

COLLECTION AND TREATMENT OF URBAN WASTE WATER

WATER 18

Directive 91/271/EEC lays down time limits for the collection and treatment of urban waste water: work was to be completed by the end of 1998 in agglomerations with a population equivalent (p.e.) of 10,000 or more and by the end of 2005 in agglomerations with a p.e. of 2,000 to 9,999.

Urban waste water treatment

The collection and treatment of urban waste water contributes to achieving good status of water bodies¹. The establishment of the Public Water Management Company (*Société publique de gestion de l'eau - SPGE*) in 1999 made it possible to better organise and coordinate the efforts of the approved treatment bodies (*organismes d'assainissement agréés - OAA*) and municipalities necessary to achieve the objectives of Directive 91/271/EEC. The OAA are responsible for the construction and operation of waste water treatment plants, while the municipalities are responsible for waste water collection system. Between 2003 and 2015, significant investments (€2,900 million) were made to finalise and renovate the collection networks and treat urban waste water in order to reach the required levels of compliance. However, Wallonia did not meet the deadlines of the directive, which led to various litigations with the European Commission².

Efforts need to be continued

At the end of 2013, the 38 major Walloon agglomerations (10,000

Tab. WATER 18-1 Compliance of Walloon agglomerations with Directive 91/271/EEC (situation as of 17/11/2016)

Agglomeration	p.e.	Formal notice from the Commission - infringement No 2009/2304 17/11/2016	Response of Wallonia 15/03/2017
		Status	Updated status
1 Aywaille	5,200		
2 Bassenge*	3,500		
3 Chaumont-Gistoux	3,100		
4 Dalhem*	2,200		
5 Feluy-Arquennes	4,100		
6 Oreye	3,200		
7 Rotheux-Neuville	6,500		
8 Saint-Georges-sur-Meuse	4,100		
9 Sirault	2,600		
10 Soiron	2,200		
11 Sombrefe	7,300		
12 Villers-le-Bouillet	3,900		
13 Welkenraedt	9,500		
14 Crisnée	2,200		
15 Fexhe-Slins	2,600		
16 Fosses-la-Ville	2,400		
17 Leuze	2,400		
18 Sprimont	3,800		
19 Walcourt	3,000		
20 Wépion	3,400		
Total number of non-compliant stations		20	14

- compliance with Art. 3 and Art. 4
- non-compliance with Art. 3
- non-compliance with Art. 4
- non-compliance with Art. 3 and Art. 4

The agglomerations of Bassenge and Dalhem are proposed to the Commission for a change of category (< 2,000 p.e.).

SOERW 2017 – Source: SPGE

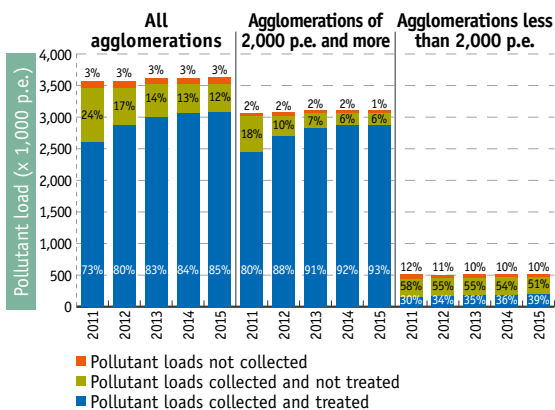
p.e. and above) had urban waste water collection and treatment rates in line with European requirements^{3,4}. At the end of 2016, the Commission noted that of the 143 smaller agglomerations⁴ (2,000 to 9,999 p.e.), 20 were still not in compliance⁵. However, Wallonia reported an improvement⁶ in the situation, with 14 agglomerations still to achieve conformity. This situation is expected to normalise as most of the required infrastructure is either under construction or being awarded. At the end of 2015, the collection and treatment infrastructures put in place made it possible to treat 93% of the pollutant loads emitted by agglomerations of 2,000 p.e. and above. For small agglomerations (< 2,000 p.e.) 39% of the pollutant load has been collected and treated. The economic crisis of 2009 reduced the available financial resources, and the complexity of the procedures hampers the finalisation of the files related to the works.

Complete the treatment of agglomerations

In the coming years, the SPGE will need to pursue three major projects: complete the bringing into compliance of agglomerations from 2,000 to 9,999 p.e., continue urban waste water treatment for agglomerations of less than 2,000 p.e. (approximately 400 treatment plants to be built) and develop autonomous treatment.

[1] → WATER 1 | [2] Conviction with financial penalty in 2013 for agglomerations of 10,000 p.e. and above; conviction in principle in 2014 for agglomerations of 2,000 to 9,999 p.e. | [3] Art. 3 and 4 of Directive 91/271/EEC | [4] → Map 53 | [5] Formal notice from the European Commission of 17/11/2016, infringement No 2009/2304 | [6] Response of Wallonia to the Commission on 15/03/2017

Fig. WATER 18-1 Collection and treatment of waste water from agglomerations in Wallonia



SOERW 2017 – Source: SPGE