



Investment projects related to the long-term operation of Tihange 1, Doel 1 and Doel 2 comply with the Euratom Treaty objectives

On March 17, 2017, the European Commission issued its opinion under Article 43 of the Euratom Treaty on investment projects related to the long-term operation of Tihange 1 and Doel 1 and 2. The Commission considers that these projects help to achieve the goals of Belgium's energy policy and are consistent with the Euratom Treaty's objectives, particularly in terms of nuclear safety.

On March 23, 2017, ENGIE Electrabel took note of the opinions issued by the European Commission under Article 43 of the Euratom Treaty. The Euratom Treaty is the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, which primarily aims to guarantee a secure and reliable energy supply.

This treaty requires nuclear power plant operators to notify the Commission of major investment projects relating to new facilities, as well as replacements or modifications of a certain size. In light of this, ENGIE Electrabel notified the European Commission of investments related to the long-term operation of Tihange 1 and Doel 1 and 2. As a reminder, these investments amount to €600 million for the lifetime extension of Tihange 1 and €700 million for Doel 1 and 2.

The European Commission considers that these investments and associated action plans meet the Euratom Treaty objectives, namely compliance with requirements to protect workers and the public from radiation, nuclear safety, the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, security of supply and security control. It also stresses some points for attention, including the full implementation in due course of the recommendations made following the resistance tests, and the timely implementation of safety improvements in connection with the long-term operation of the three units. The Commission will closely monitor the implementation of these investments and would like to be duly informed about the project's progress.

For the third consecutive time in the space of a month, a public body has confirmed that ENGIE Electrabel is operating its nuclear power plants responsibly.

This latest favourable opinion from the European Commission follows the opinions and decisions previously issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and, very recently, by the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control (FANC).

More specifically:

- On February 23, 2017, the IAEA endorsed the lifetime extension of the Doel 1 and 2 power plants during a SALTO (Safety Aspects of Long Term Operation) mission requested by the FANC. The IAEA considers that Electrabel is managing the lifetime extension of its power plants in accordance with the relevant international standards and has identified a number of best practices, such as having a complete overview of the project and knowing what needs to be analysed, as well as the measures taken to tackle staff turnover so that knowledge is not lost and the necessary expertise is retained. It also adds some recommendations and areas for improvement, including monitoring of the ageing of infrastructure.
- On March 10, 2017, when publishing the follow-up reports to the action plans implemented following the resistance tests, the FANC confirmed that the Belgian nuclear power plants were increasingly well protected against extreme natural events. The FANC underlines the progress made with the nuclear power plants in 2016 and specifies that "At the end of 2016, ENGIE Electrabel had finalised more than 85% of its action plan for the Tihange and Doel nuclear power plants." The FANC will continue to closely monitor the progress of these works and will publish new follow-up reports by early 2018.

ENGIE Electrabel CEO Philippe Van Troeye *"We are pleased with these opinions and reports , which confirm once again that the Belgian nuclear power plants are operated professionally, with nuclear safety as an absolute priority. The lifetime extension of Tihange 1 and Doel 1 and 2 also enables 1,800 MW of generating capacity to be maintained locally, significantly contributing to the country's security of supply, and means that Belgium's generation facilities are among those with the lowest carbon emissions in Europe."*