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Febeliec contests tariff increase for electricity consumers.

Febeliec, the association of industrial consumers, goes to the Court of Appeal to contest the new Elia tariffs approved by the CREG on May 16 last.

Earlier this year, a study by Deloitte pointed out that the Belgian industry pays a significant higher electricity price than its competitors in the surrounding countries.

“The Belgian industry has to cope already now with a competitive burden of 12 to 45% compared to our neighbours. These new tariffs will further increase that disadvantage for all electricity consumers, and will have severe consequences for the industrial development, and thus employment and welfare in our country.” says Peter Claes, director of Febeliec.

The new tariffs come down to a further deterioration of our handicap by 0,7 to 2,5€/MWh. For a large industrial consumer (1 TWh/year), this tariff review for 2014-2015 implies a cost increase by more than 700.000€ per year, compared to the previous tariff period, that ended in 2011. Because of the increase of the transmission tariffs, Belgium now ranks amongst the most expensive countries compared to our neighbours, significantly higher than the Netherlands and Germany.

Febeliec strives for competitive prices for electricity in Belgium and therefore contests the decision in the Brussels Court of Appeal. Febeliec requests the Court of Appeal to cancel the tariffs because they are not compliant with the principles of European legislation. *“If we want to maintain industrial employment in Belgium, the electricity price urgently has to be brought down. This increase is therefore unacceptable.”*

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About Febeliec

Febeliec represents industrial energy consumers in Belgium. It strives for competitive prices for electricity and natural gas for industrial activities in Belgium, and for an increased security of energy supply. Febeliec has as members 7 business associations (chemistry and life sciences, steel, glass, pulp & paper, cement, mining, textiles and wood processing) and 23 companies (Air Liquide, Air Products, Aperam, ArcelorMittal, Aurubis Belgium, BASF Antwerpen, Bayer Antwerpen, Bekaert, Borealis Polymers, Dow Belgium, Evonik Degussa Antwerpen, Infrabel, Ineos, Lanxess, NLMK Belgium, Nyrstar Belgium, Praxair, Sol, Solvay, Tessenderlo Chemie, Umicore, Unilin and Yara). Together they represent over 80% of industrial electricity and natural gas consumption in Belgium and some 230.000 industrial jobs.