

Sales for the period ending 30 September 2005

As of 30 September 2005, Electrabel's **sales of electricity** stood at 106.6 TWh, an increase of 3.8% compared to the same period in 2004. Some 69% of sales were realised in the Benelux, 18% in the France/Italy/Iberia region and 13% in the Poland/Germany/Hungary region. Sales outside the Benelux were up significantly by 17%.

Volumes of electricity sold (TWh)	30 September 2005	30 September 2004	Change
Within the Benelux	73.6	74.4	down 1%
Outside the Benelux	33.0	28.2	up 17%
Total	106.6	102.6	up 3.8%

Sales of natural gas stood at 51.3 TWh, a decrease of 9.2%, due mainly to a downturn in sales opportunities on the wholesale markets.

On the Belgian market (90% liberalised), the company saw a downturn in volumes of 6.3% in sales of electricity to end customers and a 3.8% fall in sales of natural gas to end customers in the wake of strong competition in those segments.

The Group's **consolidated turnover** was up 6.8%, from €8,153 to €8,708 million (€555 million). Excluding the exchange effect and scope effect, the turnover for the Electrabel Group was up €395 million (4.8%). This increase is due mainly to the rise in sales of electricity, which in turn mainly reflects the upward trend in market prices at European level. Electrabel notes, however, a less marked increase in prices in the Benelux countries than on other markets where the company is active.

In the Benelux, the electricity sales figure is up 3%. Outside the Benelux, sales figures were up 14% (Germany), 46% (Italy) and 79% (France), due to the combined effect of the signature of new contracts, an increase in volumes sold to existing customers, scope effects and the above-mentioned increase in electricity prices.

Finally, it should be recalled that the application of the new IFRS¹ standards has led to a change in how volumes and sales figures are calculated on the wholesale markets. This change consists of more advanced compensation between sales and purchases of energy and has no impact on the group's results.

¹ International Financial Reporting Standards

Electrabel, European provider of comprehensive, tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-runners in the energy sector and leader on the Benelux market. It is seizing the opportunity provided by the liberalisation of the electricity and natural gas market to secure sustainable growth in Europe while adhering to strict profitability criteria.

The company develops its supply of energy products and services by exploiting synergies between electricity and natural gas. It offers all its customers a high-quality, local-level supply through commercial subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators.

Electrabel runs a diverse range of generating facilities, producing over 28,200 MW of energy, as well as trading on all energy markets. In Belgium, it operates electricity and natural gas networks at the request of distribution system operators.

Electrabel is part of SUEZ, an international industrial and services group active in the fields of energy and the environment.

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Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.

This press release is also available in English.