

How are national social partners
addressing the issue of climate
change and the impact on
employment?

CASE STUDY: BELGIUM

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Overview

- 1. Formal government consultation processes:**
 - a) Central Business Council and National Labour Council on **Green Jobs**
 - b) Federal Council for Sustainable Development on the **Climate Conference in Copenhagen**
 - c) and on **the CO₂ Price Signal**
- 2. Ecocheques**, a measure developed unilaterally among social partners
- 3. Some specific climate related initiatives of the social partners**

**Federal Council for Sustainable Development
FRDO-CFDD**

trade unions & employers federations & consumers & NGO's

Nov 2009

Joint statement:

on the climate conference
in Copenhagen

March 2010

Joint statement:

on CO₂ price signal

2008

2009

2010

...oct...dec... **jan.. march** ... **may...july...sept...nov...** **jan...march...may...**

Oct 2008

**Request for joint
statement on Green Jobs:**
Minister for Employment
and Equal Opportunity

July 2009 :

**1st joint statement
on Green jobs:**
-State of affairs
-Topics to be discussed

March 2010:

**2nd joint statement
on Green jobs:**
- Consensual views over the topics

**Central Business Council and National Labour Council
CRB-CCE/NAR-CNT**

trade unions & employers federations

1a. Central Business Council and National Labour Council



Consensus opinion on green jobs:

- Concept difficult to define (narrow and broad definition)
- Lack of data for Belgium : SWOT analysis needed
- Transition to a low carbon economy
 - Ambitious challenge and profound modification of the economy (like information society)
 - Risks must be neutralized
 - Opportunities for economic growth and jobs must be seized
 - Shared responsibility
 - Public authorities : right framework conditions
 - Social partners: competitiveness of our companies and fair transition

1b. Federal Council for Sustainable development

Federal Council for Sustainable Development
FRDO-CFDD
trade unions & employers federations & consumers & NGO's



Consensus opinion on the Copenhagen climate summit

- Climate negotiations objective.
- Competitiveness of our companies.
- A fair transition enabling workers to have a decent job and income.
- Principle that if the reduction of emissions within Belgium is less costly than the reduction through flexibility mechanisms, domestic measures should be taken.

1c. Federal Council for Sustainable Development:

March 2010
Advisory statement:
on CO₂ price signal

2008 2009 2010
...oct...dec... jan.. march ... may...july...sept...nov...jan...march...may...

Consensus opinion on the CO₂ Price Signal (CO₂ tax)

- Need for an appropriate policy mix to achieve the objective pursued.
- Strengthen the competitiveness of the Belgian economy which ensures employment and added value.
- Encourage research and innovation.
- Contribute to a fair transition by strengthening social cohesion.
- Should fit in an environmental program, rather than within a budget program.

2. National Labour Council:

Ecocheques

- A unilaterally measure of social partners.
- Collective Industrial Agreements nr. 98, part of the Inter-professional agreement 2009-2010.
- Tax-free bonus of 250 euro (2010) for employees to buy certain environmental goods and services (energy saving products, ecolabel products,...).
- The direct employment impact is probably very limited.

3. Specific climate related initiatives of the social partners

FEB: Forum on energy efficiency

- McKinsey report: Energy efficiency saving potential of 29%
- making Belgium one of the most efficient future economy in terms of energy
- www.energyefficiency.be

FEB FORUM VBO
Less energy, more efficiency
22.04.2009

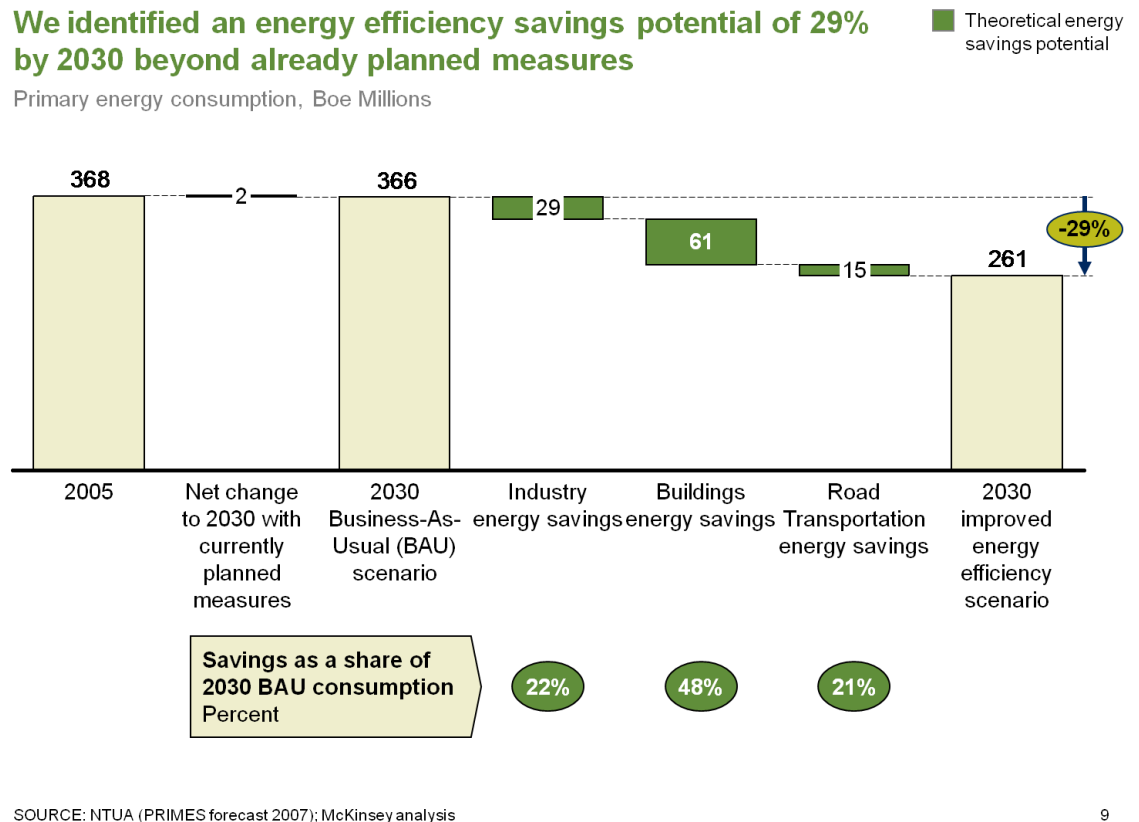


Comment économiser l'énergie dans votre organisation ?

LESS ENERGY & BUILDINGS
TRANSPORT & SUPPLY CHAIN
INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES
CONSUMER GOODS
FINANCING



FEB
Fédération des Entreprises de Belgique
www.energyefficiency.be



Trade Unions

- RISE and BRISE a joint network of trade unions on environment information for trade union representatives in the Walloon and Brussels region. => www.rise.be
There is a similar project in Flanders.
- Arbeid en Milieu joint organisation of trade unions with an environmental organisation => www.a-m.be
- Climate Coalition: mobilisation network of environment and social organisations (Greenpeace, WWF, trade unions, etc.).

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