

## Offshore cost for companies: some clarity at last!

**Press release - Brussels, 7th November 2013.** The federal council of ministers has decided today to turn the degressivity and ceiling for industrial consumers into a structural measure. In this way, the formula already applied during the second half of this year will be consolidated for the future. Industrial companies that fulfil certain conditions will thus see their surcharges lower significantly. That is good news for the competitiveness of our companies and for the investment climate for industrial activities in our country.

The study Deloitte realized for Febeliec in the beginning of the year shows that our industry suffers a cost handicap of 12 to 45% for its electricity, compared to our neighbouring countries. A large part of this handicap can be explained by the various surcharges that are laid upon electricity consumption by the federal and regional authorities.

Febeliec therefore welcomes the decision of the federal government to structurally make degressive and cap the levy for the offshore surcharge, as is the case for the federal levy, for industrial consumers. This means a significant catch-up of their competitive position compared to the neighbouring countries. As the formula becomes structural for the future, it also improves the investment climate for industrial activities.

Febeliec will continue to plead for competitive prices for electricity and natural gas in our country. The whole of surcharges (federal + regional) remains the centre of interest for competitiveness of our industry. In this context, Febeliec suggests to introduce an energy standard, by analogy with the wage standard (for more information, see Memorandum Febeliec, [http://www.febeliec.be/data/1382350032Memorandum%20Elections\\_2014\\_FR\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.febeliec.be/data/1382350032Memorandum%20Elections_2014_FR_FINAL.pdf) and [http://www.febeliec.be/data/1382350032Memorandum%20Verkiezingen%202014\\_NL\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.febeliec.be/data/1382350032Memorandum%20Verkiezingen%202014_NL_FINAL.pdf)).

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