

Press release

Brussels, May 4, 2013

### **Degressivity offshore surcharge: one step towards competitive electricity prices for industry**

Last Friday, the federal government decided to apply a degressive tariff and a cap to the surcharge for offshore wind energy as from July 1<sup>st</sup> till the end of this year. This tariff will be based on the same mechanism as the one for the federal levy and will apply to industrial electricity consumers. Febeliec welcomes this decision which, for the rest of this year, is a step forward towards competitive electricity prices for our industry, and is a start towards reducing our handicap compared to the neighbouring countries.

Febeliec recently underlined the high electricity prices for our industry and the competitive handicap it causes (12 to 45% compared to our neighbour countries), this on the basis of a study by Deloitte.

For the results of that study:

<http://www.febeliec.be/web/media%20%20press%202013/1011306087/list1187970098/f1.html>.

Under the current regime, the offshore surcharge for the largest consumers can amount up to several million euros, but will now, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2013, be capped to a maximum of 125.000€. Febeliec insists, though, that this new regime be extended to the coming years, in order to improve the investment climate for industrial companies. Moreover, the whole of surcharges on electricity and natural gas urgently needs to be further reduced (a.o. the cost of the certificates' systems in the regions) down to the level of our neighbouring countries.

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