responsible for assessing the CREG's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Directors either intends to liquidate the CREG or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor of the audit of accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

In performing our audit, we comply with the legal, regulatory and normative requirements applicable to the audit of accounts in Belgium. An audit does not provide any assurance as to the CREG's future viability nor as to the efficiency or effectiveness of the Board of Directors has conducted or will conduct the business operations of the CREG. Our responsibilities in relation to the board of director's use of the going concern accounting principle are described below.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional judgement throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the accounts, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than that resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the CREG's internal control.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board of Directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board of Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the CREG's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the CREG to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the accounts and whether the accounts represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board of Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identified during our audit.

OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation and content as well as for compliance with the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping, as well as compliance with respect to the Law of 12 April 1965 on the transport of gas and other products through pipelines (the "Gas" law) and the Law of 29 April 1999 on the organisation of the electricity market (the "Electricity" law) and their implementing decrees.

Responsibilities of the auditor

In the context of our mission and in accordance with the Belgian standard (revised version 2020) which is complementary to the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Belgium, it is our responsibility to verify, in all material aspects, the information contained in the annual report and compliance with certain requirements of the Gas and Electricity Acts and their implementing decrees, and to report on these elements.

Aspects relating to other information in the annual report

As part of our audit of the accounts, we must also assess, in particular, on the basis of our knowledge acquired during the audit, whether the information contained in the annual report under the header "The finances of the CREG" contains a material misstatement, i.e. incorrectly formulated or otherwise misleading information. Based on this work, we have no material misstatements to report. We do not and will not express any form of assurance on the annual report.

Statements related to independence

Our audit firm did not provide services which are incompatible with the audit of accounts, and we remained independent of the CREG in the course of our mandate.

Other statements

- *Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounts are kept in accordance with the general rules defined in the Law of 22 May 2003 on the organisation of the budget and the accounts of the Federal State and the Royal Decree of 10 November 2009 on the chart of accounts applicable to the Federal State, the Communities, the Regions and the Joint Community Commission.*

- *We did not find any irregularities, with regard to the Gas and electricity Acts and their implementing decrees, concerning the transactions to be recorded in the CREG's accounts.*

Zaventem, 10 March 2023

RSM INTERAUDIT BV-SRL
AUDITOR
REPRESENTED BY

CÉLINE ARNAUD
ASSOCIÉE

KARINE MORRIS
ASSOCIÉE

5.9. List of acts drawn up by the CREG in 2022

(B)656G/47 16.06.2022	Décision sur le rapport tarifaire adapté incluant les soldes introduit par la SA Fluxys Belgium concernant l'exercice d'exploitation 2021 Beslissing over het aangepast tariefverslag met inbegrip van de saldi ingediend door Fluxys Belgium nv met betrekking tot het boekjaar 2021
(B)656G/49 22.12.2022	Décision sur les modalités finales de détermination des incitants pour Fluxys Belgium et Fluxys LNG au cours de la période 2024-2027 Beslissing over de finale modaliteiten van de bepaling van de stimulansen voor Fluxys Belgium en Fluxys LNG in de periode 2024-2027
(B)657G/24 12.05.2022	Décision sur le rapport tarifaire incluant les soldes introduit par la SA Fluxys LNG concernant l'exercice d'exploitation 2021 Beslissing over het tariefverslag met inbegrip van de saldi ingediend door Fluxys LNG nv voor het exploitatiejaar 2021
(B)658E/77 03.02.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la proposition tarifaire 2020-2023 actualisée, soumise par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium, visant à modifier le paramètre alpha du tarif pour le maintien et la restauration de l'équilibre individuel des responsables d'accès Beslissing over de vraag tot goedkeuring van het geactualiseerd tariefvoorstel 2020-2023, ingediend door de nv Elia Transmission Belgium, met het oog op de wijziging van parameter alpha van het tarief voor het behoud en herstel van het individueel evenwicht van de toegangsverantwoordelijken
(B)658E/78 07.07.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation du rapport tarifaire introduit par le gestionnaire du réseau de transport d'électricité et incluant les soldes concernant l'exercice d'exploitation 2021 Beslissing over de vraag tot goedkeuring van het tariefverslag ingediend door de transmissie-netbeheerder voor elektriciteit met inbegrip van de saldi met betrekking tot het boekjaar 2021
(B)658E/79 14.07.2022	Décision sur les objectifs à atteindre par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 dans le cadre de l'incitant à la promotion de l'équilibre du système visé à l'article 27 de la méthodologie tarifaire Beslissing over de doelstellingen die Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023 moet behalen in het kader van de stimulans ter bevordering van het systeemevenwicht zoals bedoeld in artikel 27 van de tariefmethodologie
(B)658E/81 22.12.2022	Décision sur la mise à jour du plan de recherche et développement de la SA Elia System Operator pour la période régulatoire 2020-2023 dans le cadre de l'incitant à l'innovation visé à l'article 26, §2 de la méthodologie tarifaire Beslissing over het geactualiseerd onderzoeks- en ontwikkelingsplan van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium voor de regulatoire periode 2020-2023 in het kader van de stimulans ter bevordering van de innovatie bedoeld in artikel 26, § 2 van de tariefmethodologie
(B)658E/82 30.11.2022	Décision sur la demande d'approbation de la proposition tarifaire actualisée adaptée introduite par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium relative aux tarifs pour les obligations de service public et aux taxes et surcharges, d'application à partir du 1er janvier 2023 Beslissing over de vraag tot goedkeuring van het aangepast geactualiseerd tariefvoorstel, ingediend door de nv Elia Transmission Belgium, met betrekking tot de tarieven voor de openbare dienstverplichtingen en de taksen en toeslagen, van toepassing vanaf 1 januari 2023
(B)1109/11 30.06.2022	Arrêté fixant la méthodologie tarifaire pour le réseau de transport d'électricité et pour les réseaux d'électricité ayant une fonction de transport pour la période régulatoire 2024-2027 Besluit tot vaststelling van de tariefmethodologie voor het elektriciteitstransmissienet en voor de elektriciteitsnetten met een transmissiefunctie voor de regulatoire periode 2024-2027
(B)1110/12 30.06.2022	Arrêté fixant la méthodologie tarifaire pour le réseau de transport de gaz naturel, l'installation de stockage de gaz naturel et l'installation de GNL pour la période régulatoire 2024-2027 Besluit tot vaststelling van de tariefmethodologie voor het aardgasvervoersnet, de opslaginstallatie voor aardgas en de LNG-installatie voor de regulatoire periode 2024-2027
(B)1442/9 24.02.2022	Décision relative à la méthodologie de tarification relative au contrat d'accès conclu avec Interconnector Ltd et au règlement d'accès d'Interconnector Ltd Beslissing betreffende de vergoedingsmethodologie met betrekking tot de toegangsovereenkomst met Interconne Ltd en het toegangsreglement van Interconnector Ltd Decision on the Charging Methodology related to the Interconnector Ltd Access Agreement and the Interconnector Ltd Access Code
(B)1442/10 19.07.2022	Décision sur le rapport tarifaire incluant les soldes introduit par Interconnector Ltd pour la période du 1 janvier 2021 jusqu'au 31 décembre 2021 Beslissing over het tariefverslag met inbegrip van het saldo ingediend door Interconnector Ltd voor de periode van 1 januari 2021 tot 31 december 2021
(B)1442/11 30.11.2022	Décision relative à la méthodologie de tarification relative au contrat d'accès conclu avec Interconnector Ltd et au règlement d'accès d'Interconnector Ltd Beslissing betreffende de vergoedingsmethodologie met betrekking tot de toegangsovereenkomst met Interconnector Ltd en het toegangsreglement van Interconnector Ltd
(B)2121/4 17.11.2022	Décision sur la redevance d'équilibrage à des fins de neutralité et la valeur du petit ajustement pour la période du 1er janvier 2023 au 31 décembre 2023 Beslissing over de neutraliteitsheffing voor balancering en de waarde van de kleine aanpassing voor de periode van 1 januari 2023 tot 31 december 2023
(F)2284 10.03.2022	Étude sur la conformité du tarif social au cadre légal européen Studie over de conformiteit van het sociaal tarief ten opzichte van het Europees wettelijk kader

