

Extension nuclear plants: a missed chance

Brussels, 13 October 2009. Keeping open the nuclear plants offered a wide range of possibilities. Today, the federal government misses however a unique opportunity to lower the prices for households AND for industrial consumers, and to finance the offshore wind farms in an alternative way. Febeliec, the federation of industrial energy consumers, therefore regrets that the actual agreement in no way contributes to a better functioning of the Belgian energy market.

Febeliec calls upon the government to take measures in the coming weeks in order to bring about a more competitive market functioning, in order to improve the purchasing power of the citizens and the competitiveness of the industry through lower, competitive energy prices in our country:

- by using part of the nuclear revenues to finance the offshore, the cost of which weighs today without limit on the electricity price of all consumers;
- by taking the required and where needed drastic measures, in agreement with the CREG, the French, Dutch, German and Luxemburg governments and regulators, in order to bring about a real competition between producers and suppliers on the Central West European markets for electricity and natural gas;
- consolidating the role and competencies of the CREG in order to obtain transparent, non discriminatory tariffs and an efficient monitoring of the markets;
- by progressively reducing the impact of authorities' measures which inflate the electricity and gas prices (federal levy, offshore tax, system of certificates in the regions, ...) in order not to nip in the bud the fragile economic recovery in the industry. For a lot of industrial companies, energy costs are of decisive importance when they need to choose which production unit to restart first;
- while waiting for a competitive market functioning, by taking measures in view of competitive prices for the industry, following the example of a.o. France;
- by improving the investment climate of infrastructure for transport of gas and electricity on the one hand, and the construction of new production units on the other.

Febeliec stays at the disposal of the government to contribute to the elaboration of specific measures.

Contact: Peter Claes, Tel. +32 496-59 36 20, info@febeliec.be.