Press release

PwC study confirms electricity cost handicap
Authorities must urgently introduce an energy norm

Brussels, 11th July 2016 – Federal regulator CREG commissioned a study to consultant PwC to compare electricity and gas prices in Belgium with those in the surrounding countries (United Kingdom included). As regards electricity costs, the results confirm the conclusions of the Deloitte study carried out for several years now at Febeliec's request: our electro-intensive consumers have to deal with a significant handicap regarding electricity costs compared to the neighbour countries. Febeliec thus calls upon federal and regional authorities to urgently introduce an energy norm as stipulated in their governmental agreements, as well as in the Marshall Plan for the Walloon region.

To this effect, an agreement must be reached in the first place between the authorities concerned in order to carry out, at least once a year, an objective analysis of electricity prices (and of its components) in Belgium (per region) as well as in our neighbouring countries. As a second step, the price components causing a competitive handicap for our industry must be corrected. In this context, Febeliec puts forward the following priorities:

- In order for our electricity prices to converge with those of our neighbours, it is an absolute necessity to eliminate all uncertainty regarding the future of our nuclear plants as well as to define a clear energy vision for the upcoming years.
- In Germany, the Netherlands and in France, consumers with a stable and/or predictable consumption profile benefit from substantial reductions (up to 90%) of their transport tariffs. Febeliec thus insists that our country follows the same line, given the stability these consumers bring to the grid.
- For the federal surcharge which finances the strategic reserve, Febeliec proposes amendments aiming at preserving industry's competitiveness.

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