(B)2303 27.01.2022	Décision relative à la proposition commune, formulée par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et tous les gestionnaires de réseau de transport de la région de calcul de la capacité Core, modifiant les exigences régionales relatives aux règles d'enchères harmonisées Beslissing over het gemeenschappelijke voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium en alle transmissiesysteembeheerders van de Core capaciteitsberekeningsregio tot wijziging van de regionale eisen betreffende de geharmoniseerde veilingsregels
(RA)2305/3 27.01.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/4 17.02.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/5 24.03.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/6 28.04.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/7 23.05.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/8 07.07.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/9 19.07.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/10 27.10.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(RA)2305/11 22.12.2022	Rapport sur l'évolution des prix des différents produits sur le marché de détail par rapport aux prix de gros Rapport over de evolutie van de prijzen van individuele producten op de kleinhandelsmarkt ten opzichte van de groothandelsprijzen
(B)2324 13.01.2022	Décision relative à l'évaluation du coût des obligations de service public pour le financement de l'achat de certificats verts fédéraux, le raccordement de parcs éoliens offshore, la réserve stratégique et les CRM pour l'année 2022 Beslissing over de raming van de kostprijs van de openbare dienstverplichtingen voor de financiering van de aankoop van federale groenestroomcertificaten, de aansluiting van offshore windparken, de strategische reserve en CRM voor het jaar 2022
(B)2325 10.03.2022	Décision sur la proposition d'Interconnector Limited de modifier l'accord d'accès avec INT, le règlement d'accès d'INT et le programme d'accès Beslissing over het door Interconnector Limited ingediende voorstel van wijzigingen aan de Toegangsovereenkomst met INT, het Toegangsreglement van INT en het Toegangsprogramma
(C)2326 01.02.2022	Proposition de paramètres permettant de déterminer la quantité de capacité à acheter pour l'enchère Y-4 de 2022 couvrant la période de fourniture 2026- 2027 Voorstel van de parameters waarmee de aan te kopen hoeveelheid capaciteit wordt bepaald voor de Y-4 veiling in 2022 met leveringsperiode 2026-2027
(A)2327 01.02.2022	Avis relatif à la proposition de paramètres d'enchère du rapport du gestionnaire de réseau pour l'enchère Y-4 de 2022 couvrant la période de fourniture 2026-2027 Advies over het voorstel van veilingparameters in het Netbeheerdersverslag voor de Y-4 veiling in 2022 met leveringsperiode 2026-2027
(Z)2328 27.01.2022	Note relative aux évolutions marquantes sur les marchés de gros belges de l'électricité et du gaz naturel en 2021 Nota over de opvallende evoluties op de Belgische groothandelsmarkten voor elektriciteit en aardgas in 2021
(Z)2329 13.01.2022	Note concernant la fixation des prix maximaux sociaux et des composantes énergie de référence pour l'électricité et le gaz naturel d'application au 1er trimestre 2022 Nota over het vastleggen van de sociale maximumprijzen en van de referentie-energiecomponenten voor elektriciteit en aardgas van toepassing op het 1ste trimester van 2022
(A)2330 21.01.2022	Avis relatif à la proposition de listes adaptées des utilisateurs significatifs du réseau de haute priorité dans le cadre du plan de défense du réseau et du plan de reconstitution d'Elia Transmission Belgium SA Advies over het voorstel van aangepaste lijsten van significante netgebruikers met hoge prioriteit als onderdeel van het systeembeschermingsplan en van het herstelplan van Elia Transmission Belgium NV

(B)2331 03.02.2022		Décision relative à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'approbation de la proposition de modification du Contrat standard de transport de gaz naturel, du Règlement d'accès pour le transport de gaz naturel et du Programme de transport de gaz naturel modifiés Beslissing over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium tot goedkeuring van het voorstel tot wijziging van het Standaard Aardgasvervoerscontract, Toegangsreglement voor aardgasvervoer en Aardgasvervoersprogramma
(B)2332 17.02.2022		Décision relative à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'approbation de la proposition de modification du contrat standard de raccordement - client final Beslissing over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium tot goedkeuring van het voorstel tot wijziging van het Standaard Aansluitingscontract - eindafnemer
(A)2334 27.01.2022		Avis de la CREG sur le projet d'arrêté royal modifiant les arrêtés royaux électricité et gaz naturel du 29 mars 2012 fixant les règles de détermination du coût de l'application des tarifs sociaux et les règles d'intervention pour leur prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van de koninklijke besluiten elektriciteit en aardgas van 29 maart 2012 tot vaststelling van de regels voor het bepalen van de kosten van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven en de tussenkomstregels voor het ten laste nemen hiervan
(B)2335 31.03.2022		Décision relative à la proposition de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium d'octroi d'un raccordement avec accès flexible pour une unité de production au réseau de transport, plus précisément une OCGT supplémentaire Beslissing over het voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium tot het toekennen van een aansluiting met flexibele toegang voor een productie-eenheid op het transmissienet, specifiek een bijkomende OCGT
(F)2336 01.02.2022		Étude sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité Studie over de gevolgen van de aanhoudende hoge groothandelsmarktprijzen voor gas en elektriciteit
(A)2337 03.02.2022	●	Avis relatif à un projet d'arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 21 décembre 2021 imposant à la SA Electrabel une obligation de service public couvrant le volume et le prix du service réglage de la tension et de la puissance réactive du 1er janvier 2022 au 31 décembre 2022 inclus Advies over een ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 21 december 2021 houdende oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan Electrabel nv tot dekking van het volume en de prijs voor de dienst regeling van de spanning en het reactief vermogen vanaf 1 januari 2022 tot en met 31 december 2022
(C)2338 07.04.2022	●	Proposition d'arrêté royal fixant le mode de calcul et les modalités de contrôle du coût de la réserve stratégique et du mécanisme de rémunération de capacité Voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot vaststelling van de berekeningsmethode en de modaliteiten van de controle van de kost van de strategische reserve en het capaciteitsvergoedingsmechanisme
(Z)2339 03.02.2022	●	Note Closure of REMIT cases
(Z)2340 10.02.2022	●	Note Closure of REMIT case N90/2020
(E)2341 10.02.2022		Proposition relative au retrait de l'autorisation individuelle de fourniture de gaz naturel de TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited Voorstel over de intrekking van de individuele leveringsvergunning voor aardgas van TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited
(E)2342 10.02.2022		Proposition relative au retrait de l'autorisation individuelle de fourniture de gaz naturel de Ineos Energy Trading Limited Voorstel over de intrekking van de individuele leveringsvergunning voor aardgas van Ineos Energy Trading Limited
(E)2343 10.02.2022		Proposition relative au retrait de l'autorisation individuelle de fourniture de gaz naturel de Gazprom Marketing & Trading Limited Voorstel over de intrekking van de individuele leveringsvergunning voor aardgas van Gazprom Marketing & Trading Limited
(B)2344 10.02.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation d'une proposition de modification de l'Accord d'Exploitation de bloc RFP Elia Beslissing inzake de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van een voorstel tot wijziging van de operationele overeenkomst voor LFC-blok Elia
(E)2345 10.02.2022		Proposition relative au retrait de l'autorisation individuelle de fourniture d'électricité de TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited Voorstel over de intrekking van de individuele leveringsvergunning voor elektriciteit van TotalEnergies Gas & Power Limited
(A)2347 17.02.2022		Avis relatif à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'autorisation de transport pour la pose et l'exploitation d'une nouvelle conduite de transport de gaz naturel souterraine sur le territoire de la commune de Beveren Advies over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium van een vervoersvergunning voor de aanleg en exploitatie van een nieuwe ondergrondse aardgasvervoersleiding op het grondgebied van de gemeente Beveren
(A)2348 17.02.2022		Avis relatif à la demande de SA Fluxys Belgium d'autorisation de transport de gaz naturel pour l'installation et l'exploitation d'une nouvelle canalisation entre la station existante Charleroi (Dampremy CBR) et le nœud existant (Marchienne-au-Pont rue de la Jonction) Advies betreffende de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium van een vervoersvergunning voor de aanleg en exploitatie van een nieuwe leiding tussen het bestaande station Charleroi (Dampremy CBR) en de bestaande knoop (Marchienne-au-Pont rue de la Jonction)

