

## CONCLUSION

This 7<sup>th</sup> part groups together some fifty indicators relating to the measures taken in Wallonia to monitor, control, prevent, mitigate or counter a certain number of pressures or impacts of human activities on the environment, or taken for other purposes insofar as they have the secondary effect of preserving or improving the quality of the environment. As a result, some of the indicators presented here reflect the actual implementation of an environmental management policy (e.g. environmental quality management measures), while others are not directly based on such a willingness on the part of the public authorities (e.g. indicators relating to sector plans or environmental taxation).

The aim is not to draw up a comprehensive inventory of all existing measures with environmental consequences. Only the issues for which data are collected and which allow the calculation of indicators can be addressed here. These indicators are essentially of two types: either they relate to the implementation of management measures themselves, or they relate to the environmental impacts of such measures.

At present, these data are in most cases insufficient to allow an assessment of the effectiveness of management measures or the policies underlying them, in particular for the following reasons: (i) the lack of indicators relating to the environmental impacts of measures, and (ii) the frequent absence of explicitly defined objectives, both means and results. However, such data may provide information that could contribute to such an assessment and should therefore be made available.

Despite these limitations, the environmental management elements grouped together here have the advantage of giving an overview of the most important means of action implemented. These can be legal (European, federal, regional regulations, plans and programmes, agreements between Regions, Provinces, Municipalities, sectors of activity, etc.), economic (taxes, fees, premiums, subsidies) or technical. They may be initiated by the public or private sector. Some of them concern several economic sectors and/or environmental components, which is one of the reasons why they are grouped in a separate part of this document. They are often the subject of communication by the sectors in

question (awareness-raising and information campaigns, websites, etc.).

### Control indicators with limited scope

In the environmental field, as elsewhere, monitoring legal compliance and suppressing infringements are among the essential tools available to public authorities for the implementation of policies.

At present, data on the monitoring of environmental infringements essentially testify to the activity of the Police and Inspections Department of the DG03, and the resources at their disposal. They do not make it possible to draw conclusions (i) on the actual frequency of infringements or (ii) on the effects of these inspections and enforcement measures on compliance with environmental legislation. Progress has been made in pursuing infringement cases, but much remains to be done to develop a more efficient control strategy and promote mechanisms for redress by perpetrators of infringements. Such a strategy should include the establishment of a centralised database for environmental infringements.

As regards checks on the cross-compliance of agricultural aids, the data are also dependent on the strategies pursued: each year, administrative inspections (inspections relating to soil binding rate and on cattle movements) cover almost all farms, while on-site inspections (inspections relating to environmental obligations for soil and water, Natura 2000 sites, the use of plant protection products, etc.) are carried out according to a sampling plan, cover 1 to 5% between them. The relative frequencies of actual non-compliance with obligations cannot therefore be ascertained from these data as they may be biased by the frequency of the inspections themselves. However, for the obligations covered by administrative inspections at least, the number of irregularities detected reflects the reality (excluding cases of fraud).

<b>CONTROL 1</b> <b>Control and police missions by the regional authority</b>	The control missions of the regional authorities are essentially aimed at preventing environmental infringements. In the event of suspicion of non-compliance with obligations, police missions are carried out.	
	?	<b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference  <b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> The trend in the number of investigations carried out does not allow conclusions to be drawn on compliance with environmental legislation.

## CONCLUSION

<b>CONTROL 2</b> Identification and crackdown on environmental infringements by the regional authority	In addition to preventive actions, the regional authorities are also responsible for detecting and punishing environmental infringements.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> The trend in the number of infringements detected does not allow conclusions to be drawn as regards compliance with environmental legislation.</p>
<b>CONTROL 3</b> Administrative sanctions and immediate collection by the regional authority	The regional authority may use an administrative fine system and an immediate collection system to deal more effectively with environmental infringements.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> The evolution of the number of cases investigated by the Service of the Regional Sanctioning Official and the number of transactions proposed under the system of immediate collection does not allow any conclusions to be drawn as regards compliance with environmental legislation.</p>
<b>CONTROL 4</b> Control of the cross-compliance of agricultural aids	The financial aids granted to farmers under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is conditional on compliance with environmental and public health standards, among other things.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> Changes in the general structure of CAP aids do not allow for comparisons of 2015 data with previous years.</p>

**A territory difficult to control**

The Sector Plans (SPs) are tools that make it possible to manage land take within the environment, by delimiting areas intended for urbanisation (AIUs) and areas not intended for urbanisation (ANIUs). With the entry into force of the Territorial Development Code (*Code du développement territorial - CoDT*) on 01/06/2017, they represent almost the only spatial planning tool that retains a regulatory value. While the SPs have made it possible to some extent to control land take within the territory, it is unlikely that they

are sufficient to enable Wallonia to achieve the objectives set by the European Commission in terms of land take, namely to achieve *no net land take*<sup>1</sup> by 2050 (COM (2011) 571). Additional solutions will therefore be needed, such as the adoption of binding targets for soil consumption. This measure, recommended by the European Commission (EC, 2012), has just been adopted in Flanders through its White Paper on Territorial Policy (Ruimte Vlaanderen, 2016)<sup>2</sup>.

