

In the climate debate, a TSO has a main role by facilitating the energy transition (RES integration, electrification). But also by making efforts regarding system operations, its own activities, and assets can be venerable. In that perspective, the Elia Group formulated objectives at 4 different levels: from enabling the decarbonisation of the power sector to climate neutrality for system operation (grid losses, ancillary services), for its own activities (SF6, electricity consumption, fleet) and grid assets & works.

These climate ambitions are now translated, by means of a transversal program called “Act Now”, into action plans and reduction targets for scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions in Belgium and Germany. Starting from a baseline footprint (2019): 3% for scope 1 (SF6 and own consumptions), 61% scope 2 (97% grid losses) and 36% for scope 3 (assets & works) a forecast of the evolution by 2030-‘35 was made. In a ‘business as usual’-scenario, scope 1 emissions will increase, primarily due to a growing asset base and extra installed volumes of SF6. Our scope 2 emissions will drop due the decarbonisation of the energy mix, but, in turn, the share of our scope 3 emissions will become dominant.

We have set up a specific programme to identify the potential short- and long-term reduction measures for each type of emission. For scope 1, we focus on a roadmap to introduce SF6-free solutions step-by-step in our grid. In the new framework (GIS, AIS circuit breaker) agreements, manufacturers are asked to propose a Proof of Concept (PoC) with an alternative gas. Regarding the scope 2 emissions an innovative green procurement of our losses (green tracking, PPA,...) is considered. To limit the expected increase of our scope 3 emissions we have started to introduce an internal carbon price (ICP) and other tools (LCA, material passport...) in our tenders for new assets, which is aimed at reducing all types of emissions. This mechanism ensures that the purchasing choices we make include the biggest CO2 reduction tools, while minimising costs for society and adhering to European legislation for public tenders.

However, to reach a carbon-neutral value chain there is need to embed circularity in our core business processes. We are in a learning phase about the circularity of our materials and the eco-design of our assets. The raw materials scarcity is a real issue threatening the electricity sector and the planet. Therefore, the Elia Group wants to work closely with the entire value chain to stimulate reused materials. Our policies on decommissioning and waste management are reviewed to improve the recovery of parts & materials and reduce waste as much as possible.

All these different kind of actions and measures are worked out step by step and consolidated into an ambitious climate strategy.