(A)2349 17.02.2022		Avis sur le projet d'arrêté royal modifiant les arrêtés royaux électricité et gaz naturel du 29 mars 2012 fixant les règles de détermination du coût de l'application des tarifs sociaux et les règles d'intervention pour leur prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van de koninklijke besluiten elektriciteit en aardgas van 29 maart 2012 tot vaststelling van de regels voor het bepalen van de kosten van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven en de tussenkomstregels voor het ten laste nemen hiervan
(F)2350 24.03.2022		Étude relative au respect par Elia Transmission Belgium SA des obligations concernant la capacité d'interconnexion qui a été mise à disposition des échanges entre zones en 2021 Studie over de naleving door de NV Elia Transmission Belgium van de verplichtingen met betrekking tot de interconnectiecapaciteit die in 2021 ter beschikking van de zoneoverschrijdende handel werd gesteld Study on the compliance of Elia Transmission Belgium with the requirements related to the transmission capacity made available for cross-zonal trade in 2020
(Z)2351 25.02.2022		Note sur l'approvisionnement en gaz naturel et sur la dépendance au gaz naturel de la Belgique Nota over de aardgasbevoorrading en aardgasafhankelijkheid van België
(RA)2352 17.02.2022		Quatrième rapport de monitoring concernant l'extension de l'application des tarifs sociaux électricité et gaz naturel aux bénéficiaires de l'intervention majorée Vierde monitoringverslag over de uitbreiding van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven elektriciteit en aardgas naar de begunstigden van de verhoogde tegemoetkoming
(Z)2353 21.04.2022		Rapport comparatif des objectifs formulés dans la note de politique générale de la CREG et des réalisations de l'année 2021 Vergelijkend verslag van de doelstellingen geformuleerd in de algemene beleidsnota van de CREG en van de verwezenlijkingen van het jaar 2021
(A)2354 24.02.2022		Avis relatif à un projet d'arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 11 octobre 2000 relatif à l'octroi des autorisations individuelles couvrant l'établissement d'installations de production d'électricité Advies betreffende een ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 11 oktober 2000 betreffende de toekenning van individuele vergunningen voor de bouw van installaties voor de productie van elektriciteit
(F)2355 12.05.2022		Étude relative au fonctionnement et évolution des prix sur le marché de gros belge de l'électricité – rapport de monitoring 2021 Studie over de werking van en de prijsevolutie op de Belgische groothandelsmarkt voor elektriciteit – monitoringrapport 2021 Study on the functioning and price evolution of the Belgian wholesale electricity market – Monitoring Report 2021
(B)2356 31.03.2022		Décision relative aux conditions de forme d'une demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire Beslissing inzake de vormvereisten voor een verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs Decision on the formal requirements for a request for a derogation from the intermediate price cap
(B)2357 10.03.2022	●	Note Closure of REMIT case ID N35/2021
(B)2358 31.03.2022		Décision relative à la demande de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium du 28 octobre 2021 de dérogation à l'application de l'article 4.1, a) du code de réseau européen RfG pour les unités de production d'électricité existantes de type D d'une capacité maximale installée inférieure à 25 MW et d'une tension au point de raccordement égale ou supérieure à 110 kV Beslissing over het verzoek van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium van 28 oktober 2021 tot afwijking van de toepassing in artikel 4.1, a) van de Europese netcode RfG voor bestaande elektriciteitsproductie-eenheden van het type D met een maximaal geïnstalleerd vermogen lager dan 25 MW en een spanning op het aansluitingspunt hoger dan of gelijk aan 110 kV
(Z)2359 31.03.2022		Note sur le fonctionnement et les résultats des external parallel runs du projet Core Day-Ahead Flow Based Market Coupling Nota over de werking en de resultaten van de external parallel runs van het Core Day-Ahead Flow Based Market Coupling Project Note on the functioning and the results of the Core Day-Ahead Flow Based Market Coupling Project's external parallel runs
(Z)2360 07.04.2022		Note concernant la fixation des prix maximaux sociaux et des composantes énergie de référence pour l'électricité et le gaz naturel d'application au 2e trimestre 2022 Nota over het vastleggen van de sociale maximumprijzen en van de referentie-energiecomponenten voor elektriciteit en aardgas van toepassing op het 2de trimester van 2022
(A)2362 15.03.2022		Avis relatif à un projet d'arrêté royal relatif à l'octroi des autorisations individuelles couvrant l'établissement et l'exploitation des nouvelles installations de stockage d'énergie pour lesquelles, en 2022, un dossier de préqualification est introduit conformément à l'article 7undecies, § 8, de la loi du 29 avril 1999 relative à l'organisation du marché de l'électricité Advies betreffende een ontwerp van koninklijk besluit betreffende de toekenning van de individuele vergunningen voor de bouw en exploitatie van nieuwe energieopslagfaciliteiten waarvoor een prekwalificatiedossier wordt ingediend in het jaar 2022 overeenkomstig artikel 7undecies, § 8, van de wet van 29 april 1999 betreffende de organisatie van de elektriciteitsmarkt
(B)2363 10.06.2022		Décision sur la demande d'approbation de la proposition de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium relative à la modification de la méthodologie pour déterminer, pour chaque service d'équilibrage, la capacité d'équilibrage à réserver auprès des fournisseurs de services d'équilibrage au sein de la zone de déséquilibre Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium tot wijziging van de methodologie om, voor elk van de balanceringsdiensten, de balanceringscapaciteit te bepalen die bij de aanbieders van balancerings¬diensten moet worden gereserveerd binnen de onevenwichtszone
(B)2364 28.04.2022		Décision d'approbation de l'étude relative à la détermination du facteur d'émission CO2 pour la Belgique fondé sur le marché Beslissing tot goedkeuring van de studie betreffende de marktgebaseerde bepaling van de CO2-emissiefactor voor België

(B)2366 24.03.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation d'une proposition de modification des conditions applicables au fournisseur de services d'équilibrage ou « BSP » (Balancing Service Provider) pour les réserves de restauration de la fréquence avec activation automatique (aFRR) Beslissing inzake de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van een voorstel tot wijziging van voorwaarden voor de aanbieder van balanceringsdiensten of "BSP" (Balancing Service Provider) voor Frequentieherstelreserves met automatische activering (aFRR)
(C)2367 31.03.2022		Proposition d'arrêté royal fixant la méthode de calcul applicable en vue de déterminer les ressources nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs visés à l'article 15/11, § 1erbis, de la loi du 12 avril 1965 relative au transport de produits gazeux et autres par canalisations ainsi que les modalités de la gestion des fonds y visés par la commission de régulation de l'électricité et du gaz Voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot vaststelling van de berekeningsmethode om de middelen te bepalen die nodig zijn voor het behalen van de doelstellingen bedoeld in artikel 15/11, § 1bis van de wet van 12 april 1965 betreffende het vervoer van gasachtige produkten en andere door middel van leidingen en de modaliteiten voor het beheer van de erin bedoelde fondsen door de commissie voor de regulering van de elektriciteit en het gas
(C)2368 31.03.2022		Proposition d'arrêté royal fixant la méthode de calcul applicable en vue de déterminer les ressources nécessaires à la réalisation des objectifs visés à l'article 21bis, § 1er, de la loi du 29 avril 1999 relative à l'organisation du marché de l'électricité ainsi que les modalités de la gestion des fonds y visés par la commission de régulation de l'électricité et du gaz Voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot vaststelling van de berekeningsmethode om de middelen te bepalen die nodig zijn voor de uitvoering van de doelstellingen bedoeld in artikel 21bis, § 1 van de wet van 29 april 1999 betreffende de organisatie van de elektriciteitsmarkt en de modaliteiten voor het beheer van de erin bedoelde fondsen door de commissie voor de regulering van de elektriciteit en het gas
(A)2369 24.03.2022		Avis relatif à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'un avenant à l'actuelle autorisation de transport A322-5 du 4 octobre 1966 pour la construction d'une nouvelle station clôturée Advies over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium van een bijvoegsel aan de lopende vervoersvergunning A322-5 van 4 oktober 1966 voor de bouw van een nieuw omheind station
(Z)2370 31.03.2022	●	REMIT case : redispatching in Germany - preliminary investigation report and next steps
(C)2371 07.04.2022		Proposition d'arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 16 juillet 2002 relatif à l'établissement de mécanismes visant la promotion de l'électricité produite à partir des sources d'énergie renouvelables et l'indemnisation des titulaires d'une concession domaniale offshore en cas d'indisponibilité du Modular Offshore Grid Voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 16 juli 2002 betreffende de instelling van mechanismen voor de bevordering van elektriciteit opgewekt uit hernieuwbare energiebronnen en de vergoeding van de houders van een offshore domeinconcessie in geval van onbeschikbaarheid van het Modular Offshore Grid
(B)2372 13.04.2022		Décision relative à la validation des résultats globaux de la mise aux enchères quatre ans avant la période de fourniture de capacité 2025-2026, suite à l'adjudication complémentaire organisée par Elia Transmission Belgium Beslissing over de validering van de globale resultaten van de veiling vier jaar voor de capaciteitsleveringsperiode 2025-2026, naar aanleiding van de bijkomende toewijzing georganiseerd door Elia Transmission Belgium
(A)2373 01.04.2022		Avis relatif au projet d'arrêté royal pris en exécution de l'article 23 de la loi du 12 avril 1965 relative au transport de produits gazeux et autres par canalisations et portant activation du plan de réduction, voire d'interruption de la consommation de gaz naturel de certains clients finals raccordés au réseau de transport de gaz naturel Advies betreffende het ontwerp van Koninklijk besluit genomen in uitvoering van artikel 23 van de wet van 12 april 1965 betreffende het vervoer van gasachtige produkten en andere door middel van leidingen en houdende activering van het plan voor vermindering en zelfs onderbreking van het aardgasverbruik van sommige eindafnemers aangesloten op het aardgasvervoersnet
(B)2374 07.04.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la proposition, formulée par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium, de règles et de processus communs et harmonisés pour l'échange et l'acquisition de capacités d'équilibrage pour les réserves de stabilisation de la fréquence Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het voorstel door de NV Elia Transmission Belgium voor gemeenschappelijke en geharmoniseerde regels en processen voor de uitwisseling en inkoop van balanceringscapaciteit voor frequentiebegrenzingsreserves
(B)2375 07.04.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et de tous les gestionnaires de réseau de transport de la région de calcul de capacité Core concernant les modifications aux procédures de repli Beslissing (B) 2375 over de goedkeuringsaanvraag van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium en alle transmissiesysteembeheerders van de Core capaciteitsberekeningsregio voor wijzigingen aan de reserveprocedures
(B)2376 05.05.2022		Décision relative à la proposition de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium de modalités et conditions applicables aux fournisseurs de réglage de la puissance réactive et de maintien de la tension, y compris le contrat-type pour la fourniture du service de réglage de la puissance réactive et du maintien de la tension, à compter du 1er janvier 2023 Beslissing over het voorstel van Elia Transmission Belgium NV van de modaliteiten en voorwaarden van toepassing op de aanbieders van de regeling van het reactief vermogen en van de handhaving van de spanning, met inbegrip van de type-overeenkomst voor levering van de dienst van regeling van het reactief vermogen en van handhaving van de spanning, met ingang vanaf 1 januari 2023

