

Press release Febeliec

Febeliec reinforces its structure

Brussels, 18 December 2008

The General Assembly of Febeliec has decided to reinforce its structure. The federation of the consumers of electricity and natural gas wishes to devote itself with more strength and efficiency to the following objectives:

- **competitive pricing for industrial use of electricity and natural gas;**
- **promotion of security of supply of energy in our country.**

Febeliec notes indeed that the liberalisation of the markets for electricity and natural gas has not yet contributed to effective competition nor in Belgium, nor in Europe and has not led to a single European market, as was the target. On the contrary, during the recent years prices have increased in our country to a level which represents a threat to energy-intensive companies, the industry, and a fortiori for their competitive position. For this reason, Febeliec will, more still than in the past, develop measures that must increase the competition on the energy markets. While awaiting this, transitional measures will be proposed which must lead to correct prices for electricity and natural gas for the consumers.

Moreover the security of supply of energy has deteriorated strongly during the last years. Before the liberalisation, Belgium was net exporter of electricity, but today it must import more than 10% of its usage from foreign countries. For this reason, Febeliec will devote itself to a climate which stimulates investments in the networks and in additional production capacity for electricity.

Moreover, Febeliec notes that the energy policy has increased strongly in importance, and that the energy costs have a still larger impact on the competitiveness of companies. In this regard, arguments and discussions become still more technical and more complex. This implies that a continuously increasing effort from the consumers is required to prepare the files thoroughly, and to adopt coherent and powerful positions.

The federation has introduced a number of modifications in its statutes to this end, which must streamline the decision process within the organisation. Moreover the resources are strongly extended, both financially and in the field of expertise.

Febeliec has thus appointed Peter Claes, at present general manager of essenscia and vice-president of Febeliec, to take the daily control and the coordination of the activities. He will appeal to the expertise of Febeliec members to set up a competency centre of energy for all the sectors concerned. The chairmanship is entrusted to Mr. Yves Verschueren, managing director of essenscia, the Belgian federation of the chemical industry and of life sciences.

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