<b>TERRIT 4</b> Use of the land use areas set out in sector plans	In 2015, overall, there was a correlation between the concrete use of the territory and the zoning established by the SPs.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Data are not available for a sufficiently long period of time.</p>
<b>TERRIT 5</b> Non-urbanised land in habitat areas according to sector plans	In 2015, non-urbanised land in habitat areas according to sector plans accounted for 32% of the surface area of these. There are however wide disparities between Walloon municipalities. This land is likely to be urbanised in the medium term.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Data are not available for a sufficiently long period of time.</p>
<b>TERRIT 6</b> Partial revisions of sector plans	The offsetting principle was enshrined in legislation in 2005. It ensures a balance between areas not intended for urbanisation (ANIUs) and areas intended for urbanisation (AIUs) (planological offsetting) and/or to counterbalance the impacts of the implementation of new ZDUs (alternative offsetting) in the case of partial revisions to the SPs.
	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> As the offsetting mechanism was introduced in 2005, comparison with a previous time series is not feasible.</p>

<sup>[1]</sup> To remove any net increase in the area of artificialised land | <sup>[2]</sup> Reduction in soil consumption for buildings from 6 to 3 ha per day by 2025, followed by a definitive phasing-out of soil consumption by 2040

## CONCLUSION

### Various plans/programmes with a highly transversal scale

Some environmental issues have been the subject of plans which bring together various measures that could affect several stakeholders or sectors of activity.

Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) essentially aim to limit the negative impact of floods by taking measures on both river basins and water courses. These plans, adopted in 2015 for a period of 6 years, will be evaluated in 2021.

The Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme (*Programme wallon de réduction des pesticides - PWRP*) is the Walloon part of the National Action Plan (NAPAN) drawn up in accordance with European legislation to reduce the risks associated with the use of pesticides and to encourage the introduction of alternative methods. By the end of 2016, not all of the objectives of the 37 measures in the PWRP 2013-2017 had been achieved. Up until now, the use of plant protection products (PPPs) has decreased for non-professional users (private individuals) but the "responsible and reasoned" use of PPPs appears to be moderately applied; awareness-raising and information campaigns should therefore be continued

and reinforced. As regards professional users (farmers, garden contractors, public space managers, etc.), the use of PPPs does not appear to have diminished. However, this situation should improve with the implementation of the "zéro phyto" (no PPPs) in public spaces. The PWRP includes binding measures, including compliance with buffer zones. At this level, progress must be made in implementing inspections to verify compliance in this respect.

The Air Climate Energy Plan 2016-2022 (*Plan air climat énergie 2016-2022 - PACE*), adopted to meet various Walloon and European requirements, aims to reduce GHG emissions<sup>3</sup>, improve air quality and steer measures to adapt to climate change. It concerns various sectors of activity (transport, industry, residential, tertiary, agriculture). Unfortunately, this plan has few numerical targets. It follows on from the Air-Climate Plan (2008-2012), which was not subject to a final assessment. It sets out some of the measures to be pursued, supplemented by new ones.

<b>TRANSV 1 Flood Risk Management Plans</b>	<p>The Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) adopted in March 2016 include 482 actions with regional or local scope, to be implemented during the first management cycle (2015-2021). The plans will be assessed at the end of this cycle. Management mapping tools supplement the FRMPs.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — Reference: list of FRMPs actions — The status will be assessed at the end of the first cycle of FRMPs (2021).</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Since the FRMPs date from 2016, a trend assessment is not feasible.</p>
<b>TRANSV 3 Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme</b>	<p>The PWRP 2013-2017 follows Directive 2009/128/EC, which aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides. It includes 37 measures of strictly regional competence.</p> <p><b>Unfavourable status</b> — Reference: PWRP 2013-2017 — As of 05/12/2016, the objectives of the 37 measures of the PWRP were met/nearly met for 20 measures (54%). Objectives were being met/not met at all for 17 measures (46%). In this category, the completion deadline had not yet expired for 5 measures (14%) while for 12 other measures (32%) the completion deadline had been exceeded.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> There is no previous data.</p>
<b>AIR Focus 3 Air Climate Energy Plan 2016-2022 (PACE)</b>	<p>The PACE contains 142 measures aiming to reduce emissions of GHG and other air pollutants, improve air quality and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Measures are also being taken to address energy production and consumption. The PACE concerns all sectors of activity (transport, industry, residential, tertiary, agriculture, etc.).</p>

### Measures to integrate environmental issues into production and consumption patterns

Improving environmental quality requires the implementation of tools that encourage economic actors to take environmental issues into account. These tools are essentially of three types:

- encouraging consumers (households, businesses) to reduce environmental pressures (e.g. through environmental taxation measures or the implementation of the Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme, etc.);

- technological improvement (process improvements, recycling, etc.) or managerial improvements (certification, label) in order to reduce or control environmental impacts (e.g. through environmental investments, the implementation of environmental management systems and certification of companies, the conclusion of branch agreements aimed at improving energy consumption performance and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, etc.);

<sup>[3]</sup> Greenhouse emissions

## CONCLUSION

- the management of risks and reduction of nuisances linked to an activity (e.g. *via* environmental permits and environmental impact assessments, or strict monitoring of at-risk "Seveso" industrial sites or sites with high pollution potential "IED"etc.).

Many of these measures are included in the above-mentioned plans.

As regards the industrial sector, environmental permits and branch agreements have been important factors in improving eco-efficiency over the last ten years (see part 4).

As regards the agricultural sector, the Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (*Programme de gestion durable de l'azote en agriculture - PGDA*) (Walloon Government Decree of 13/06/2014) has made it possible to put in place tools to control N<sup>4</sup> inputs that exceed the needs of crops, inputs that could adversely affect the quality of water resources. However, the Walloon Rural Development Programme (*Programme wallon de développement rural - PwDR*) encourages the voluntary implementation of agri-environmental measures (AEMs). These actions for the conservation and improvement of the environment in agricultural areas are the subject of incentives and are increasingly supported by farmers.