(B)2384 22.08.2022		Décision relative à la proposition d'Elia Transmission Belgium SA de convention de collaboration type avec les gestionnaires d'un réseau public de distribution, telle que soumise le 30 septembre 2021 Beslissing over het voorstel van Elia Transmission Belgium NV van type-samenwerkingsovereenkomst met de beheerders van een publiek distributienet, ingediend op 30 september 2021
(B)2385 02.06.2022		Décision relative à la modernisation d'une installation de consommation (remplacement des trois disjoncteurs de 150kV situés du côté primaire des transformateurs n° 1, 2 et 4) Beslissing inzake de modernisering van een verbruiksinstallatie (vervanging van de drie 150kV stroomonderbrekers aan de primaire zijde van de transformatoren nr. 1, 2 en 4)
(B)2386 22.08.2022		Décision relative à la modernisation d'une unité de production d'électricité (mise à niveau de la turbine à gaz et du système de combustion de l'unité TGV) Beslissing inzake de modernisering van een elektriciteitsproductie-eenheid (upgrade van de gasturbine en van het verbrandingssysteem van de STEG-eenheid)
(B)2387 23.05.2022		Décision relative à la proposition commune révisée, de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et de tous les gestionnaires de réseau de transport de la zone synchrone d'Europe continentale, modifiant la détermination des blocs RFP s'agissant de la zone RFP Danemark Ouest Beslissing over het herziene gemeenschappelijke voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium en alle transmissiesysteembeheerders van de Synchrone zone Continentaal Europa tot wijziging van de definitie van de LFC-blokken wat betreft de LFC-zone Denemarken West en
(Z)2388 21.04.2022	●	Note REMIT case Elia
(B)2389 23.05.2022		Décision relative à la détermination des soldes des coûts des obligations de service public pour le financement de l'achat de certificats verts fédéraux, le raccordement de parcs éoliens offshore, la réserve stratégique et le CRM pour les années 2020 et 2021 Beslissing over de bepaling van de saldi van de kosten van de openbare dienstverplichtingen voor de financiering van de aankoop van federale groenestroomcertificaten, de aansluiting van offshore windparken, de strategische reserve en CRM voor de jaren 2020 en 2021
(Z)2390 07.07.2022		Note sur l'enquête de la CREG relative au report de la mise en service du Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Nota over het onderzoek van de CREG over het uitstel van de go-live van de Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling Note on the investigation of the CREG related to the postponement of the go-live of the Core Day-Ahead Flow-Based Market Coupling
(A)2391 28.04.2022		Avis relatif à l'octroi à RWE Energy Solutions Belgium SA d'une autorisation individuelle pour la construction d'un parc de batteries d'une capacité de 250 MW et d'une capacité de stockage de 1000 MWh sur le site de Dilsen situé sur le territoire de la commune de Dilsen Advies betreffende de toekenning aan RWE Energy Solutions Belgium NV van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een batterijpark met een vermogen van 250 MW, en een opslagcapaciteit van 1000 MWh op de site van Dilsen op het grondgebied van de gemeente Dilsen
(E)2392 28.04.2022		Proposition relative à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle de fourniture d'électricité à ArcelorMittal Energy SCA Voorstel over de toekenning van een individuele leveringsvergunning voor elektriciteit aan ArcelorMittal Energy SCA
(A)2393 05.05.2022		Avis sur le projet d'arrêté royal modifiant les arrêtés royaux électricité et gaz naturel du 29 mars 2012 fixant les règles de détermination du coût de l'application des tarifs sociaux et les règles d'intervention pour leur prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van de koninklijke besluiten elektriciteit en aardgas van 29 maart 2012 tot vaststelling van de regels voor het bepalen van de kosten van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven en de tussenkomstregels voor het ten laste nemen hiervan
(A)2394 12.05.2022		Avis sur les possibilités de mise en œuvre d'un système de prime dans les cas d'application du tarif social complexes (rétroactivité) ou impraticables (chaudières collectives en dehors d'un logement social) Advies over de mogelijkheden van de implementatie van een premiesysteem voor de toepassing van het sociaal tarief bij complexe gevallen (retroactiviteit) of onuitvoerbare gevallen (collectieve verwarmingsketels buiten een sociale woning)
(A)2395 05.05.2022		Avis relatif à l'indépendance de madame Cécile Flandre en tant qu'administrateur indépendant de Fluxys Belgium SA Advies over de onafhankelijkheid van mevrouw Cécile Flandre als onafhankelijke bestuurder van Fluxys Belgium NV
(B)2396 22.08.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la proposition de contrat type d'accès introduite par Elia Transmission Belgium SA le 27 juillet 2022 Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het voorstel van type-toegangscontract ingediend door Elia Transmission Belgium NV op 27 juli 2022
(B)2397 13.05.2022		Décision relative aux règles de fonctionnement du mécanisme de rémunération de capacité Beslissing tot vaststelling van de werkingsregels van het capaciteitsvergoedingsmechanisme
(RA)2398 12.05.2022		Cinquième rapport de monitoring concernant l'extension de l'application des tarifs sociaux électricité et gaz naturel aux bénéficiaires de l'intervention majorée Vijfde monitoringverslag over de uitbreiding van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven elektriciteit en aardgas naar de begunstigden van de verhoogde tegemoetkoming

