



Business support mechanisms to combat rising energy prices - Updated January 12, 2023 - Special VSE



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To support companies affected by the rise in energy prices various aid schemes have been put in place. These aids and their modalities differ according to the size of the company and the difficulties it faces. In view of the changing situation, the State has amended its measures for the year 2023.

An electricity price limited to 280 €/MWh for VSEs

What is it ?

This assistance is available to VSEs that have renewed their electricity supply contract in the second half of 2022 and which do not benefit from the regulated sales rate.

Who can benefit ?

VSEs wishing to benefit from this scheme must inform their electricity supplier by filling out a form to indicate that they wish to renegotiate their contract.

The model form is available at the following address : economie.gouv.fr

The tariff shield

What is it ?

The tariff shield is a device that makes it possible to contain the increase in electricity prices to 15% as of from February 1, 2023..

This cap will prevent a 120% increase in energy bills for businesses. The Prime Minister indicated that this system will last until December 31, 2023 for the electricity part

Who can benefit ?

The rate shield on energy bills in 2023, is available to companies that have:

- Less than 10 employees,
- A turnover lower than 2 M€,
- An electric meter with a power lower than 36 kVA.

How to benefit from it?

To benefit from this scheme, it is necessary to send a certificate of eligibility to your energy supplier. The model of the certificate is available at the following address : economie.gouv.fr.

The electricity damper

What is it ?

The electricity damper is a scheme that introduces an increased unit aid ceiling from January 1, 2023 for companies that have signed higher energy contracts.

This ceiling is defined by an indicator, present on the invoices and estimates applied by the energy suppliers.

If the unit price is 350 €/MWh (0,35 0.35/kWh), the electricity damper allows about 20% of your total electricity bill. The aid is then integrated directly on your electricity bill.

The electricity buffer is to remain in effect for one year, until December 31, 2023.

Who can benefit ?

The conditions of eligibility are the following:

- Be an VSE with less than 250 employees
- Not be eligible for the tariff shield
- The electric meter used is of a power higher than 36 kVA

How to benefit from it ?

The only step is to complete and send to the electricity supplier , a certificate of eligibility for the scheme which is available at the following address : economie.gouv.fr

The payment assistance of gas and electricity bills

What is it ?

It is an aid whose objective is to mitigate the effects of the energy crisis , to support the competitiveness of companies and to avoid production stoppages at the sites that consume the most gas and electricity particularly those providing essential production.

Who can benefit ?

As of January 1, 2023, it is possible to apply for assistance at the Electricity and and gas bills help, if despite the benefit of the electricity damper, a VSE still meets the following eligibility criteria:

- Energy expenses represent 3 % of the company's revenues in 2021 after taking into account the electricity damper. For example, if the company applies for assistance for the period of September/October 2022, its energy expenses over that period must represent more than 3% of its September/October 2021 revenue.
- The electricity bill, before the reduction received via the electricity damper, must have increased by more than 50% compared to the average price paid in 2021.

How to benefit from it ?

To apply for this assistance, you must complete a simplified file including :

- The energy bills for the period in question and the bills for 2021,
- The bank details of the company (RIB),
- The aid calculation file available on the tax website, at the following address : impots.gouv.fr/aide-gaz-electricite
- A declaration on your honor attesting that your company meets the conditions and the accuracy of the information available at the following address economie.gouv.fr

The deferred payment of taxes and social security contributions

What is it ?

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne indicated , on January 4, that VSEs could ask for the deferred payment of their taxes and social contributions to protect their cash flow.

These deferrals do not apply to VAT, Miscellaneous taxes and the repayment of the withholding tax.

Concerning social security contributions, the request to URSSAF can be made for current contributions and on a rescheduling of the current Covid payment plan.

How to benefit from it ?

This one-time measure requires the company wishing to benefit from it request to the relevant services (SIE and/or URSSAF depending on the nature of the requested deferral).

Spread the payment of energy bills

What is it ?

Energy suppliers have agreed to offer payment facilities to VSEs that have cash flow difficulties.

Energy suppliers can offer to spread the first bills of 2023 over several months.

This measure is possible for the moment until the summer.

How to benefit from it ?

To benefit from it, the company must contact its energy supplier.

Recourse in case of disputes

When the dialogue is broken with the energy supplier, it is possible to call upon a mediator in order to find a solution acceptable to the parties : for VSE, the national energy can be reached at the following address energie-mediateur.fr/les-litiges.



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