<b>TRANSV 2</b> <b>Environmental permits and environmental impact assessments</b>	The environmental permit and single permit play an important role in the application of environmental standards by companies. In 2016, 1,892 applications were submitted. In addition, 85 environmental impact assessments were submitted for opinion to the Walloon environmental Council for sustainable development <sup>5</sup> .	
	?	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> Evolution in the number of permit applications, reflecting economic activity, are not directly interpretable in terms of environmental impact.</p>
<b>TRANSV Focus 1</b> <b>Environmental taxation</b>	According to a recent study (COMASE, 2017), the environmental tax revenues collected in Wallonia, estimated at €2,842 million in 2013, were mainly derived from federal fiscal policy and in particular from excise duties on mineral oils (mainly road fuels). Households were the main contributors.	
<b>AGRI 8</b> <b>Managing organic nitrogen in agriculture</b>	In order to reduce the pollution of surface water and groundwater by nitrate from agricultural sources, it must be verified, by calculating a soil binding rate (SB), that the quantities of organic N added to the soil do not exceed the absorption capacity of crops and grasslands ( $SB \leq 1$ ). This is one of the objectives of the Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (PGDA) (Walloon Government Decree of 13/06/2014)	
	+	<p><b>Favourable status</b> — Reference: Directive 91/676/EEC and obligations of the PGDA (Walloon Government Decree of 13/06/2014) — In 2014, 98% of the farms concerned had a <math>SB \leq 1</math>.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> In 2008, 94% of the farms concerned had a <math>SB \leq 1</math>, versus 98% in 2014.</p>
<b>AGRI 9</b> <b>Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture</b>	Reducing pollution of groundwater and surface water by nitrate from agricultural sources is the main objective of the PGDA, whose 3 <sup>rd</sup> action programme has been in force since 15/06/2014.	
	?	<p><b>Slightly unfavourable status</b> — Reference: Directive 91/676/EEC and obligations of the PGDA (Walloon Government Decree of 13/06/2014) — In 2015, potentially leachable nitrogen was inspected in 689 farms in vulnerable zones. Of these, 561 (81.4%) were found to be compliant.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> In 2014, the PGDA was amended with respect to farm compliance requirements, which does not allow a trend assessment to be made.</p>
<b>AGRI 10</b> <b>Agri-environmental programmes</b>	The aim of the AEMs is to encourage the voluntary implementation of conservation and environmental improvement actions in agricultural areas. The PwDR 2007 - 2013 set participation targets.	
	+	<p><b>Favourable status</b> — Reference: targets of the PwDR 2007 - 2013 — In 2013, 53.7% of Walloon farmers were committed to at least 1 AEM. In addition, the percentage of utilised agricultural area under AEM (AEM 11 "organic farming" not included) was 18.5% in 2013. The objectives set in the PwDR 2007 - 2013 (50% committed farmers and 18% of the utilised agricultural area under the AEM) were therefore achieved.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> Between 1998 and 2013, the participation rate of Walloon farmers in the AEMs (AEM 11 "organic farming" not included) increased from 8.4% to 53.7%.</p>

<sup>[4]</sup> Nitrogen | <sup>[5]</sup> This became the "Environment" Pole (Decree of 16/02/2017)

## CONCLUSION

<b>INDUS 5</b> Environmental investment and expenditure by companies	According to a survey of 295 establishments in Wallonia that are potentially the most polluting (ICEDD, 2016d), operating expenses (e.g. waste management costs) accounted for the largest share of environmental expenditure in 2014. Investments were mainly diverted to waste water and flue gas treatment.	
	?	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> The series presented (2010 -2014) is not long enough to determine a trend.</p>
<b>INDUS 6</b> Major accident hazard and high pollution potential industrial sites	The management of major accident hazard sites is based on the "Seveso III" directive (2012/18/EU) and concerned 103 sites in Wallonia as of December 2016. In 2015, Wallonia also had 246 sites subject to reporting under the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR) and 2 nuclear installations (Fleurus and Tihange).	
	?	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not-relevant</b> The link between the evolution of the number of major accident hazard and high pollution potential industrial sites and environmental impacts is indirect, so the trend assessment is not relevant.</p>
<b>INDUS 7</b> Branch agreements (energy)	The first-generation branch agreements achieved their overall energy efficiency and CO <sub>2</sub> emission reduction targets. The measure has been extended to 14 sectors for the period 2014-2020.	
	?	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — The targets set are for 2020 and only data for 2014 are available.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> The second generation of the branch agreements (2014 -2020) is too recent to establish and assess a trend.</p>
<b>FIRMS 1</b> Environmental management systems and certification of organisations	Several types of structured approaches to improving the environmental performance of organisations exist: certification, registration, labels, etc. Wallonia had 197 ISO 14001 and/or EMAS organisations in 2016.	
	+	<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> The number of ISO 14001 certified and/or EMAS registered organisations almost doubled between 2003 and 2013. However, it has developed more irregularly since then.</p>

**Measures to manage environmental quality**

Environmental quality monitoring is an essential step in the environmental quality management process. It is required by European legislation in most cases. It makes it possible to objectively quantify the state of its various components. On the basis of this observation, the measures taken in the various action programmes or management plans can be adapted for greater efficiency.