(A)2399 23.05.2022	Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle pour l'augmentation de la puissance de production de la centrale d'accumulation par pompage-turbinage de Coo, située à Trois-Ponts, de 1080 MW à 1179 MW et l'addition de batteries d'une puissance maximale de 74 MW par la SA Electrabel Advies over de toekenning van een individuele vergunning voor de verhoging van de productiecapaciteit van de Coo-pompopslagcentrale in Trois-Ponts, van 1080 MW tot 1179 MW en de toevoeging van batterijen met een maximaal vermogen van 74 MW door de NV Electrabel
(B)2400 23.05.2022	Décision relative à la proposition quantifiée de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium portant sur sa participation aux coûts des NEMO en Belgique relatifs à l'établissement, l'amendement et l'opération du couplage unique journalier et infrajournalier en 2022 Beslissing over het gekwantificeerd voorstel van Elia Transmission Belgium nv over haar bijdrage aan de kosten van de NEMO's in België voor het vaststellen, wijzigen en uitvoeren van de eenvormige day ahead en intraday koppeling in 2022
(A)2401 23.05.2022	Avis relatif à la nécessité d'un renouvellement d'une autorisation individuelle relative à l'établissement d'une installation de production d'électricité du type turbine à gaz ou turbine gaz-vapeur de maximum 595 ou 870 MW, sur le site de Seraing, située sur le territoire de Seraing par la SA Luminus suite au transfert de propriété de Luminus SA à Taranis Power SA Advies betreffende de noodzaak tot hernieuwing van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een installatie voor de productie van elektriciteit van het type gasturbine of stoom-en gasturbine van maximum 595 MW of 870 MW op de site van Seraing, gesitueerd op het grondgebied van Seraing door de NV Luminus, na de eigendomsoverdracht van Luminus NV aan Taranis Power NV
(B)2402 24.11.2022	Décision relative à la demande de nomination de madame Valérie Vandegaart en tant que cadre chargé du respect des engagements de la SA Balansys et l'approbation des conditions régissant le mandat ou les conditions d'emploi, y compris la durée du mandat du cadre chargé du respect des engagements Beslissing over de aanvraag tot benoeming van mevrouw Valérie Vandegaart als nalevingsfunctionaris van de NV Balansys en de goedkeuring van de voorwaarden betreffende het mandaat of de arbeidsvoorwaarden, met inbegrip van de duur van het mandaat van de nalevingsfunctionaris
(B)2403 02.06.2022	Décision sur la demande d'approbation du règlement modifié d'accès au GNL pour le terminal GNL de Zeebruges, du programme modifié de terminalling, du règlement modifié d'accès pour le chargement de camions GNL et du contrat GNL modifié pour le chargement de camions GNL Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het gewijzigde LNG Toegangsreglement voor de LNG Terminal van Zeebrugge, het gewijzigde LNG Terminalling Programma, het gewijzigde LNG Toegangsreglement voor het laden van trucks en de gewijzigde LNG-overeenkomst voor het laden van LNG trucks
(B)2404 30.06.2022	Décision relative à la proposition de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium d'octroi d'un raccordement avec accès flexible pour une unité de production sur le réseau de transport Beslissing over het voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium tot het toekennen van een aansluiting met flexibele toegang voor een productie-eenheid op het transmissienet]
(B)2405 02.06.2022	Décision relative à la proposition d'approbation d'une demande de dérogation au délai d'utilisation de la plateforme européenne pour les réserves de restauration de la fréquence avec activation manuelle (mFRR) Beslissing inzake het voorstel tot goedkeuring betreffende een vraag tot afwijking van de termijn voor het gebruik van het Europese platform voor frequentieherstelreserves met manuele activering (mFRR)
(A)2406 16.06.2022	Avis sur l'analyse technico-économique des offres et du résultat de l'enchère CRM de 2021 réalisée par la Direction Générale de l'Energie Advies over de techno-economische analyse van de biedingen en de uitslag van de CRM-veiling van 2021 van de Algemene Directie Energie
(F)2407 02.06.2022	Étude relative aux composantes des prix de l'électricité et du gaz naturel Studie over de componenten van de elektriciteits- en aardgasprijzen
(B)2408 16.06.2022	Étude sur le fonctionnement du European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (système d'échange de quotas d'émission de l'Union européenne) et sur son impact sur les marchés de gros de l'électricité Studie over de werking van het European Union Emissions Trading Scheme en de impact ervan op de groothandelsmarkten voor elektriciteit Study on the functioning of the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme and its impact on the wholesale electricity markets
(B)2409 20.10.2022	Décision établissant le code de bonne conduite relatif aux conditions de raccordement et d'accès au réseau de transport et aux méthodes de calcul ou déterminant les conditions de fourniture de services auxiliaires et d'accès aux infrastructures transfrontalières, y compris les procédures d'attribution des capacités et de gestion des congestions, et approuvant la proposition d'Elia du 16 mai 2022 relative aux procédures de raccordement au réseau de transport Beslissing tot vaststelling van de gedragscode houdende de voorwaarden voor de aansluiting op en de toegang tot het transmissienet en houdende de methoden voor het berekenen of vastleggen van de voorwaarden inzake de verstrekking van ondersteunende diensten en de toegang tot de grensoverschrijdende infrastructuur, inclusief de procedures voor de toewijzing van capaciteit en congestiebeheer, en tot goedkeuring van het voorstel van Elia dd. 16 mei 2022 van aansluitingsprocedures op het transmissienet
(F)2410 08.09.2022	Étude sur la fourniture en gaz naturel des grands clients industriels en Belgique en 2022 Studie over de aardgaslevering aan grote industriële klanten in België in 2022
(B)2411 31.08.2022	Décision relative à l'établissement d'un code de bonne conduite du gaz naturel Beslissing betreffende de vaststelling van een gedragscode aardgas

(B)2412 14.07.2022		Décision relative à l'octroi d'une dérogation de délai pour l'utilisation de la plateforme européenne pour les réserves de restauration de la fréquence avec activation automatique (aFRR) Beslissing inzake de toekenning tot afwijking van de termijn voor het gebruik van het Europese platform voor frequentieherstelreserves met automatische activering (aFRR)
(A)2413 16.06.2022	●	Avis relatif à la marge de profitabilité de la production industrielle d'électricité par fission de combustibles nucléaires par les centrales soumises à la contribution de répartition (Doel 3, Doel 4, Tihange 2 et Tihange 3) pour l'année 2021 Advies betreffende de winstmarge van de industriële productie van elektriciteit door splijting van kernbrandstoffen door de centrales onderworpen aan de repartitiebijdrage (Doel 3, Doel 4, Tihange 2 en Tihange 3) voor het jaar 2021
(RA)2414 23.06.2022	●	Rapport sur la vérification des revenus et des coûts réels de la centrale nucléaire de Tihange 1 pour la période du 1er janvier 2021 au 31 décembre 2021 conformément à la Convention relative à la prolongation de la durée de vie de Tihange 1 datée du 12 mars 2014 et à la modification de la Convention relative à la prolongation de la durée de vie datée du 31 mars 2017 Rapport over de verificatie van de inkomsten en de werkelijke kosten van de kerncentrale van Tihange 1 voor de periode van 1 januari 2021 tot 31 december 2021 overeenkomstig de Conventie aangaande de verlenging van de levensduur van Tihange 1 de dato 12 maart 2014 en de wijziging van de Conventie aangaande de verlenging van de levensduur de dato 31 maart 2017
(Z)2415 07.07.2022		Note concernant la fixation des prix maximaux sociaux et des composantes énergie de référence pour l'électricité, le gaz naturel et la chaleur d'application au 3e trimestre 2022 Nota over het vastleggen van de sociale maximumprijzen en van de referentie-energiecomponenten voor elektriciteit, aardgas en warmte van toepassing op het 3de trimester van 2022
(B)2416 30.06.2022		Décision relative à la fixation du facteur de correction pour la période du 1er octobre 2022 au 30 septembre 2023 en vue de déterminer le prix minimum des certificats verts délivrés pour l'électricité produite par les installations de la concession domaniale de Rentel Beslissing over de vastlegging van de correctiefactor voor de periode van 1 oktober 2022 tot en met 30 september 2023 ter bepaling van de minimumprijs voor de groenestroomcertificaten uitgereikt voor de elektriciteit geproduceerd door de installaties in de domeinconcessie van Rentel
(B)2417 07.07.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation d'une proposition de modification de l'accord d'exploitation de bloc RFP Elia Beslissing inzake de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van een voorstel tot wijziging van de operationele overeenkomst voor LFC-blok Elia
(B)2418 19.07.2022		Décision relative à la fixation du facteur de correction portant sur la 5e période (05.10.2022 -04.10.2023) pour la détermination du prix minimum des certificats verts délivrés pour l'électricité produite par les installations de la concession domaniale de Northwester 2 Beslissing over de vastlegging van de correctiefactor voor de 5de periode (05.10.2022 – 04.10.2023) ter bepaling van de minimumprijs voor de groenestroomcertificaten uitgereikt voor de elektriciteit geproduceerd door de installaties in de domeinconcessie van Northwester 2
(B)2419 16.06.2022		Décision relative à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'approbation de la proposition de modification du Règlement d'accès pour le transport de gaz naturel et du Programme de transport de gaz naturel Beslissing over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium tot goedkeuring van het voorstel tot wijziging van het Toegangsreglement voor aardgasvervoer en Aardgasvervoersprogramma
(A)2420 16.06.2022		Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle pour l'établissement d'une installation de stockage d'électricité du type batterie de 24,9 MW et de 75 MWh, sur le territoire de la ville d'Anvers par TotalEnergies Renewables SAS Advies betreffende de toekenning van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een batterijopslagcentrale met een vermogen van 24,9 MW en 75 MWh op het grondgebied van de stad Antwerpen, door TotalEnergies Renewables SAS
(A)2421 16.06.2022		Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle pour l'établissement d'une installation de stockage d'électricité, du type batterie de 24,9 MW et de 75 MWh, sur le territoire de Feluy par TotalEnergies Renewables SAS Advies betreffende de toekenning van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een batterijopslagcentrale met een vermogen van 24,9 MW en 75 MWh op het grondgebied van Feluy door TotalEnergies Renewables SAS
(A)2422 16.06.2022		Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle pour l'établissement d'une installation de stockage d'électricité, de type batterie de 50 MW et de 100 MWh, sur le territoire de Deux-Acres (Lessines) par Corsica Sole Deux Acren Srl Advies betreffende de toekenning van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een batterijopslagcentrale met een vermogen van 50 MW en 100 MWh op het grondgebied van Deux-Acres (Lessines) door Corsica Sole Deux Acren Srl
(A)2423 16.06.2022		Avis sur le projet d'arrêté royal fixant les modalités de détermination du coût, pour les entreprises d'électricité, de l'activité relative à la prime chauffage et de leur intervention pour sa prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit houdende de nadere regels voor de bepaling van de kost voor het elektriciteitsbedrijf van de activiteiten inzake de verwarmingspremie, en van hun tussenkomst voor het ten laste nemen ervan
(A)2424 30.06.2022		Avis relatif à des mesures visant à sauvegarder la compétitivité des entreprises et le pouvoir d'achat des clients résidentiels Advies over de maatregelen om het concurrentievermogen van de ondernemingen en de koopkracht van de huishoudelijke afnemers veilig te stellen
(C)2425 23.06.2022		Proposition de norme de fiabilité révisée pour le territoire belge Voorstel van herziene betrouwbaarheidsnorm voor het Belgisch grondgebied

