

## PRESS RELEASE – 8 FEBRUARY 2016

### OK FOR CLIMATE MEASURES, BUT NOT TO THE EXPENSE OF EVERYTHING

Belgian ready to selectively take measures by himself. However, this should not jeopardize jobs. This is one of three major conclusions of a survey by market research company iVOX with 1.000 Belgians at the request of Febeliec. The aim was to interrogate the population on their thoughts on current energy issues.

#### **We should not pay more for our energy than the surrounding countries, nor should our industry**

Three quarters of the Belgians (74%) is convinced that energy prices play an important role for Belgium's industrial development.

81 percent of the Belgians support the introduction of an energy norm, preventing energy prices for Belgian companies from rising above those in the neighboring countries. A large majority (74%) considers such an energy norm to be a good deal for the country's welfare. *"This is a very important signal,"* says Peter Claes, Director of Febeliec. *"It shows that the participants to the survey are very well aware of the need to keep industrial activities (and the linked jobs) in Belgium".*

Three out of four (74%) is of the opinion that the authorities should bare part of the cost of introducing a norm.

At the same time, the population (78%) thinks that companies should be obliged to use less and less energy. *"We can definitively live with that, because already now this is the case". A lot of companies already optimized their energy efficiency and will continue to do so in the future,"* adds Peter Claes.

#### **Climate protection, but not at any cost**

Climate measures are needed but they cannot jeopardize the employment. *"The results of the survey clearly indicate that Belgians are worried about the climate and take the issue seriously. It is noteworthy that three quarters of the Belgians (74%) indicate that climate measures should not kill jobs,"* states Peter Claes.

8 out of 10 Belgians say to be prepared to change their behavior in order to improve climate or the environment. This also shows in a number of concrete actions. 55% of the participants indicate to be ready to pay more for products with a lesser impact on the environment. 4 out of 10 would be prepared to accept a smaller residence, while 56% of the interrogated Belgians would be willing to turn down the heating and to wear more clothes. 1 out of 3 pretends to do this already now.

## Where should our energy come from?

8 out of 10 indicates to require more security of energy supply for our country. There should also be room for renewable energy in this respect. The same number of people (84%) declare they want renewable energy. Three quarters believes, however, that this type of energy is still insufficiently developed in order to guarantee security of supply.

A smaller group (39%) believes Belgium to have sufficient sun and wind in order to guarantee electricity supply within the next 10 years (with the planned closure of nuclear plants).

Almost six out of 10 (56%) think that nuclear plants should be part of the fuel mix for energy generation too. Peter Claes: *“It is clear that a balance needs to be sought between security of supply, affordability and sustainability of the energy mix of the future. The competent authorities urgently need to make positive and long term oriented choices that can fit in a European context.”*

### **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

The survey was organised online by market research company iVOX in December 2015 with 1000 Belgians from the iVOX panel, representative on the account of language, gender, age and education.