

Region/Country	Europe - Belgium
Leading actor(s)	Belgium / Federal Government and regional governments (Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels)
Participating actor(s)	none
Main objective(s)	The federal and regional governments of Belgium aim at a substantive development of energy efficiency and of renewable energy in order to enhance the country's energy security, curb the projected rise in energy prices and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions in line with its international obligations

<p>Content</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>❑ Renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In accordance with the EU directive on Renewable Electricity Generation, Belgium has adopted an indicative target of a 6 % share of renewable energy by 2010. ○ Establishment of a combined system of green certificates with a guaranteed minimum price to encourage the use of renewable energy : Each region, and the federal government, has organised a system of green certificates based on a common principle. In order to gain green certificates, a producer of green electricity must have its production facilities certified. Green certificates are then awarded by the electricity market's regulatory bodies. This further refinement of the green certificate scheme is based on an innovative combination of two mechanisms. Firstly, the regions organize green certificate markets and oblige electricity suppliers to deliver a certain quota of green electricity, to be adjusted every year. At the same time, the federal government has established a minimum tariff for green certificates in case the market should not work properly and also so as to assure investors of a certain minimum return. This minimum tariff is based on a commitment imposed on the electricity grid operator to buy back green certificates from producers who so wish at a set price, fixed according to the type of technology used. In the region of Wallonia, producers of green electricity who so wish can also receive assistance for the depreciation period of the equipment (maximum of 10 years) by passing on their green certificates to the Wallonian energy ministry. In the Flanders region, all producers of green electricity are guaranteed a minimum tariff, if they so wish. These minimum tariffs, which depend on the technology used, are higher than the minimum tariffs offered by the federal government but are also limited to a period of 10 years. <p>❑ Biofuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the transport sector, the government has a commitment to increase the share of biofuels to 2% in 2005 and 5.75 % in 2010. The Belgian government agreed to the introduction of biofuels as of 1 january 2005. The royal decree permitting biofuels in the Belgian market was approved in March 2005. <p>❑ Energy Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In accordance with the he EU-direcitive on energy end-use efficiency and energy services, the federal government has committed itself to improve the energy efficiency in its country by 1% per year during 9 years. ○ Because Belgium has a large share of energy-intensive industry, energy efficiency policy in Flanders and Wallonia focuses on efforts to improve industrial efficiency ○ Flanders has introduced benchmarking covenants for industry.
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	<p>These covenants are voluntary agreements made with large energy-intensive companies with an annual consumption of at least 0.5 petajoules or companies that fall under the EU Emission Trading Scheme. Under the covenants, companies agree to be among the top of world performers in terms of energy efficiency by 2012. To accomplish this, independent experts develop efficiency obligations for the end of 2005, the end of 2007 and the end of 2012. These obligations are based on benchmarking calculations, as well as the assumption that all measures with an internal rate of return of 15 % after tax must be taken as quickly as possible. Top world performance standards and energy efficiency plans are revised every four year.</p>
Expected results	The promotion of energy saving, energy efficiency and renewable energies contributes to a secure, competitive and sustainable energy future of Belgium
Target area/place	Belgium
Arrangements for financing	See above
Monitoring process and time frame	Ongoing monitoring by the formal co-operation body for cooperation between the federal government and the regional governments, ENOVER/CONCERE, in particular for the implementation of the new EU commitments taken in the context of the EU-action plan "Energy Policy for Europe".
Contact	Federal Ministry of Economy - Brussels