



# Press release

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## **Belgian Solar electricity organisations request a national “15 000 PV Roofs” programme.**

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Belgian photovoltaic (PV) companies, research centres and ecologist NGOs join and create a PV platform requiring the national and regional authorities to implement a national “Strategic PV Plan”.

Considering a comparison between Germany and Belgium, and particularly referring to the existing incentive programme for PV in the Flanders region (the only one of importance), the PV Platform demonstrates that, with the present support, the Flanders region would achieve the German cumulated PV capacity per capita by the end of 2002... only in 2060!

But the paradox is that the technical potential of PV would allow 25 % of the actual electricity consumption in Belgium to come from PV-systems! Considering further that 59 % of electricity production in the country is now coming from nuclear power plants and that the federal government recently decided to dismantle all nuclear power plants in the next 12 to 20 years, hopefully not at the expense of using massively CO<sub>2</sub>-emitting energy sources, there is an urgent need to replace that power production capacity.

For the PV platform, this “Strategic PV Plan” must consist of 5 major actions:

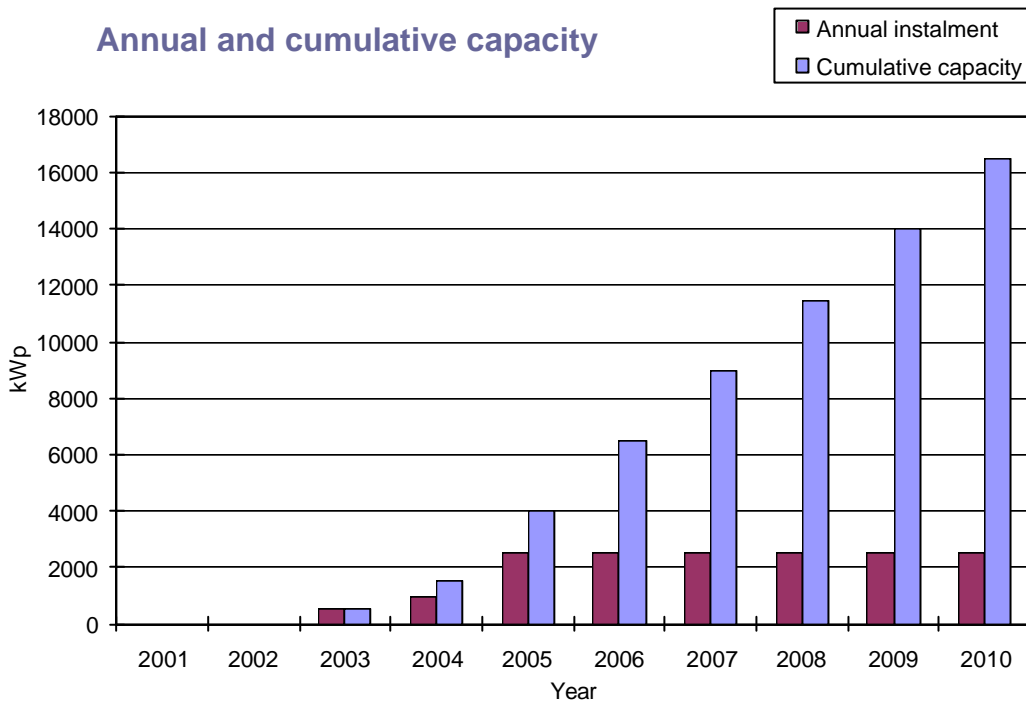
1. A rate-based incentive scheme for PV-current: a feed-in tariff at a minimum of 60 eurocent/kWh.
2. Green soft loans (1% interest rate) for private investors in PV systems and supported at the regional level.
3. A stable regulation to guarantee the feed-in tariff on a long-term basis (20 years period from the moment of installing the PV-system).
4. A clear and legal frame for the grid-connection technical conditions and appropriated to the PV systems.
5. Simple procedures for financial and administrative (urbanism rules, taxation, invoicing, etc.) aspects.

From this “Strategic PV Plan”, a realistic and functioning programme could be implemented, without State aid (in conformity with the European legal framework) and with a very limited increased electricity price (for all kWh sold in Belgium).

## “15 000 PV Roofs” Programme

Feed-in tariff	<b>60 eurocent/kWh (unlimited)</b>	<i>C.f.: Luxemburg and Austria</i>
Duration of guaranteed feed-in tariff	<b>20 years after installation</b>	<i>C.f.: Germany and Luxemburg</i>
Additional electricity price	<b>0,25 euro/MWh</b>	<i>Cost per family = 1 euro/yr Relative cost = 0,2% per yr.</i>
Soft loans interest rate	<b>1%</b>	<i>Cf. regional support for agriculture</i>
Investment cost	<b>7.000 euro/kWp (VAT exempted)</b>	<i>Simple and standard system cost.</i>
VAT reduced rate	<b>6% (including new houses)</b>	<i>European framework</i>
Feed-in tariff reduction in %	<b>5% from 2005</b>	<i>Due to the reduction of PV-system cost</i>
Annual growth	<b>2.500 kWp/yr</b>	<i>10 times more than today</i>
Accompanying measures	<b>250.000 euro</b>	<i>Promotion</i>

The expected result is an annual growth of 2500 installed roofs of 1 kWp (corresponding to 5% of the annual new houses in Belgium).



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