*The aquatic environment*

As regards water, in particular under the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, considerable efforts are being made to protect the resource and restore the quality of Walloon rivers. These efforts are summarised in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and are implemented through various specific plans or management contracts between the Walloon Government and public operators. Without being exhaustive, the following objectives are targeted through these measures:

- protect drinkable groundwater resources by establishing

prevention zones for the protection of catchments;

- limit inputs of fertilisers (PGDA<sup>6</sup>) and pesticides (PWRP<sup>7</sup>) that impact aquifers;
- treat urban waste water to reduce pollution of water courses (management contract of the SPGE<sup>8</sup>);
- restore the hydromorphological and biological quality of rivers (PARIS<sup>9</sup>);
- plan the exploitation of water resources for distribution (management contract of the SWDE<sup>10</sup>).

Despite the significant investments made in recent years and the implementation of the first RBMPs, Wallonia is late for the European deadlines for waste water treatment and had not reached the good status/potential of surface water bodies required by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC by the end of 2015. Aquifers, on the other hand, are still subject to nitrate and pesticide pollution. However, the situation is expected to improve with the implementation of the second RBMPs and the expected effects of the PGDA and PWRP.

<sup>[6]</sup> Sustainable Management Programme for Nitrogen in Agriculture (Walloon Government Decree of 13/06/2014) | <sup>[7]</sup> Walloon Pesticide Reduction Programme | <sup>[8]</sup> Public Water Management Company (*Société publique de gestion de l'eau*) | <sup>[9]</sup> River action programmes through an integrated and sectoral approach | <sup>[10]</sup> Walloon Water Supply Company (*Société wallonne des eaux*)

## CONCLUSION

*Natural and semi-natural environments*

Maintaining and restoring biodiversity in forest, agricultural and other open areas is one of Wallonia's major concerns and is part of the National Biodiversity Strategy (Biodiversity 2020), which stems from the (European) Biodiversity Strategy to 2020. Pursuant to the EU "Birds" Directive (79/409/EEC) and "Habitats-Fauna-Flora" Directive (92/43/EEC), the Natura 2000 network has been gradually implemented. The site designation process has now been completed and the conservation objectives have been laid down (Walloon Government Decree of 01/12/2016). The challenge for the coming years will be to implement the necessary measures to maintain or restore the good conservation status of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest. The nature integrated project, developed at the Belgian level, must contribute to achieving the objectives set by these European directives. In terms of monitoring, it will be particularly interesting to evaluate the functioning of management instruments.

Among the other types of land protection, state-owned and approved nature reserves (*réserves naturelles domaniales - RND et réserves naturelles agréées - RNA*), forest reserves (*réserves forestières - RF*), wetlands of biological interest (*zones humides d'intérêt biologique - ZHIB*), underground caves of scientific interest (*cavités souterraines d'intérêt scientifique - CSIS*) and integral forest reserves (*réserves intégrales en forêt - RIF*) offer more extensive protection. The network formed by these sites is growing but is not very extensive. Its extension through the designation of new protected sites as sites of great biological interest (*sites de grand intérêt biologique - SGIB*) listed by the Public Service of Wallonia is subject to the availability of land, its market value and the availability of budgets for the acquisition of land.

Outside protected areas, biodiversity is taken into account through various specific programmes. These are intended to encourage municipalities, among other actors in the field, to promote practices in favour of biodiversity: the Maya Plan (*Plan Maya*), the development of the Nature-labelled cemeteries, the late mowing of roadsides or partnerships with a river contract. Participation in these programmes increases over the years and should be encouraged through the Wallonia Nature Network (*Réseau Wallonie Nature*), based on the consideration of nature "everywhere and by all".

In addition to obligations linked to European directives, including the Natura 2000 network directives (92/43/EEC and 79/409/EEC), which aim to establish the foundations of a vast ecological network, a series of actions have been pursued for many years, including:

- forest certification, which promotes the sustainable management of both public and private forests by awarding a management label;
- the policy of forest management in public forests, which makes it possible to plan forest works taking into account nature conservation objectives;
- the restoration of agricultural landscapes and their biodiversity by subsidising the planting of hedgerows;
- the implementation of major biodiversity restoration projects thanks to European co-financing.

All these initiatives work in synergy to improve the status of natural and semi-natural environments. However, given the situation observed in Wallonia, efforts must be continued to halt the deterioration of the status of all species and habitats of Community interest, and improve it in a significant and measurable way.

<b>ENVIRONMENT 1</b> <b>Budgets for environmental quality measurement networks</b>	In 2015, €15.6 million was spent on environmental quality monitoring networks, of which 86% was spent on air and water quality monitoring and control measures. These budgets increased steadily until 2011, mainly because of the monitoring requirements imposed by the various European directives and the emergence of new problems.
	<p><b>+</b></p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> The total budget doubled between 2000 and 2015. However, it has fallen slightly since 2011.</p>
<b>WATER 16</b> <b>Groundwater catchment protection zones</b>	Wallonia protects its drinkable groundwater by demarcating prevention and monitoring zones. Significant budgets are set aside for the protection of catchments.
	<p><b>-</b></p> <p><b>Unfavourable status</b> — Reference: the objectives of the protection programmes of the SPGE — As of 31/12/2015, 47% of the groundwater volumes to be protected were subject to a ministerial decree (published, signed or proposed). In addition, 37% of the groundwater volumes to be protected were subject to an examination or a positive opinion following investigation.</p> <p><b>Trend towards deterioration</b> Between 2001 and 2015, protected groundwater volumes increased from 5.2 Mm<sup>3</sup> to 140 Mm<sup>3</sup>. However, the rate of increase in protected volumes is decreasing: + 19 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year between 2001 and 2005, + 9 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year between 2006 and 2010, + 5 Mm<sup>3</sup>/year between 2011 and 2015.</p>

