

PRESS RELEASE

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Life extension Doel 1 & 2 brings clarity and more security of supply

Febeliec, the federation of industrial consumers of electricity and natural gas in Belgium, reacts positively to the agreement reached by the federal government and Electrabel on the life extension of nuclear plants Doel 1 and Doel 2. The 10 year life extension of these plants after confirmation of their safe exploitation leads to a significant improvement of the prospects of electricity security of supply for our country for the coming years. Indeed, it reduces our import dependency from our neighboring countries. Moreover, our competent authorities gain time to reach a consensus on an energy vision for the medium and long term. This is important for the investors' confidence, for producers as well as for consumers. The uncertainty on the future of our nuclear plants had started to weigh heavily on the investment climate these last years.

Moreover, this decision will allow electricity prices in our country to stay more closely aligned to those in our neighbor countries in the coming years, thanks to the reduction in structural generation shortage. This is a good case for the competitive position of our industry, which suffered more and more under the absence of investments in generation capacities offering a secured supply these last years. Nuclear plants also hardly emit any CO₂, a fair case in the battle against climate change.

Febeliec insists, however, on the need for our authorities to rapidly start the development of an energy vision for the long term, especially in view of the closure of all our nuclear plants in 2023 and 2025. This requires a solid preparation, aiming on the one hand at a balanced and future-oriented fuel mix in our own country and on the other hand at additional cross-border capacities in view of a further integration of the European energy markets. Febeliec particularly reminds the competent authorities of our country of the urgent need to introduce an energy norm in order to avoid our energy prices to continue to strongly deviate from those in our neighbor countries.

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