(A)2426 23.06.2022	Avis relatif à l'indépendance de Madame Laurence de l'Escaille en tant qu'administrateur indépendant du conseil d'administration de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et de la SA Elia Asset Advies over de onafhankelijkheid van mevrouw Laurence de l'Escaille als onafhankelijke bestuurder in de raad van bestuur van Elia Transmission Belgium NV en Elia Asset NV
(A)2427 23.06.2022	Avis relatif à l'indépendance de Monsieur Michel Allé en tant qu'administrateur indépendant du conseil d'administration de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et de la SA Elia Advies over de onafhankelijkheid van de heer Michel Allé als onafhankelijke bestuurder in de raad van bestuur van Elia Transmission Belgium NV en Elia Asset NV
(C)2428 01.09.2022	Proposition de coût brut d'un nouvel entrant, de facteur de correction X et de coût moyen pondéré du capital pour l'enchère T-4 couvrant la période de fourniture 2027-2028 Voorstel van de brutokost van een nieuwkomer, de correctiefactor X en de gewogen gemiddelde kost van kapitaal voor de T-4 veiling met leveringsperiode 2027-2028
(C)2429 19.07.2022	Proposition de scénario de référence pour l'enchère T-4 couvrant la période de fourniture 2027-2028 Voorstel van referentiescenario voor de T-4 veiling met leveringsperiode 2027-2028
(F)2430 07.07.2022	Étude sur la composition des portefeuilles de produits par fournisseur et potentiel d'économies pour les particuliers sur le marché belge de l'électricité et du gaz naturel Studie over de samenstelling van de productportefeuilles per leverancier en het besparingspotentieel voor particulieren op de Belgische elektriciteits- en aardgasmarkt
(C)2431 14.07.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la proposition révisée de contrat type de capacité introduite par Elia Transmission Belgium Beslissing over de vraag tot goedkeuring van het voorstel van standaardcapaciteitscontract ingediend door Elia Transmission Belgium
(B)2432 22.08.2022	Décision relative à la fixation du facteur de correction portant sur la 7e période (14.12.2022 - 13.12.2023) pour la détermination du prix minimum des certificats verts délivrés pour l'électricité produite par les installations de la concession domaniale de Norther Beslissing over de vastlegging van de correctiefactor voor de 7de periode (14.12.2022 - 13.12.2023) ter bepaling van de minimumprijs voor de groenestroomcertificaten uitgereikt voor de elektriciteit geproduceerd door de installaties in de domeinconcessie van Norther
(B)2433 19.07.2022	Décision relative à la proposition d'Elia Transmission Belgium portant modification des règles d'équilibrage pour la compensation des déséquilibres quart-horaires Beslissing over het voorstel van Elia Transmission Belgium tot wijziging van de balanceringsregels voor de compensatie van de kwartieronevenwichten
(B)2434 14.07.2022	Décision portant retrait de la décision (B)2417 du 7 juillet 2022 relative à la demande d'approbation d'une proposition de modification de l'accord d'exploitation de bloc RFP Elia Beslissing tot intrekking van beslissing (B)2417 van 7 juli 2022 inzake de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van een voorstel tot wijziging van de operationele overeenkomst voor LFC-blok Elia
(B)2435 14.07.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation d'une proposition de modification de l'accord d'exploitation de bloc RFP Elia Beslissing inzake de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van een voorstel tot wijziging van de operationele overeenkomst voor LFC-blok Elia
(RA)2436 19.07.2022	Sixième rapport de monitoring concernant l'extension de l'application des tarifs sociaux électricité et gaz naturel aux bénéficiaires de l'intervention majorée Zesde monitoringverslag over de uitbreiding van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven elektriciteit en aardgas naar de begunstigden van de verhoogde tegemoetkoming
(Z)2437 20.10.2022	Note de politique générale pour l'année 2023 Algemene beleidsnota voor het jaar 2023
(B)2438 08.09.2022	Décision relative à la fixation du facteur de correction portant sur la 5e période (03.12.2022 - 02.12.2023) pour la détermination du prix minimum des certificats verts délivrés pour l'électricité produite par les installations de la concession domaniale de Mermaid Beslissing over de vastlegging van de correctiefactor voor de 5de periode (03.12.2022 -02.12.2023) ter bepaling van de minimumprijs voor de groenestroomcertificaten uitgereikt voor de elektriciteit geproduceerd door de installaties in de domeinconcessie van Mermaid
(B)2439 08.09.2022	Décision relative à la fixation du facteur de correction portant sur la 5e période (03.12.2022 - 02.12.2023) pour la détermination du prix minimum des certificats verts délivrés pour l'électricité produite par les installations de la concession domaniale de Seastar Beslissing over de vastlegging van de correctiefactor voor de 5de periode (03.12.2022 -02.12.2023) ter bepaling van de minimumprijs voor de groenestroomcertificaten uitgereikt voor de elektriciteit geproduceerd door de installaties in de domeinconcessie van Seastar
(B)2440 24.08.2022	Décision relative à l'établissement des modèles de rapports ex ante et ex post destinés à communiquer les données pertinentes relatives aux coûts des obligations de service public réserve stratégique et mécanisme de rémunération de capacité visées aux articles 7octies, alinéa 2, et 7undecies, § 15, alinéa 3, de la loi électricité Beslissing over het opstellen van de ex ante en ex post rapporteringsmodellen bestemd voor het overmaken van de pertinente gegevens met betrekking tot de kosten van de openbare dienstverplichtingen strategische reserve en capaciteitsvergoedingsmechanisme bedoeld in de artikelen 7octies, 2de lid, en 7undecies, § 15, 3de lid, van de elektriciteitswetN
(A)2441 31.08.2022	Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle de fourniture de gaz naturel à Wingas GmbH Advies over de toekenning van een individuele leveringsvergunning voor aardgas aan Wingas GmbH
(F)2442 31.08.2022	Étude sur l'impact de la persistance de prix élevés sur les marchés de gros du gaz et de l'électricité Studie over de gevolgen van de aanhoudende hoge groothandelsmarktprijzen voor gas en elektriciteit

