

### Sales of the first three quarters 2004

During the first three quarters of 2004 electricity sales of Electrabel rose 4.7 % from **101 900 GWh** to **106 700 GWh** in comparison with the same period in 2003. Natural gas sales are also in progress. The volume of natural gas sold rose 18.2 % from **64 200 GWh** to **75 900 GWh**.

In Belgium, with the market 90% open to competition, the company experienced a slight erosion in its market share by 2.5 % for electricity and by 4.5 % for natural gas.

The increase, for electricity as well as for natural gas, is mainly due to the expansion in wholesales.

These results are in line with those forecasted by the company.

#### Electrabel, a European supplier of all-in, tailor-made energy solutions

Electrabel is one of Europe's front-ranking energy companies and leader in the Benelux. It seizes the opportunity of the electricity and natural gas market deregulation to achieve sustainable growth in Europe while keeping to strict criteria of profitability.

The company develops its range of energy products and services by exploiting the synergies between electricity and natural gas. It offers a tailor-made solution for each customer, characterised by quality and close support, acting through marketing subsidiaries and partnerships with local operators.

The company manages a diversified range of generating facilities totalling more than 28,500 MW, and carries out trading on all the energy markets. In Belgium it operates the electricity and natural gas networks on behalf of distribution system operators.

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

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*Ce communiqué est également disponible en français.*

*Dit persbericht is ook beschikbaar in het Nederlands.*