

## MAIN LAND USES

### TERRIT 1

Land use refers to the function or use of a type of land cover (e.g. cover for a "lawn" may be for "residential garden" use or "pasture" use). Consequently, the way in which land is used influences the quality of all the environmental components (air, water, soils, wild fauna, flora and habitats).

#### Agricultural land that becomes artificialised

In 2015, according to figures from the land registry, around half of the Walloon territory (52.1%) was used for agricultural purposes<sup>1</sup> and about one third (29.4%) was used for forestry<sup>2</sup>. Artificialised land<sup>3</sup>, which has been on the rise for 30 years (+39.3%)<sup>4</sup>, accounted for at least 10.4% of the territory<sup>5</sup>. This land take was mainly at the expense of agricultural land, which recorded a loss of 547 km<sup>2</sup> between 1985 and 2015 (-5.9% in 30 years), i.e. an average loss of 18 km<sup>2</sup>/year. However, the loss of agricultural land has tended to gradually decrease in recent years (on average, -23 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 1985 and 1995, -18 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 1995 and 2005, and -13 km<sup>2</sup>/year between 2005 and 2015).

Various factors including an increase in the population and number of Walloon households<sup>6</sup>, the increase in the consumption of space linked to housing<sup>7</sup>, peri-urbanisation and the corollary development of services and facilities explain the Walloon dynamic.

#### A "no net land take" in 2050?

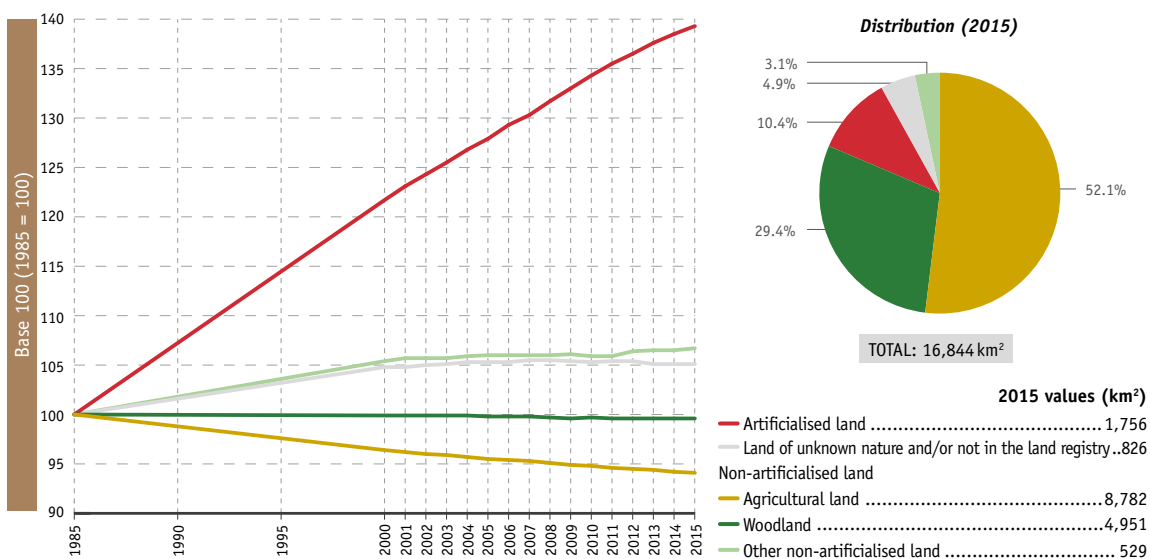
In its Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe<sup>8</sup>, the European Commission set the objective of achieving "no net land take" by 2050, in other words eliminating any net increase in the area

of artificialised land. In Wallonia, the increase in land take is governed by sector plans. However, the surfaces available for artificialisation are significant<sup>9</sup>. In this context, if the current trajectory of Wallonia is maintained, it is unlikely to achieve these European objectives.

On 20/07/2016, the Walloon Parliament approved a major reform of legislation on spatial planning by adopting the Territorial Development Code (*Code du développement territorial - CoDT*), which replaced the Walloon Code on Land Use Planning, Urbanism and Patrimony (*Code wallon de l'aménagement du territoire, de l'urbanisme et du patrimoine - CWATUP*) on 01/06/2017. In this new text, one of the major principles of territorial development, the principle of "sparing" use of the soil and resources (Art. 1 of the CWATUP) has been replaced by the principle of "rational" use of the land and resources.

[1] In 2015, the utilised agricultural area was 7,175 km<sup>2</sup>, or 42.4% of the territory; → AGRI 1. | [2] → Map 8 | [3] Areas removed from their natural state, either forest or agricultural, which may or not be built, or covered | [4] → TERRIT 2 | [5] Land of unknown nature and/or not in the land registry, which represented 4.9% of Walloon territory in 2015, is not considered as artificialised land here. They nonetheless include artificialised elements (roads, railways, etc.). | [6] → SOCIOECO 2 | [7] → HOUSE 1 | [8] COM (2011) 571 | [9] → TERRIT 4 & TERRIT 5

Fig. TERRIT 1-1 Main land uses in Wallonia



SOERW 2017 – Sources: FPS Finance - AGDP (Bodem/Sol database); FPS Economy - DG Statistics/IWEPS & DEMNA calculations