## CONCLUSION

WATER 17 Drinking water treatment and decommissioning of catchments	-	Drinkable groundwater can be contaminated with nitrate, pesticides or other types of pollution. Certain groundwater intakes must be abandoned if pollutant concentrations are too high and treatment costs are disproportionate.
		<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Trend towards deterioration</b> The decommissioning of catchments due to nitrate pollution increased from 158,500 m<sup>3</sup> in 2000 to 1,449,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 (a ninefold increase) in terms of cumulative volumes, while those due to pesticide pollution increased from 10,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2000 to 2,451,500 m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 (a 245-fold increase).</p>
WATER 18 Collection and treatment of urban waste water	+	The 38 major Walloon agglomerations (≥ 10,000 p.e.) comply with the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC. As of 15/03/2017, 14 out of 143 agglomerations (2,000 to 9,999 p.e.) did not respect them. However, most of the required infrastructure is either under construction or in the process of being awarded.
		<p><b>Slightly unfavourable status</b> — Reference: Directive 91/271/EEC — As of 15/03/2017, 10% of the Walloon agglomerations (2,000 to 9,999 p.e.) did not comply with the requirements of Art. 3 and/or 4 of Directive 91/271/EEC.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> Between 2011 and 2015, the percentage of pollutant loads generated by all Walloon agglomerations that were collected and treated rose from 73 to 85%.</p>
WATER 19 Equipment rate in urban waste water treatment plants	+	The major investments made in recent years have enabled Wallonia to reach an equipment rate of 91% of the total capacity to be installed in the long term.
		<p><b>Slightly unfavourable status</b> — Reference: Directive 91/271/EC (100% of areas undergoing urban waste water purification are equipped) — As of 31/12/2015, the equipment rate in urban waste water treatment plants in Wallonia was 91%.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> Between 2000 and 2015, the equipment rate in urban waste water treatment plants rose from 41% to 91%.</p>
WATER 20 On-site waste water treatment	?	Waste water treatment in on-site treatments areas ( <i>zone d'assainissement autonome</i> - ZAA) is promoted by Wallonia through two financial instruments: the granting of premiums for individual water treatment systems ( <i>systèmes d'épuration individuelle</i> - SEI) and exemption from the true-cost of treatment.
		<p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — Reference: Water Code; the obligation to install an SEI in an ZAA in new homes and those located in priority zones. — The indicator shows the number of premiums allocated to on-site treatment and not the share of dwellings responding to the obligation to install an SEI. An assessment is therefore not achievable.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> The trend assessment is not achievable for the above reason.</p>
WATER Focus 2 Regional Water Resources Scheme		In order to ensure the sustainability and diversity of water resources as well as the security of water supply of the whole Walloon territory, Wallonia has adopted a Regional Water Resources Scheme (SWDE, 2014), which is a veritable tool for planning and regulating the exploitation of water resources. Fourteen projects are planned for the first phase of the works (2013-2023) with a budget of €237 million. As of 31/03/2017, two projects had been completed.
WATER 21 River Basin Management Plans	?	In order to achieve the good status/potential of surface and groundwater bodies required by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Wallonia has drawn up management plans at the scale of river basin districts. They include a programme of measures to be implemented and the costs associated with the various sectors.
		<p><b>Slightly unfavourable status</b> — Reference: RBMPs 2009-2015 — For the period 2010-2015, 41% of surface water bodies (146 out of 354) were in good or high ecological status while the 2015 objective was 51% (182 out of 354). For groundwater bodies, over the period 2009-2013, 61% (20 out of 33) of water bodies were in good status while the 2015 target was 70% (23 out of 33).</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> It is only after the RBMPs 2016-2021 have been completed that a trend can be assessed.</p>

## CONCLUSION

<b>WATER 22</b> <b>River contracts</b>	<p>River contracts are participatory management structures to which stakeholders in the same river sub-basin voluntarily adhere. They participate in the protection of water resources. In 2017, of the 262 Walloon municipalities, 236 (88% of the territory) were partners in a river contract.</p> <p><b>Favourable status</b>  — Reference: Walloon Government Decree of 13/11/2008 on river contracts  — The action of river contracts is evaluated by the Public Service of Wallonia at the end of the third year of implementation of the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), on the basis of essentially qualitative criteria. This evaluation determines whether or not the MoUs are renewed. At the end of the 2014-2016 planning period, 100% of river contracts received a positive evaluation and were renewed for the period 2017-2019.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b>  Data are not available for a sufficiently long period of time.</p>
<b>SOILS 5</b> <b>Management of local soil pollution</b>	<p>By considering all the categories of sites concerned by legislation targeting or having targeted soil pollution, the number of sites likely to be polluted in Wallonia is in the order of 2,100 to 17,400, i.e. an average density of 1 to 10 sites per 10 km<sup>2</sup> (estimate as of 01/01/2017)</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b>  — No reference</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b>  The strengthening of legislative tools and financial resources since 2005 has made it possible to manage an increasing number of potentially polluted sites. A great deal of work has been done and is still underway to refine inventories and reduce uncertainties.</p>
<b>FFH 13</b> <b>Forest certification</b>	<p>The PEFC<sup>141</sup> forest certification system is a voluntary tool for continuous improvement aimed at sustainable forest management. In 2015, PEFC-certified forests covered almost 298,000 ha, or 53.5% of the total Walloon forest surface area. More than 90% of the certified forest surface area was owned by public owners and 9% by private owners.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b>  — No reference  — All of the forested surface areas belonging to Wallonia and 98% of the forested surface areas belonging to the municipalities have been certified.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b>  Since 2003 (the start of certification in Wallonia), the number of hectares of certified forests has increased. However, this growth has tended to slow down in recent years.</p>
<b>FFH 14</b> <b>Forest management</b>	<p>The forest management plans, imposed by the Decree of 15/07/2008 relating to the Forestry Code for all subjected woods with a surface area greater than 20 ha in one holding, represent a tool for the sustainable management of Walloon forests. Only a limited number of properties benefit from a recent management plan.</p> <p><b>Unfavourable status</b>  — Reference: (i) Decree of 15/07/2008 on the Forestry Code, (ii) forestry certification requirements  — In June 2016, an external audit carried out as part of the PEFC forest certification revealed a major non-compliance related to the lack of compliant forest management plans. The Nature and Forests Department (SPW - DG03) has been asked to take the necessary measures, under penalty of losing forest certification for all public forests.</p> <p><b>Trend towards deterioration</b>  In 2016, the surface area covered by forest management plans amounted to 270,582 ha. Since these plans have an average validity of 24 years, the surface area affected by annual revisions is expected to be about 11,300 ha, well above the annual surface area revised in recent years (4,947 ha/year on average between 2007 and 2016).</p>

