

What are the environmental impacts of our production methods and consumption patterns? What is the state of the air, water, soil, forest or biodiversity in Wallonia? How are they evolving? What is being done to improve the situation? What are the links between the state of the environment and our health? These are all questions to which the "State of Environment Report - Wallonia 2017" (SOERW 2017) provides diagnostic elements, through 164 fact sheets and 60 maps, compiling and analysing the available information and environmental data for Wallonia.

SOERW 2017 updates the indicators presented in the two previous and more succinct versions entitled "Key Environmental Indicators for Wallonia 2012" (KEIW 2012) and "Environmental Outlook for Wallonia - Digest 2014" (EOW 2014), and includes old indicators and develops new ones. It is structured according to a logical sequence: starting from the geographical context, approaching the territorial aspects and the exploitation of our natural resources, it analyses the sectors of activity, draws up an assessment of the various components of our environment (air, water, soil, nature, etc.), but above all provides an overview of the efforts made in terms of environmental management.

As remarkable documents that offer a concise view of the state of the environment and the pressures to which it is subjected, the series of SOERWs are a first-rate communication tool, an excellent means of raising awareness and educating people about the environment, a statistical reference tool, and equally a body of work to help in decision-making and assessing existing or future environmental policies. The indicators developed help to nurture the environmental planning process and position actions in relation to the means objectives and results to be achieved.

As various indicators of this SOERW 2017 show, the policies pursued at different levels have led to significant improvements in various environmental areas. Of course, significant efforts must be continued in order to bring about an ecological transition. The Air Climate Energy Plan (*Plan air climat énergie - PACE*), the Environment-Health Plan (ENVIES) and the new Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (*Programme wallon de réduction des pesticides - PWRP*) that I have proposed to the Walloon Government are some examples of these.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the more than 200 collaborators who participated in this collective work. These collaborators came from various backgrounds: regional administrations, public interest organisations, universities and research centres, consulting firms, associations, etc. Having mobilised their expertise, we would like to extend our warmest thanks to all of them.

As the publication of this report is always a moment awaited by a large number of stakeholders, whether from the environmental, political, educational or corporate worlds, I wish you pleasant reading!

The Walloon Minister for the Environment and Ecological Transition
Carlo DI ANTONIO