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**Eirgrid Plc**

Mr Fintan Slye  
Chief Executive

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IRELAND

Brussels, 26 September 2017

**Our ref : 20170926/EUA/Y5/PFO**

Dear Mr Slye,

We are contacting you about the recent press coverage (Meath Chronicle and The Northern Standard) related to the Irish interconnector and the Sinn Féin visit to Elia, the Belgian System Operator.

Indeed, Elia met with the Sinn Féin delegation on September 5th on their request. The aim of the meeting was to give background information on the ALEGrO project, an underground interconnector between Belgium and Germany. As a company of public interest, Elia wishes to be transparent on its approach and ongoing projects. Elia regrets however that some statements made during the visit have been misinterpreted and/or drawn from their context.

1. Elia did not state that there are no barriers to undergrounding the Irish project. As a general rule, Elia does not comment nor takes position on projects where it is not involved. Every project has its specific requirements and it is clear that there is no one-size-fits-all approach.
2. On possible health issues related to electro-magnetic fields, Elia aims for maximum transparency on the available research. In that respect we always fully inform authorities/ communities of the evidence available. About the specific leukaemia aspect, in the available research a causal relation between the presence of overhead lines and risk of leukaemia has never been found.

With the above clarifications, Elia has called upon its right of reply with the two concerned newspapers. Evidently, Eirgrid is free to make use of these official statements from Elia when this would be required.

We sincerely regret the difficult situation caused by the recent press articles and we hope that this will not hinder any further exchange or collaboration between our two companies.

Best regards,

Pascale Fonck  
C.O. External Relations

Ilse Tant  
C.O. Public Acceptance