<sup>[141]</sup> Program for the endorsement of forest certification schemes



## CONCLUSION

<p><b>FFH 15 Natura 2000 network</b></p>	<p>The procedure for the adoption by the Walloon Government of the decrees designating 240 Natura 2000 sites (13% of the territory) has been finalised. Wallonia must now take appropriate measures to maintain or restore the conservation status of the habitats and species in question. The Walloon Government has consequently set conservation and restoration targets for the network to be achieved by 2025.</p> <p><b>Favourable status</b> — Reference: (i) Biodiversity strategy to 2020 - target of completing the implementation of the Natura 2000 network, (ii) European average of the structural indicator "Sufficiency of sites designated under the "Habitats-Fauna-Flora" Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC)" — The procedure for adopting the site designation decrees was completed at the end of 2016. Moreover, Wallonia had a value of 100% in 2013 for the structural indicator "Sufficiency of sites designated under the "Habitats-Fauna-Flora" Directive (Directive 92/43/EEC)", which is higher than the European average (EU-28: 92%).</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Given the recent implementation of the network, the introduction of management will be evaluated in the coming years.</p>
<p><b>FFH 16 Protected natural sites</b></p>	<p>In Wallonia, the network of protected natural sites is growing, but it is still not very extensive. As of 15/10/2016, the sites covered 19,840 ha (1.18% of the territory). If the budgetary resources for the acquisition of land allow it, the designation of protected natural sites should continue and the coverage of the network should progress, as the 2017-2019 Regional Policy Declaration plans to increase the number of places conducive to biodiversity, especially nature reserves.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference — Among the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020 Strategic Plan), Target 11 ("By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas") cannot be used here as this percentage also includes Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> Between 1990 and 2016, the surface area of protected natural sites in Wallonia (including integral forest reserves) quadrupled.</p>
<p><b>FFH 17 Environmental programmes implemented by municipalities</b></p>	<p>As a general rule, Walloon municipalities respond favourably to the opportunity to implement environmental programmes in their territory: as of 01/05/2016, 61% of municipalities had set up between 4 and 6 programmes (out of 9).</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — Reference: objectives of the "Wallonia Nature Network" ("<i>Réseau Wallonie Nature</i>") by 2018: (i) 100 Nature-labelled cemeteries, (ii) 100 municipalities with a Municipal Nature Development Plan (<i>Plan communal de développement de la nature - PCDN</i>), (iii) all municipalities (262) participating in the late mowing of roadsides. — The status cannot yet be assessed as the targets are set for 2018.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> The participation of municipalities is increasing for the majority of programmes. Progress towards the existing numerical targets is favourable: as of 01/05/2016, there were 53 Nature-labelled cemeteries (since 2015), 93 municipalities with a PCDN (since 1995) and 226 municipalities participating in the late mowing of roadsides (since 1995).</p>
<p><b>FFH 18 Grants for planting hedges</b></p>	<p>Between 2014 and 2016, nearly 66 km of subsidised hedgerows (all rows combined) were planted in Wallonia. The lengths of subsidised plantings vary from year to year. Over the period 1999 to 2016, nearly €1,096,000 in grants were awarded, of which €808,379 between 2009 and 2016.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b> The lengths of subsidised plantings vary from one year to the next but have increased overall in recent years compared to the period 2002-2008.</p>
<p><b>FFH 19 LIFE Nature and Biodiversity programmes</b></p>	<p>In order to restore or conserve natural habitats and threatened species, Wallonia has been initiating LIFE projects co-financed by the European Union since the 1990s. Since 1994, 27 LIFE Nature and/or Biodiversity or LIFE Environment projects have been implemented in Wallonia, of which 5 projects (LIFE Pearl mussels, Saint-Hubert, Tailles Plateau, Natura2mil and Hautes-Fagnes) have been awarded by the EC. In 2017, 7 LIFE projects were still in progress.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Since the link between the environmental impacts of LIFE projects and the number of LIFE projects or the budgets allocated to them is indirect, the trend assessment cannot be carried out.</p>

## CONCLUSION

<b>ENV Focus 1 Ecosystem services</b>	Launched in 2014, the Walloon Platform on Ecosystem Services (Wal-ES) aims to assess ecosystem services, develop tools for public decision-making using the concept of ecosystem services, and support initiatives that take this concept into account.
---	---

**The waste sector***Better knowledge, for better monitoring*

An overall assessment of the performance of waste management in Wallonia is currently not feasible. Significant grey areas exist, particularly in the management of waste produced by agricultural and forestry activities, the construction and demolition sector, industrial firms not subject to reporting obligations (small and medium-sized businesses), or shops and services.

