

PRESS RELEASE

### **DELAY OF DECISION ON NUCLEAR PHASE-OUT: WORST CASE SCENARIO**

**Brussels, September 29, 2020 – The negotiators of the Vivaldi coalition propose to delay the final decision on the nuclear phase-out to November 2021. For Febeliec this is the worst case scenario: the uncertainty on the nuclear extension will scare off investors and risk to drive up market prices for Belgian consumers. Febeliec thus calls for decisiveness and rationality.**

The negotiators of the Vivaldi coalition agreed that the decision on the lifetime extension of nuclear plants can only be taken in November 2021, if by then security of supply is jeopardized. It's the snake that bites its own tail: uncertainty will be such that not only potential investors in new capacities will be frightened off and markets will become nervous to the extent that Belgian consumers might have to pay a risk premium on top of the market price.

In the nuclear phase-out debate, numerous divergent visions are current, but on one aspect all have been in agreement all the time: a rapid, strong and clear decision is crucial. Electricity consumers, both companies and households, have a right to security of supply at an affordable price. Uncertainty in this matter unavoidably translates into higher market prices for all consumers. With the serious objections expressed by the European Commission on the planned subsidies for new gas powered plants in our country, a full nuclear phase-out by 2025 is now out of range. Febeliec insists on decisiveness and clarity on this issue: an extension of the lifetime of the most recent nuclear plants offers the best basis for security of supply after 2025, at a lower cost, with less import dependency and less carbon emissions.

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

---

*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 35 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, Nippon Shokubai Europe, NLMK Belgium, Nyrstar Belgium, Oleon, Proxioms, 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.*