



TINNE VAN DER STRAETEN
MINISTER VAN ENERGIE
MINISTRE DE L'ÉNERGIE

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Marc Deffrennes
Richard Ivens
Serge Crutzen
weCARE
Tulpenlaan 24
1702 Dilbeek

O.ref.: TVdS/JC-CP-210628/Out 370

Concerning: Application of the ESPOO Connection to the construction of additional gas capacities in Belgium

Dear Mr. Deffrennes,
Dear Mr. Ivens,
Dear Mr. Crutzen,

Thank you for contacting me with your question, which requires some clarifications.

The nuclear phase out law dates from 2003 and was amended several times, the latest amendment dating from 2016. In its government declaration, this government has committed to executing this law. The government also clearly identified the transition to a carbon free economy as a priority.

The Capacity Remuneration Mechanism is a technologically neutral market mechanism to ensure security of supply, and is currently under review by the European Commission. It does not set the framework for future development consent of thermal power stations and is definitely not a 'Belgian Government plan to build more gas fired capacities'.

As for your question on the application of the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Appendix 1 of this Convention indeed includes "Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more" in its list of activities.

Belgium is a federal state and the exclusive competence for the environmental impact assessment and authorisation procedure for these Thermal power stations is the Region, except when the thermal power station is a nuclear power station.

Sincerely yours,

Tinne Van der Straeten
Minister of Energy