This finding, which was already highlighted in the Walloon Waste Plan for 2010 (*Plan wallon des déchets horizon 2010 - PWD 2010*), is again highlighted in the draft Walloon Waste-Resources Plan (*Plan wallon des déchets-ressources - PWD-R*)<sup>12</sup>. With this new tool, the Walloon Government envisages a certain number of actions specifically dedicated to improving the collection and use of data, in order to have quality statistics to better monitor the management measures implemented.

*Good performance in waste management*

Preventing and better managing waste contributes to the efficient use of resources. Various measures have been taken in Wallonia to this end: targeted prevention actions, take-back obligations and bans on deposits in technical landfill sites (CET) for some waste, dissuasive taxation and penalties for infringements, subsidies for container parks, and the development of networks for collection, recycling and recovery. The separate collection of household and similar waste has continued to increase, reaching the 65% target set in PWD 2010 in 2008. An analysis of waste flows indicates that there is still room for significant progress for organic materials from kitchens and, to a lesser extent, for metals and plastics. The targets of the PWD 2010 as regards the recovery of household and similar waste, and waste subject to a take-back obligation, also

appear to be broadly met. As regards industrial waste, the recovery rate was estimated at an average of 92% over the period 1995-2013. This waste was mainly valorised for its content in materials, mainly non-metallic.





*In anticipation of the new Plan*

Under Directive 2008/98/EC, Member States are required to adopt waste management plans and waste prevention programmes. The primary purpose of these documents is to reduce the impact of waste on the environment and human health and to improve the use of resources. They must be reviewed at least every six years, and revised if necessary. Pursuant to this Directive, Belgium (i.e. the three Regions, from a practical point of view) was required to adopt a waste management plan by 12/12/2010 and a waste prevention programme by 12/12/2013. In the context of this legal obligation, Wallonia is experiencing a considerable delay, which it justifies in particular by its willingness (i) to adapt the draft Walloon Plan drawn up in the context of the 2009-2014 legislature to the vision of the current Walloon Government, (ii) to integrate into it the relevant elements linked to the circular economy (elements which were not sufficiently developed in the previous draft plan) and (iii) to improve the legibility of the texts by reducing their size. The draft Walloon Waste-Resources Plan (a single document containing the management plan and the prevention programme) was adopted at first reading by the Walloon Government on 16/06/2016 and submitted to public inquiry.

<b>WASTE 1 Pricing of the management of household and similar waste</b>	In Wallonia, the cost of managing household waste is fully passed on to the beneficiaries (true-cost principle). The two factors that have the greatest influence on the amount of unsorted household refuse (UHR) produced are the pricing method and the typology of municipalities (RDC Environment, 2010b).
	<b>Slightly unfavourable status</b> — Reference: Decree of 27/06/1996 on waste — In 2015, only one Walloon municipality out of 262 did not comply with what was stipulated in the decree on the basis of its forecasted budget. However, on the basis of the final accounts, 24 municipalities out of 262 presented a coverage rate of the true-cost outside the limits set by the decree.
	<b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b> Since the obligation to have a true-cost coverage rate of between 95% and 110% dates from 2012, no trend can be determined.

<sup>[12]</sup> PWD-R: enacted by the Walloon Government on 16/06/2016

## CONCLUSION

<b>WASTE 2</b> Separate collections of household and similar waste		The organisation of separate collections of waste at the source is an essential prerequisite for obtaining homogeneous flows of material to be recovered.
		<p><b>Favourable status</b></p> <p>— Reference: PWD 2010</p> <p>— In 2015, the level of separate collection for household and similar waste in Wallonia reached 70%, which is higher than the target set in PWD 2010 (65%).</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b></p> <p>Between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of household and similar waste collected separately in Wallonia increased by 31%.</p>
<b>WASTE 3</b> Take-back obligations		Ten types of waste are subject to a take-back obligation in Wallonia. These were chosen in particular because of the size of their flows or because they are hazardous to the environment and health.
		<p><b>Slightly unfavourable status</b></p> <p>— Reference: (i) Walloon Government Decree of 23/09/2010, (ii) Interregional Cooperation Agreement of 04/11/2008</p> <p>— Of the 30 annual targets to be met in terms of take-back obligations, 5 have not been met: the recycling rate for household packaging and the collection rates for used non-food oils, end-of-life vehicles and household and professional electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) waste.</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b></p> <p>The data only relate to one year.</p>
<b>WASTE 4</b> Management of household and similar waste		To manage household waste, Wallonia has put in place various instruments (legislative, financial, informational, etc.) aimed at encouraging treatment methods with the best cost-benefit ratio (recycling and incineration with energy recovery in particular).
		<p><b>Favourable status</b></p> <p>— Reference: PWD 2010</p> <p>— The targets set in the PWD 2010 for energy recovery and disposal seemed to be met by 2015. As regards recycling, the deviation from the target appeared to be minimal. It should however be borne in mind that the performance of different management methods may sometimes be underestimated (in cases where the destination of certain waste leaving grouping or sorting centres is not known) or sometimes overestimated (in cases where sorting waste or other fractions redirected to disposal centres are included in the recovery statistics). As a result, the percentages of waste recovered or disposed of should be considered as orders of magnitude rather than precise values.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b></p> <p>Between 2008 and 2015, the proportion of waste sent to recovery centres increased by 23%. Conversely, the share of household and similar waste sent to disposal centres fell sharply (-74%).</p>
<b>WASTE 5</b> Management of industrial waste		In 2013, nearly three-quarters of the industrial waste recovered came from the metallurgy, non-metallic minerals and food processing sub-sectors. This waste was mainly recovered for its content in materials, which were primarily non-metallic (mainly vegetable waste and residues from thermal operations).
		<p><b>Favourable status</b></p> <p>— Reference: PWD 2010</p> <p>— In 2013, the recovery rate for the main types of industrial waste collected (the rate calculated from a constant non-representative sample of 138 industrial firms from the Integrated Environmental Survey (ICEDD, 2016a)) was estimated at 94%, which is higher than the target of 86% defined in the PWD 2010 (objective defined for all industrial sector waste).</p> <p><b>Overall stable trend</b></p> <p>Between 1995 and 2013, the recovery rate for industrial waste ranged from 88% to 95%, depending on the year.</p>

