

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 12 June 2015 - CREG and PWC confirm urgency of an energy norm

Febeliec notes yet another study points out that electricity prices for industrial consumers are too high. The analysis of electricity prices by PWC, commissioned by the CREG, confirms the conclusions of the prices survey Deloitte realizes every year for Febeliec: our industry has to cope with an alarming handicap as regards electricity prices in comparison with our neighbor countries. PWC and the CREG estimate the price difference at 15 to 20% in 2014 for consumers of 100 GWh and more. For 2015, it has even increased to 27 to 73% compared to Germany, the Netherlands and France. These are the conclusions of the Deloitte survey (March 2015).

The CREG and PWC conclude that the Belgian natural gas consumers benefited in 2014 from the largest gas prices in the area. Febeliec, however, points out that this situation has deteriorated in the last few months. Significant increases of a certain number of taxes (federal levy on natural gas and excise duties on gas and oil products) have pushed natural gas prices for industrial consumers in 2015 much closer to the average of surrounding countries.

PWC and the CREG confirm what Febeliec and Deloitte have been saying since the last three years: Belgian industrial consumers clearly have to cope with a significant competitive disadvantage compared to neighbor countries. The need of an energy norm to eliminate this competitive handicap is therefore highly urgent. The federal government agreement as well as the Flemish one, and the Marshall Plan 4.0 in Wallonia moreover include the introduction of such an energy norm.

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

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