

RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS

WATER 21

The Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC requires integrated water management for each river basin district in order to enable all water bodies to achieve good status (or good potential) by 2015, with a possible extension to 2021 or 2027. Achieving this objective mainly depends on the implementation of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). These include a catalogue of measures to be applied to improve water quality.

Second cycle of the Management Plans

Wallonia drew up the first RBMP 2009 - 2015 in June 2013 and the second RBMP 2016 - 2021 in April 2016. These essential planning tools are established at the level of river basin districts¹. Their purpose is to set out all the measures for which the direct objective is to improve the quality of surface and groundwater. Requests for possible derogations in the event of failure to meet environmental objectives must be duly justified to the European Commission.

Programme of measures

The catalogue of measures in the RBMP 2016 - 2021 proposes 50 actions with a total implementation cost of around €1.2 billion. Nearly 90% is used for waste water treatment and the valorisation of strategic resources². The majority of the costs of this programme will be borne by water users (excluding the industrial and agricultural sectors, and the SPW). The estimated costs for the agricultural sector, which are considered disproportionate, will not be borne by this sector. Almost 46% of the proposed measures are already enshrined in existing legislation ("basic measures"). The rest consists of complementary measures that should be applied to at-risk water bodies (WBs), i.e. those for which the basic measures may not be sufficient to achieve good status or potential. Although there are targeted measures, such as the conclusion of catchment contracts in at-risk areas, some measures appear to be

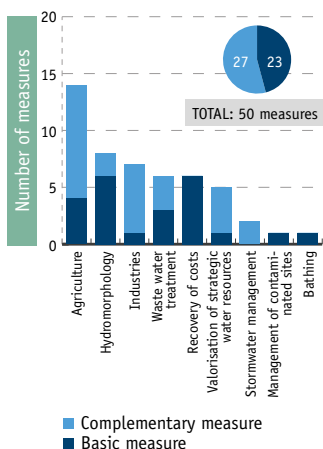
inadequately targeted to effectively relieve the pressures on WBs. On the other hand, some agricultural measures are voluntary³ and do not necessarily apply to at-risk WBs.

Unambitious environmental objectives

For the period 2010 - 2015, 41% of surface water bodies (146 out of 354) were in good or high ecological status while the objective was 51% (182 out of 354). For the period 2009-2013, 61% of groundwater bodies (20 out of 33) were in good status while the 2015 target was 70% (23 out of 33). In addition to these results, Wallonia was granted extensions to the deadlines until 2021. As regards the ecological status of surface water bodies, 149 derogations^{4,5} (42% of surface water bodies) were granted. As regards groundwater bodies, targets which are almost unchanged from the 2015 targets have been set, since only 2 additional groundwater bodies (22 out of 33) will have to reach good status by 2021. These significant deferrals and underwhelming targets for 2021 jeopardize achieving the target of good status of water bodies by the 2027 deadline and more stringent measures are likely to be implemented in the third round of RBMP.

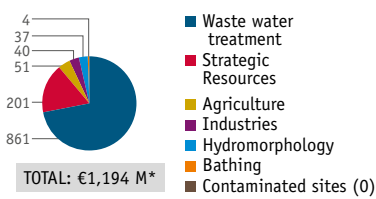
^[1] The Scheldt, Meuse, Seine and Rhine | ^[2] Valorisation of deep geothermal waters, finalisation and implementation of the Regional Water Resources Scheme (→ WATER Focus 2) | ^[3] Such as measures relating to organic farming and agri-environmental and climate measures | ^[4] There are three grounds for derogation: natural (103), technical (41) and/or economic (68). | ^[5] 113 in the Scheldt river basin, 99 in the Meuse river basin

Fig. WATER 21-1 Measures of the River Basin Management Plans 2016 - 2021 of Wallonia



SOERW 2017 – Source: SPW - DGO3 - DEE

Fig. WATER 21-2 Total costs of the Walloon programme of measures 2016 - 2021 and the cost of the measures in the scenario adopted (€ M)

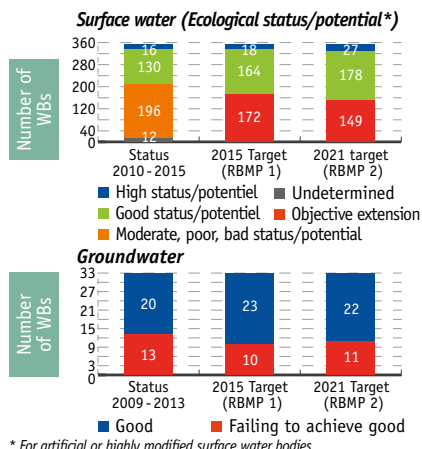


OF WHICH BORNE	€ M
by the agricultural sector	0
by the Public Service of Wallonia (SPW)	15
by the industrial sector	36
water consumers (excluding industrial and agricultural sectors and the SPW)	777
TOTAL	828*

* The difference between the total and the amounts borne by the various sectors was already budgeted before the second Management Plans.

SOERW 2017 – Source: SPW - DGO3 - DEE

Fig. WATER 21-3 Status of surface water bodies (WBs) and groundwater bodies and environmental targets in Wallonia



SOERW 2017 – Source: SPW - DGO3 - DEE