

Press Release

Brussels, 24 September 2009

Electrabel has taken note of the information recently published in the press regarding the ongoing debate about the possible extension of the operating lives of nuclear power plants, and more specifically of a scheme published this morning in De Standaard which claims to portray “Electrabel’s vision”.

The Company categorically refutes the positions that have been made to her disadvantage and totally unfounded regarding its stance, both in terms of the figures quoted and the “calendar” of the distribution.

Electrabel wishes to provide a brief reminder of the position it has always taken and communicated in this case:

- the possible decision to extend the operating lives and its terms of implementation are of a political nature and are thus the responsibility of the public authorities alone ;
- based on the decision that is taken, Electrabel will either draw up a maintenance plan aimed at planning the closure of the plants in question by 2015, or undertake the investments required in order to guarantee the safe operation of the reactors beyond this date ;
- such investments total approximately €800 M, for the 3 oldest nuclear units, should, in essence, be revealed before the beginning of the possible extension period, before 2015.

The economic and industrial interest of undertaking them or not will have to be assessed on the basis of all the, especially financial, terms of the Government’s decision.

The Company would also like to add that:

- the estimated figure of €1,000 M, quoted by the Company, corresponds to the total net value created, after investment and maintenance costs, that would be generated by an extension of the operating lives and could not be confused in any way with the amount of a possible levy ;
- the various figures quoted here and there regarding this extension are completely disproportionate in comparison to its objective value.

Electrabel would also like to recall that it has made an appeal to the Constitutional Court against the 2008 Belgian Government’s decision to impose a unique tax of €250 M on nuclear power producers.

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*Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.
Ce communiqué de presse est également disponible en français.*