

CONTROL AND POLICE MISSIONS BY THE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

The control missions carried out by the authorised services of the Public Service of Wallonia (SPW - DG03) are essentially aimed at preventing environmental offences as far as possible. In the event of suspicion of non-compliance with regulatory obligations, police missions are carried out.

The control and police missions of the DG03 are carried out by the Police and Inspections Department (DPC) and the Nature and Forests Department (DNF). The control activity of the DPC is based on a three-year guidance note. This department is made up of four external police and inspection directorates (located in Charleroi, Liège, Mons and Namur-Luxembourg), an Inspections Directorate (consisting of four external units) and an Anti-poaching and Anti-pollution Enforcement Directorate. The control missions are aimed at: (i) ensuring compliance with environmental obligations, (ii) preventing environmental infringements, (iii) identifying the sectors of activity to which particular attention must be paid¹. As regards the police missions, they essentially include: (i) interventions linked to complaints and tip-offs, (ii) cases of flagrante delicto, (iii) judicial duties. This fact sheet only concerns the missions carried out by the four external directorates of the DPC.

- inspections of farms in the context of cross-compliance of agricultural aids² have been carried out since 2010 by the Inspections Directorate of the DPC;
- inspections related to the remediation of polluted sites have been placed under the supervision of an approved expert in the management of polluted soils since 2010 (obligations of the soil decree³);
- inspections requiring specific police techniques have been carried out since 2011 by the Anti-poaching and Anti-pollution Enforcement Directorate.

Eco-diagnosis

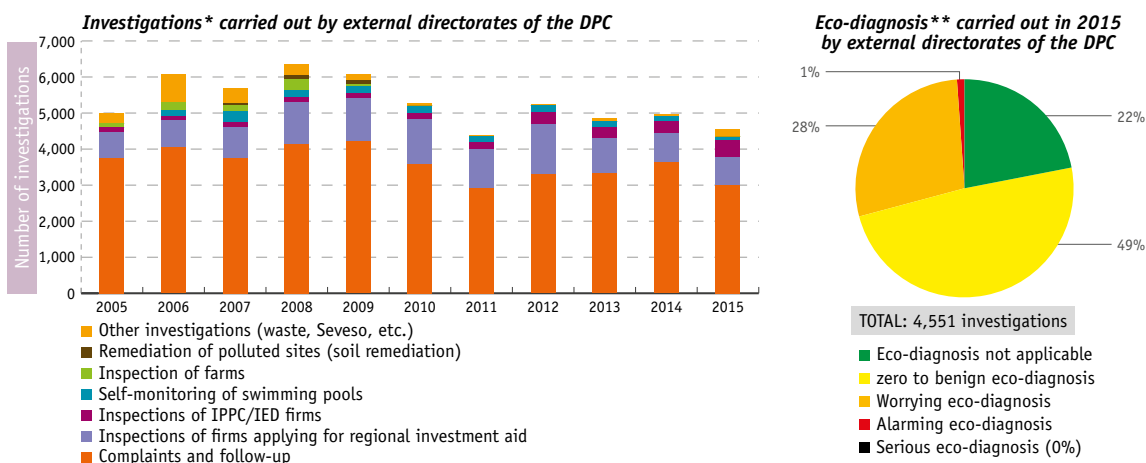
Investigations carried out result in an eco-diagnosis (ED) being made. The ED assesses, according to a standardised protocol, the environmental impact of any activity or situation, regardless of any infringement. Depending on the outcome attributed to the ED (not applicable, zero to benign, worrying, alarming or serious), the follow-up to the investigation varies. In 2015, 22% of the investigations resulted in a non-applicable ED, 49% resulted in a zero to benign ED, while almost 28% of the investigations resulted in a worrying ED and 1% an alarming ED. No serious EDs were formulated. These proportions are stable compared to 2014.

^[1] Firms subject to the IPPC/IED (Directives 2008/1/EC and 2010/75/EU) and "Seveso III" (Directive 2012/18/EU), firms subject to REACH regulations (Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006), firms applying for regional investment aid, etc. | ^[2] → CONTROL 4 | ^[3] Decree of 05/12/2008 on soil management

A declining number of investigations

The number of investigations carried out by the four external directorates of the DPC varies from year to year, depending on the resources available. On average, approximately 5,300 investigations were initiated each year over the period 2005-2015. Since 2008, the number of annual surveys conducted has decreased from 6,356 to 4,551. This is mainly due to a reduction in the number of employees (-30%) following the transfer of certain areas of control to other departments in the DPC:

Fig. CONTROL 1-1 Inspections of compliance with environmental legislation by the Police and Inspections Department (DPC)



* Some inspection powers have been transferred to other directorates of the DPC: inspections of farms in the context of cross-compliance of agricultural aid (from 2010), inspections related to the remediation of polluted sites (from 2010) and investigations carried out by the Anti-poaching and Anti-pollution Enforcement Directorate (from 2011).

** The eco-diagnosis assesses, according to a standardised protocol, the environmental impact of any activity or situation, regardless of any infringement.

SOERW 2017 - Source: SPW - DG03 - DPC (Gesdos database)