(F)2443 08.12.2022		Étude relative à la fourniture d'électricité des grands clients industriels en Belgique en 2021 Studie over de elektriciteitsbelevering van grote industriële klanten in België in 2021
(Z)2444 06.10.2022		Note concernant la fixation des prix maximaux sociaux et des composantes énergie de référence pour l'électricité, le gaz naturel et la chaleur d'application au 4e trimestre 2022 Nota over het vastleggen van de sociale maximumprijzen en van de referentie-energiecomponenten voor elektriciteit, aardgas en warmte van toepassing op het 4de trimester van 2022
(A)2445 15.09.2022		Avis relatif au projet de plan de développement 2024-2034 de la S.A. Elia Transmission Belgium Advies over het ontwerp van het ontwikkelingsplan 2024-2034 van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium
(B)2446 27.10.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation, formulée par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium, d'une adaptation de la proposition de création de centres de coordination régionaux pour la région d'exploitation du réseau Europe centrale Beslissing over de goedkeuringsaanvraag van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium voor een aanpassing aan het voorstel van de oprichting van regionale coördinatiecentra voor de systeembeheersregio Centraal Europa
(B)2447 15.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de [confidentiel] dans une catégorie de capacité liée à un contrat de capacité couvrant jusqu'à 15 périodes de fourniture de capacité Beslissing betreffende de aanvraag van [vertrouwelijk] in een capaciteitscategorie verbonden aan een capaciteitscontract dat maximaal vijftien perioden van capaciteitslevering bestrijkt
(B)2448 15.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de [confidentiel] dans une catégorie de capacité liée à un contrat de capacité couvrant jusqu'à 15 périodes de fourniture de capacité Beslissing betreffende de aanvraag van [vertrouwelijk] in een capaciteitscategorie verbonden aan een capaciteitscontract dat maximaal vijftien perioden van capaciteitslevering bestrijkt
(B)2449 27.10.2022		Décision relative à l'évaluation du coût de l'obligation de service public pour le financement de l'achat des certificats verts fédéraux pour l'année 2023 Beslissing met betrekking tot de beoordeling van de kost van de openbare dienstverplichting voor de financiering van de aankoop van federale groenestroomcertificaten voor het jaar 2023
(B)2450 03.10.2022		Décision sur la plainte en réexamen introduite par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium contre la décision (B)2433 du 19 juillet 2022 relative à la proposition d'Elia transmission Belgium portant modification des règles d'équilibrage pour la compensation des déséquilibres quart-horaires Beslissing over de klacht met het oog op een nieuw onderzoek die Elia Transmission Belgium nv heeft ingediend tegen beslissing (B)2433 van 19 juli 2022 over het voorstel van Elia Transmission Belgium tot wijziging van de balanceringsregels voor de compensatie van de kwartieronevenwichten
(B)2452 29.09.2022		Proposition relative à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle de fourniture d'électricité à Next Kraftwerke GmbH Voorstel betreffende de toekenning aan Next Kraftwerke GmbH van een individuele vergunning voor de levering van elektriciteit
(B)2453 19.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire pour les unités de marché de capacité [confidentiel] Beslissing over het verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs voor de markteenheden van capaciteit [vertrouwelijk]
(B)2454 19.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire pour l'unité de marché de capacité [confidentiel] Beslissing over het verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs voor de markteenheid van capaciteit [vertrouwelijk]
(B)2455 19.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire pour les unités de marché de capacité [confidentiel] Beslissing over het verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs voor de markteenheden van capaciteit [vertrouwelijk]
(B)2456 19.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire pour les unités de marché de capacité [confidentiel] Beslissing over het verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs voor de markteenheden van capaciteit [vertrouwelijk]
(B)2457 19.09.2022	●	Décision relative à la demande de dérogation au prix maximum intermédiaire pour l'unité de marché de capacité [confidentiel] Beslissing over het verzoek tot afwijking van de intermediaire maximumprijs voor de markteenheid van capaciteit [vertrouwelijk]
(F)2458 06.10.2022		Étude sur le fonctionnement du Core day-ahead flow-based market coupling mechanism et sur l'impact des faibles marges disponibles pour les échanges entre zones Studie over de werking van het Core day-ahead flow-based market coupling mechanism en de impact van lage beschikbare marges voor grensoverschrijdende uitwisselingen Study on the functioning of the Core day-ahead flow-based market coupling mechanism and the impact of low margins available for cross-zonal exchanges
(A)2459 03.10.2022		Avis concernant l'arrêté royal portant la création d'un mécanisme de garantie de l'État pour certains crédits contractés par les fournisseurs et intermédiaires de gaz naturel et d'électricité suite à la crise énergétique Advies betreffende het Koninklijk besluit tot instelling van een mechanisme van staatswaarborg voor bepaalde kredieten afgesloten door leveranciers en tussenpersonen van aardgas en elektriciteit ten gevolge van de energiecrisis
(B)2460 27.10.2022		Décision relative à l'évaluation du coût des obligations de service public pour le financement de la réserve stratégique et du CRM pour l'année 2023 Beslissing over de beoordeling van de kost van de openbare dienstverplichtingen tot financiering van de strategische reserve en het CRM voor het jaar 2023

(A)2461 06.10.2022		Avis relatif à la demande d'avenant à l'autorisation de transport A322-2094 du 9 mars 1990 pour la transformation de la station de mélange existante d'Antwerpen Lillo en une station de détente avec réglage de la pression et du débit Advies over de aanvraag van een bijvoegsel aan de vervoersvergunning A322-2094 van 9 maart 1990 voor de ombouw van het bestaande mengstation Antwerpen Lillo naar een ontspanningsstation met druk- en debietregeling
(A)2462 06.10.2022		Avis sur le projet d'arrêté royal modifiant les arrêtés royaux électricité et gaz naturel du 29 mars 2012 fixant les règles de détermination du coût de l'application des tarifs sociaux et les règles d'intervention pour leur prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van de koninklijke besluiten elektriciteit en aardgas van 29 maart 2012 tot vaststelling van de regels voor het bepalen van de kosten van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven en de tussenkomstregels voor het ten laste nemen hiervan
(C)2463 20.10.2022		Proposition d'arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 16 juillet 2002 relatif à l'établissement de mécanismes visant la promotion de l'électricité produite à partir des sources d'énergie renouvelables et l'indemnisation des titulaires d'une concession domaniale offshore en cas d'indisponibilité du Modular Offshore Grid Voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 16 juli 2002 betreffende de instelling van mechanismen voor de bevordering van elektriciteit opgewekt uit hernieuwbare energiebronnen en de vergoeding van de houders van een offshore domeinconcessie in geval van onbeschikbaarheid van het Modular Offshore Grid
(B)2464 27.10.2022		Décision relative à la validation des résultats de la Mise aux enchères quatre ans avant la période de fourniture de capacité 2026-2027, organisée par Elia Transmission Belgium Beslissing over de validering van de resultaten van de door Elia Transmission Belgium georganiseerde Veiling vier jaar voor de capaciteitsleveringsperiode 2026-2027
(F)2465 27.10.2022	●	Étude relative aux mécanismes de fixation du prix de l'énergie en vigueur en 2021 au sein des contrats de fourniture d'électricité des grands clients industriels d'Electrabel sa Studie over de in 2021 geldende prijsvormingsmechanismen in leveringscontracten voor elektriciteit van de grote industriële afnemers van Electrabel nv
(F)2466 27.10.2022	●	Étude relative aux mécanismes de fixation du prix de l'énergie en vigueur en 2021 au sein des contrats de fourniture d'électricité des grands clients industriels de Luminus sa Studie over de in 2021 geldende prijsvormingsmechanismen in leveringscontracten voor elektriciteit van de grote industriële afnemers van Luminus nv
(A)2467 13.10.2022		Avis relatif à la demande d'une autorisation de transport A323-4484 pour la pose d'une canalisation souterraine de transport de gaz DN1000 Zomergem (Oostwinkel) - Heren (Winksele) II, tronçon Gent (Desteldonk) – Opwijk Advies over de aanvraag van een vervoersvergunning A323-4484 voor de aanleg van een ondergrondse gasvervoerleiding DN1000 Zomergem (Oostwinkel) - Heren (Winksele) II, vak Gent (Desteldonk) – Opwijk
(A)2468 20.10.2022		Avis relatif à la proposition de loi modifiant la loi du 29 avril 1999 relative à l'organisation du marché de l'électricité, en ce qui concerne l'instauration d'une norme sur les pompes à chaleur Advies over het wetsvoorstel tot wijziging van de wet van 29 april 1999 betreffende de organisatie van de elektriciteitsmarkt wat de invoering van een warmtepompnorm betreft
(B)2470 27.10.2022		Décision sur la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'approuver la proposition de modification du Contrat standard de stockage, du glossaire de définitions, des annexes B, C1, C2, D1 et F du Règlement d'accès au stockage et du Programme de services pour le stockage Beslissing over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium tot goedkeuring van het voorstel tot wijziging van het Standaard Opslagcontract, het glossarium van definities, de bijlagen B, C1, C2, D1 en F van het Toegangsreglement voor Opslag en het Dienstenprogramma voor opslag
(B)2471 15.12.2022		Décision relative à la demande de certification de Fluxys Belgium SA – gestionnaire du stockage Beslissing over de aanvraag tot certificering van de NV Fluxys Belgium – beheerder van de opslag
(E)2472 10.11.2022		Proposition relative à l'octroi d'une autorisation de fourniture d'électricité à la Société Européenne de Gestion de l'Energie SA Voorstel betreffende de toekenning van een vergunning voor de levering van elektriciteit aan Société Européenne de Gestion de l'Energie SA
(B)2473 24.11.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation, formulée par la SA Elia Transmission Belgium, de dérogation à l'article 16, huitième alinéa du règlement (UE) 2019/943 portant sur une capacité disponible minimale d'échange entre zones Beslissing over de goedkeuringsaanvraag van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium voor een derogatie van artikel 16, achtste lid van Verordening (EU) 2019/943 met betrekking tot een minimale beschikbare capaciteit voor zone-overschrijdende handel
(B)2474 17.11.2022		Décision relative à la demande de la SA Fluxys Belgium d'approbation de la proposition de modification du règlement d'accès pour le transport de gaz naturel et du programme de services pour le transport de gaz naturel Beslissing over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium tot goedkeuring van het voorstel tot wijziging van het toegangsreglement voor aardgasvervoer en het dienstenprogramma voor aardgasvervoer
(B)2475 17.11.2022		Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium de règles d'allocation et de nomination adaptées pour la frontière entre zones de dépôt des offres Belgique – Grande-Bretagne Beslissing over de goedkeuringsaanvraag van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium voor aangepaste allocatie- en nominatieregels voor de biedzonegrens België – Groot-Brittannië
(RA)2476 10.11.2022		Septième rapport de monitoring concernant l'extension de l'application des tarifs sociaux électricité et gaz naturel aux bénéficiaires de l'intervention majorée Zevende monitoringverslag over de uitbreiding van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven elektriciteit en aardgas naar de begunstigden van de verhoogde tegemoetkoming

