

**URGENCY PLAN AND STRUCTURAL SOLUTIONS BECOME ABSOLUTE NECESSITY
FOR COMPANIES' SECURITY OF SUPPLY**

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Febeliec is extremely preoccupied by the current crisis concerning electricity production in our country. Further to the recent problems in Doel 4, to the extended closure previously announced for Doel 3 and Tihange 2, and to the limited import capacity, a potential nightmare scenario turns up. It is no longer certain whether companies will be able, in the next autumn and winter period, to obtain the electricity they bought in order to guarantee their company's continuity. Important companies and their workers could thus get into trouble. Moreover, the electricity price threatens to escalate even more to higher levels than the current one, which is already much higher than in our neighbouring countries. The increasing market price for electricity in our country is a necessary signal for additional investments, in order to guarantee security of supply, but it also leads to an increasing cost handicap for our industry.

"The (expensive) investments of these last few years did not lead to the required security of supply", says Peter Claes, director of Febeliec. The organisation of large industrial energy consumers thus stresses that this could seriously harm our country's image. Belgium's reputation of reliable and stable country as regards energy supply is of course jeopardized, if it cannot supply the required energy. "This scenario must be avoided at all ends, otherwise we fear that the international investment climate will be considered unfavourable", Peter Claes says.

The industrial electricity consumers therefore ring alarm bells. "For our companies, security of supply and competitive prices are of vital importance. An urgent problem occurs at both levels. If the market fails, we expect competent authorities to work out a sufficient, urgent and realistic scheme of approach", says Peter Claes. Febeliec itself suggests to further stimulate potential demand response from the industrial users as soon as possible. In this way, companies can temporarily reduce their consumption in case of urgent need on a voluntary basis and against a fair compensation. "Industry wants to take its responsibilities in this crisis situation", adds Peter Claes, "But everyone must be aware that this cannot be considered as a structural solution. It is high time to find an effective solution which can also offer long term security".

As regards the long term, Febeliec agrees that renewable energy will present a still increasing part in electricity production. In this transitory period, particular attention must be paid to the efficiency of green investments: preferably first to those technologies offering a high energy return at a lower cost. Furthermore, this transition is only possible and affordable if technological progress diminishes the production cost of renewable energy and if solutions can be found for security of supply, through storage and flexible consumption. In the meantime, security of supply can only be guaranteed by means of fossil fuels (gas, carbon) and/or nuclear energy. The absence of investments in one or more of these technologies will more and more jeopardize security of supply and of course, it must in this view be avoided to invest twice for our energy supply.

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