

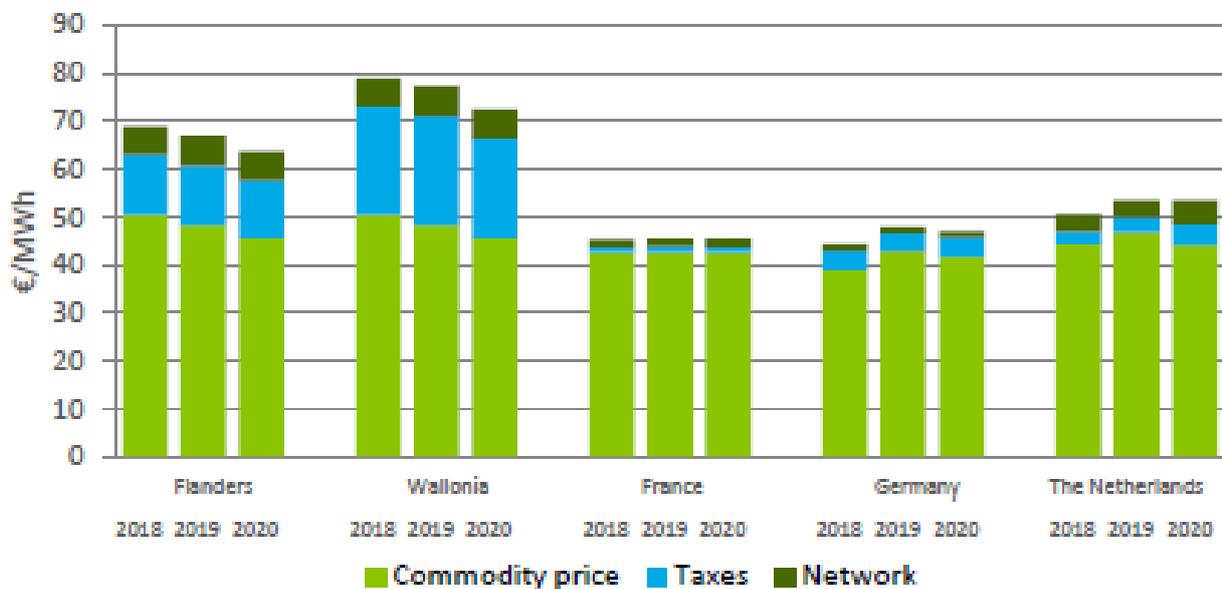
## PRESS RELEASE

### In 2020 electricity prices continue to remain higher than in neighbouring countries Energy norm and life time extension nuclear plants inevitable for industrial revival after corona crisis

**Brussels, April 22, 2020** – At Febeliec’s request Deloitte has been mapping electricity prices and their components for Belgian industry since 2013, in order to compare them with those in neighbouring countries. All these years our industrial companies have been paying higher electricity prices, a significant competitive disadvantage. This situation causes our country to lose investments and jobs.

According to the most recent study of Deloitte for Febeliec’s account, Belgian industrial consumers pay between 8 and 29% more in 2020 than the average of the 4 countries analysed. Especially taxes remain substantially higher in our country, and (transmission) grid tariffs are also significantly higher for companies with a stable or predictable consumption profile. For the largest consumers, the disadvantage amounts up to millions of euros. As the KULeuven/VIVES<sup>1</sup> study shows, the impact on our economy can be estimated at a loss of hundreds of millions of euros of investments and tens of thousands of jobs.

### All-in electricity prices for baseload profiles (100 GWh)



Febeliec notes that electricity prices as such (without taxes or grid costs) are now more in line with those in our neighbour countries, a.o. thanks to the increasing trust of market players in the availability of nuclear plants. In the past, the uncertainty regarding nuclear plants led invariably to higher market prices for Belgian consumers. Febeliec thus insists upon rapid and clear decisions by the authorities regarding the nuclear phase-out. The capacity remuneration mechanism (CRM) will obviously come too late, and Febeliec thus pleads for the life time extension of 3 nuclear plants, wherever possible for a period of 20 years. Today this is the only way to keep our electricity prices in line with those of our neighbouring countries and with a minimal impact on climate. In addition, our governments must urgently introduce an energy norm. Essential sectors need extra oxygen during and after this corona crisis in order to protect our economy in the best way and to pave the way for industrial revival after the crisis.

**Contact:** Thérèse van Bellinghen (Op de Beeck & Partners) - 0475/47.82.33 - [therese@opdebeeck-partners.be](mailto:therese@opdebeeck-partners.be)

<sup>1</sup> "The impact of electricity prices on jobs and investment in the Belgian manufacturing industry", zie <http://www.febeliec.be/data/1522308702Impact%20Electricity%20Price%20v20180323.pdf>.

*Febeliec represents industrial energy consumers in Belgium. It strives for competitive prices for electricity and natural gas for industrial activities in Belgium, and for an increased security of energy supply. Febeliec has as members 4 business associations (Chemistry and life sciences, Glass, pulp & paper and cardboard, Textiles and wood processing, Brick) and 34 companies (Air Liquide, Air Products, Aperam, ArcelorMittal, Aurubis Belgium, BASF Antwerpen, Bayer Agriculture, Bekaert, Borealis, Brussels Airport Company, Covestro, Dow Belgium, Evonik Antwerpen, Glaxosmithkline Biologicals, Google, Ineos, Infrabel, Inovyn Belgium, Kaneka Belgium, Kuraray-Eval Europe, Lanxess, Nippon Gases Belgium, NLMK Belgium, Nyrstar Belgium, Oleon, Proxiums, Sol, Tessenderlo Group, Thy-Marcinelle, Total Petrochemicals & Refining, Umicore, Unilin, Vynova and Yara). Together they represent over 80% of industrial electricity and natural gas consumption in Belgium and some 230.000 industrial jobs.*