(A)2477 17.11.2022		Avis relatif aux amendements 4 à 16 déposés dans le cadre d'une proposition de loi instituant une taxe spéciale sur les surprofits dans le secteur de l'énergie Advies over de amendementen 4 tot en met 16 ingediend in het kader van een wetsvoorstel tot instelling van een bijzondere overwinstentaks in de energiesector
(B)2478 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Aspiravi relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Aspiravi met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2479 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Electrabel relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Electrabel met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2480 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à RWE Supply & Trading GmbH relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan RWE Supply & Trading GmbH met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2481 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Nyrstar Belgium relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Nyrstar Belgium met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2482 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la BV Yuso relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan Yuso bv met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2483 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à Nemo Link Limited relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan Nemo Link Limited met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium NV in 2023
(B)2484 22.12.2022		Décision sur la demande d'approbation de la proposition de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium relative à la modification de la méthodologie pour déterminer la capacité d'équilibrage requise dans le bloc RFP d'Elia Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium tot wijziging van de methodologie voor het bepalen van de vereiste balanceringscapaciteit in het LFC-Blok van Elia
(RA)2485 24.11.2022		Rapport sur les avances versées aux fournisseurs dans le cadre de l'extension du tarif social à la clientèle BIM et dans le cadre du forfait unique de 80 euros pour la clientèle protégée Verslag over de voorschotten die aan de leveranciers werden betaald in het kader van de uitbreiding van het sociaal tarief naar de BVT-klanten en in het kader van het eenmalig forfait van 80 euro voor de beschermde klanten
(B)2486 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA C-Power relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv C-Power met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2487 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Norther relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Norther met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2488 22.12.2022	●	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Northwester 2 relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Northwester 2 met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(B)2490 30.11.2022		Décision sur la proposition d'Interconnector Limited visant à modifier le contrat d'accès Interconnector (IAA), le règlement d'accès Interconnector (IAC) et le programme d'accès Interconnector (IAAS) Beslissing over het voorstel van Interconnector Limited tot wijziging van het Toegangscontract Interconnector (IAA), het Toegangsreglement (IAC) en het Toegangsprogramma Interconnector (IAAS)
(B)2491 24.11.2022	●	Note REMIT case : Equinor - preliminary investigation report and next steps
(C)2463/2 24.11.2022		Proposition adaptée d'arrêté royal modifiant l'arrêté royal du 16 juillet 2002 relatif à l'établissement de mécanismes visant la promotion de l'électricité produite à partir des sources d'énergie renouvelables et l'indemnisation des titulaires d'une concession domaniale offshore en cas d'indisponibilité du Modular Offshore Grid Aangepast voorstel van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van het koninklijk besluit van 16 juli 2002 betreffende de instelling van mechanismen voor de bevordering van elektriciteit opgewekt uit hernieuwbare energiebronnen en de vergoeding van de houders van een offshore domeinconcessie in geval van onbeschikbaarheid van het Modular Offshore Grid

(B)2492 22.12.2022	Décision imposant une obligation de service public à la SA Exxonmobil relative à la fourniture du service de puissance réactive à la SA Elia Transmission Belgium en 2023 Beslissing tot oplegging van een openbare dienstverplichting aan de nv Exxonmobil met betrekking tot de levering van de blindvermogensdienst aan Elia Transmission Belgium nv in 2023
(A)2493 08.12.2022	Avis relatif à l'octroi d'une autorisation individuelle pour la construction d'un parc éolien de 30,8 MWe situé sur le territoire de la commune de Gand, par Storm Gent III nv Advies betreffende de toekenning van een individuele vergunning voor de bouw van een windpark van 30,8 MWe gelegen op het grondgebied van de gemeente Gent, door Storm Gent III nv
(A)2495 08.12.2022	Avis sur le projet d'arrêté ministériel modifiant les arrêtés ministériels du 30 mars 2007 portant fixation de prix maximaux sociaux Advies over het ontwerp van ministerieel besluit tot wijziging van de ministeriële besluiten van 30 maart 2007 houdende vaststelling van de sociale maximumprijzen
(A)2496 08.12.2022	Avis sur le projet d'arrêté royal modifiant les arrêtés royaux électricité et gaz naturel du 29 mars 2012 fixant les règles de détermination du coût de l'application des tarifs sociaux et les règles d'intervention pour leur prise en charge Advies over het ontwerp van koninklijk besluit tot wijziging van de koninklijke besluiten elektriciteit en aardgas van 29 maart 2012 tot vaststelling van de regels voor het bepalen van de kosten van de toepassing van de sociale tarieven en de tussenkomstregels voor het ten laste nemen hiervan
(B)2499 15.12.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation du programme de services modifié pour l'installation GNL et du règlement d'accès GNL modifié pour le chargement de camions Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het gewijzigde LNG Terminalling Programma en het gewijzigde LNG Toegangsreglement voor het laden van trucks
(B)2500 22.12.2022	Décision relative à la demande d'approbation de la proposition commune de la SA Elia Transmission Belgium et des gestionnaires du réseau de transport de la zone synchrone d'Europe continentale pour la durée d'activation minimale que doivent assurer les fournisseurs de FCR conformément à l'article 156.10 Beslissing over de aanvraag tot goedkeuring van het gemeenschappelijke voorstel van de NV Elia Transmission Belgium en de transmissiesysteembeheerders van de Synchrone zone Continentaal Europa voor de minimumactiveringstermijn die moet worden gewaarborgd door FCR-leveranciers overeenkomstig artikel 156.10
(A)2502 22.12.2022	Avis relatif à la demande de SA Fluxys Belgium d'autorisation de transport de gaz naturel pour la pose d'une canalisation de gaz naturel entre le nœud de vannes de Beclers et le site de la Compagnie des Ciments Belges (CCB à Tournai) Advies over de aanvraag van de NV Fluxys Belgium van een aardgasvervoersvergunning voor de aanleg van een aardgasleiding tussen het afsluitersknooppunt van Beclers en de site van de Compagnie des Ciments Belges (CCB in Doornik)
(F)2503 22.12.2022	Étude relative aux prix pratiqués sur le marché belge du gaz naturel en 2021 Studie over de prijzen op de Belgische aardgasmarkt in 2021

● Confidential act due to the confidential nature of the information it contains. The CREG Management Committee assesses the confidential nature of the information, taking into particular account the guidelines concerning information to be considered confidential due to its commercial sensitivity or its personal nature, as published on the CREG website.

Responsible Editor
Koen LOCQUET
Rue de l'Industrie 26-38
1040 Brussels

Formatting
www.inextremis.be

Illustrations
www.stock.adobe.com

Staff photo
Bernard De Keyzer - www.bdkz.net

CREG – Rue de l'Industrie, 26-38 - 1040 Brussels
T +32 (0)2 289.76.11 - www.creg.be