## CONCLUSION

<b>WASTE 6</b> <b>Management of waste classed as hazardous</b>	<p>In 2014, the quantities of waste classed as hazardous generated in Wallonia were estimated at 596 kt. Contaminated soils and polluted dredging spoils, animal by-products, waste shredding residues and waste from the chemical industry constituted half of the generated deposit.</p> <p><b>Unfavourable status</b>  — Reference: PWD 2010  — In 2014, 38% of the waste classed as hazardous generated and managed in Wallonia was recovered. PWD 2010 expected to achieve a 75% recovery rate for waste classed as hazardous in 2010.</p> <p><b>Overall stable trend</b>  Between 2004 and 2014, the recovery rate of waste classed as hazardous remained broadly stable (39%), even if upward (2005) or downward variations (2007 and 2008) were observed over the period.</p>
<b>WASTE 7</b> <b>Management of radioactive waste</b>	<p>At the end of 2014, the total volume of waste packed and provisionally stored in Dessel pending a long-term management solution amounted to 22,440 m<sup>3</sup>. This volume consisted of 80.8% of "Category A" waste (radioactive waste with low or intermediate activity and a short half-life).</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b>  — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b>  The volume of packed and stored radioactive waste increased by 80% between 1995 and 2014. However, this indicator alone does not make it possible to establish a trend in view of the complexity of the problem and the issues involved.</p>
<b>WASTE 8</b> <b>Management of sludge from urban waste water treatment plants</b>	<p>The quantities of sludge from urban waste water treatment plants (UWWTPs) produced in 2015 (more than 50,000 t DM) were close to the expected ceiling for a 100% equipment rate of UWWTPs (55,000 t DM/year). This sludge was incinerated with energy recovery (50%) and valorised in agriculture (50%).</p> <p><b>Favourable status</b>  — Reference: Decree of 10/05/2012, transposing Directive 2008/98/EC - principle of respecting the hierarchy of waste management methods subject to technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental protection  — In 2015, the production of UWWTP sludge reached 91% of the total expected production, while the equipment rate in Wallonia reached 100% (objective of 4,415,160 p.e. treated). All of the sludge is valorised.</p> <p><b>Trend towards improvement</b>  Between 1994 and 2007, the valorisation rate of UWWTP sludge (energy recovery and agricultural valorisation) increased from 76% to 100%. It has been maintained at this level ever since.</p>
<b>WASTE 9</b> <b>Management of sediments removed from navigable waterways</b>	<p>The 2010-2014 dredging operations made it possible to remove obstacles to navigation. The safety margin remains low given the resources available for 2017-2020 and the importance of the "passive" deposit. Some polluted areas are sources of diffuse pollution. Efforts must be continued to develop sustainable management systems at the industrial level.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b>  — No reference</p> <p><b>Assessment of trend not achievable</b>  Interannual variations in dredged volumes are directly linked to the resources allocated. These volumes were below 50,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2006-2008, above 250,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2012 and 2013 and close to 130,000 m<sup>3</sup> in 2015 and 2016, which does not make it possible to ascertain a trend over 10 years.</p>
<b>WASTE Focus 1</b> <b>Towards sustainable sediment management solutions</b>	<p>The SOLINDUS and VALSOLINDUS research programmes have resulted in promising tests for the recovery of certain granulometric fractions of sediments in navigable waterways, either by return to the ground (landscaping) or <i>via</i> industrial applications (brick works, cement works, etc.).</p>
<b>WASTE 10</b> <b>Cross-border transfers of waste</b>	<p>In 2015, Wallonia imported 354 kt of notifiable waste. Chapter 19 of the Walloon Waste Catalogue (waste from waste management installations, off-site waste water treatment plants, etc.) accounted for 41% of imported waste. In the same year, Wallonia exported 269 kt of notifiable waste. Chapter 19 alone accounted for nearly 70% of the waste exported.</p> <p><b>Assessment of status not achievable</b>  — No reference</p> <p><b>Overall stable trend</b>  Between 2005 and 2015, the recovery rate of Walloon waste exported from Belgium was generally stable.</p>

## CONCLUSION

<b>WASTE 11</b> <b>Tax revenue</b> <b>related to waste</b> <b>management</b>	In 2015, the total amount collected for waste taxation in Wallonia was €25.6 million. Nearly 60% of this amount came from depositing in CET.	
		<b>Assessment of status not achievable</b> — No reference
	<b>+</b>	<b>Trend towards improvement</b> Between 01/01/2008 (date of entry into force of the Decree of 22/03/2007) and 31/12/2015, the total amount received decreased by 16%. Analysis of the different management methods shows a shift in taxation from depositing in CET to incineration.