

Tinne Van der Straeten
Minister of Energy



FPS Economy, S.M.E.s, Self-employed and Energy



Regulatory model for the transport of hydrogen per pipeline

Consultation template

25/01/2022

This document should be used to react to the public consultation on the proposed regulatory model for the transport of hydrogen per pipeline. [The proposed regulatory model](#) is described here. The following questions seek your views on the concepts set out in this note.

Any reaction should be sent by mail to H2regulering@economie.fgov.be by February 22, 2022.

Company/association: Febeliec ASBL/VZW

Name contact person: Peter Claes

Contact details: febeliec@febeliec.be - +32 496 59 36 20

Confidentiality

Please note that your answer can be used to redact the regulation concerning the tender mechanism. If need be, your answer can be used in an anonymized way.

The personal data collected will only be used for the purposes of the present consultation. More information on the processing of your personal data can be found in our privacy policy: <https://economie.fgov.be/en/privacy-statement>.

Should your reply be anonymized for publication or sharing with others than mentioned above

- No

Please motivate.

Our reaction to this consultation contains no confidential information.

Does your reply contain any confidential information

- No

If yes, please indicate which parts of this reply should be treated as confidential and explain the reasoning as well as the possible harm. Confidential parts of your reply should also be indicated as such in the text below.

Our reaction to this consultation contains no confidential information.

Proposed regulatory model

In your view, are the objectives presented in section 3 of the consultation paper on the proposed regulatory model justified? If not, please specify.

- No. Please specify:

As for infrastructure development, Febeliec strongly supports the ACER/CEER recommendations on when and how to regulate pure hydrogen networks (See <https://documents.acer.europa.eu/Media/News/Pages/ACER-and-CEER-recommend-when-and-how-to-regulate-pure-hydrogen-networks.aspx>):

1. Consider a gradual approach to the regulation of hydrogen networks in line with market and infrastructure development for hydrogen
2. Apply a dynamic regulatory approach based on periodic market analysis and monitoring
3. Clarify the regulatory principles from the outset
4. Foresee temporary regulatory exemptions for existing and new hydrogen infrastructure developed as business-to-business networks
5. Value the benefits of repurposing gas assets for hydrogen transport
6. Apply cost-reflectivity to avoid cross-subsidisation between the gas and hydrogen networks in case of repurposing gas assets

In your view, are there any objectives – other than those presented in section 3 of the consultation paper on the proposed regulatory model – that should be considered when developing the regulatory model? If so, please specify.

- No

In your view, does the regulatory model presented in section 4 of the consultation paper meet the objectives presented in section 3? If not, please specify.

- Yes
- No. Please specify

Not relevant – see answer above.

Which of the elements of this regulatory model do you find particularly relevant?

Which elements of this model do you find less appropriate?

Febeliec invites the federal government to organize regulation of the future hydrogen market in Belgium in line with the above mentioned ACER/CEER White Book. Furthermore, Febeliec strongly invites the government to align future Belgian regulation with the upcoming European gas package (directive and regulation), and not to go beyond the targets and timing of the package.

Would you add further modifications to the intended model? If yes, please describe which modifications and for what reason you would like to add them.

- Yes. Please specify which modifications and why:

See above – See also ACER/CEER: *“ACER/CEER advocate for a gradual approach to the regulation of hydrogen networks in line with market development.”*

Do you have any other comments on the proposed regulatory model? If yes, please specify.

- No
- Yes. Please specify:

Febeliec fully recognizes the significant role that hydrogen can play as an energy carrier in the energy transition towards a climate-neutral system in 2050.

Business models for the increased use of (clean) hydrogen are still to be developed and/or to be detailed down for many applications. Overall, technological choices will need to be made based on the technical and economic potential of all available pathways towards a climate-neutral energy system by 2050.

Febeliec is thus in favor of a no-regret approach for the development of a hydrogen-based energy system, with a step-by-step development of generation of clean hydrogen, investments in hydrogen infrastructure and hydrogen use in industry, transportation and power generation based on progress in technical feasibility and economic viability. Febeliec is opposed to arbitrary imposed use of green or clean hydrogen in industrial processes.