

BRANCH AGREEMENTS (ENERGY)

INDUS 7

Branch agreements are one of the tools used to limit the environmental impact of energy consumption. These are voluntary partnerships between Wallonia and various industrial sectors, focusing on improving companies' performance in terms of energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The first generation of agreements produced results at the end of 2012. A new generation of agreements covers the period 2014-2020.

The results of the first generation

Launched in 2003, the first generation branch agreements covered 172 companies representing more than 75% of the energy consumption of Walloon industry¹ by the end of the programme (2012). Although some evolutions are the result of economic activity, aggregating results at sector or Walloon level has shown favourable results. The objectives of the branch agreements have generally been met, whether in terms of improving energy efficiency (+16.5% over the period) or reducing CO₂ emissions (-19.3%).

From the first to the second generation: the same principle...

On the basis of these results, so-called second-generation agreements have been concluded for the period 2014-2020. They covered 14 sectors in 2014². The initial principle has been maintained: industrial sectors undertake to improve their energy efficiency and reduce their specific CO₂ emissions³ by 2020. Manufacturers can choose the measures to be implemented to achieve the objectives defined at their level to enable the sector to reach its own. In return, the regional public authorities undertake not to impose other

regulatory requirements on signatory companies in the matters covered by the agreement and to defend voluntary agreements and their exemption from any new taxes or duties at national and European level.

... but a broader framework

The new branch agreements also introduce new obligations. Participating companies must conduct a CO₂⁴ emissions study on a more comprehensive scale than the site perimeter. Federations must also produce a roadmap by 2050⁵. In addition, particular emphasis is placed on renewable energy sources with an obligation to carry out three pre-feasibility studies and a feasibility analysis concerning the use of a renewable energy source within industrial sites, as well as a monitoring of indicators specific to these energy sources.

^[1] AwAC & SPW - DG04 - DEBD, 2014 | ^[2] SPW - DG04, 2016 | ^[3] Emissions per unit produced (1 tonne, 1 m³, etc.) | ^[4] Identification of sources and assessment of their importance | ^[5] Identification of threats and opportunities in their business and markets over a long period of time

Tab. INDUS 7-1 Follow-up of branch agreements (energy) implemented in Wallonia (situation at the end of 2014)

FEDERATION	SECTOR	NUMBER OF PARTICIPATING COMPANIES	ENERGY INDEX*		CO ₂ * INDEX	
			Target 2005-2020	Situation (2014)	Target 2005-2020	Situation (2014)
GSV	Steel industry	8	+13.5%	+10.6%	+15.8%	+11.9%
ESSENSCIA WALLONIA	Chemicals	29	+14.0%	+6.2%	+16.0%	+9.8%
FEBELCEM	Cement plants	3	+2.9%	+2.4%	+11.9%	+13.7%
FIV	Glass	7	+13.1%	+14.1%	+23.3%	+23.8%
FEVIA	Food	55	+18.0%	+16.3%	+22.8%	+20.7%
LHOIST	Lime	2	+8.6%	+1.5%	+9.4%	-0.9%
COBELPA	Production of pulp, paper and boards	4	+10.0%	+9.2%	+28.5%	+28.5%
CARMEUSE	Lime	1	+2.2%	-3.5%	+3.6%	+4.0%
FBB - FEDICER	Bricks and ceramics	6	+9.5%	+10.3%	+9.7%	+10.4%
FEDIEX	Quarries	9	+10.9%	+10.5%	+10.7%	+10.3%
FEDUSTRIA	Textile, wood and furniture	9	+6.4%	+7.3%	+9.1%	+7.3%
FETRA - FEBELGRA	Printing and graphic industries	7	+19.9%	+24.7%	+20.4%	+25.5%
AGORIA	Technology industries	21	+18.3%	+22.7%	+20.0%	+23.1%
CRYSTAL COMPUTING	Data processing centre	1	+0.2%	+1.3%	+0.2%	+1.2%
Consolidation		162	+11.4%	+8.8%	+16.1%	+13.6%

* The energy efficiency improvement and CO₂ emission reduction improvement indices compare the real situation with a theoretical situation. A positive index indicates an improvement.