

## 7-1 STATUS OF WATER BODIES

Directive 2000/60/EC requires that bodies of surface water and groundwater have to maintain or achieve a good status or a good potential<sup>1</sup> by the end of 2015. Achieving this objective requires the application of measures defined in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP revised every 6 years).

### KEY MESSAGE

The evaluations for the 2009-2013 period reveal that 57% of surface water bodies (203/354) and 40% of groundwater bodies (13/33) globally do not have a good status<sup>2</sup> in Wallonia. These results are similar to those obtained in the previous evaluation (2006-2008), suggesting that the targets set in the first management plans<sup>3</sup> are unlikely to be achieved. The problems are mainly to be found in the Scheldt river basin district and in a few Meuse sub-basins (Sambre, Vesdre, the downstream Meuse)<sup>4</sup> where the ecological quality of the water courses is generally less good. The factors behind the bad status of water bodies are mainly related to household and service sector activities (insufficient waste water treatment), agricultural activities (the use of nitrate and pesticides) and industrial activities. A second cycle of RBMP is currently being drafted<sup>5</sup>: it will contain a new program of measures and elements justifying a deadline extension to 2027 for certain water bodies (for technical, economic or nature-related<sup>6</sup> reasons).

### Evaluation

Unfavourable situation and non-assessable trend

- [1] For artificial or heavily modified surface water bodies
- [2] Ecological and chemical status for surface water; quantitative and chemical status for groundwater.
- [3] 51% of water surface bodies and 70% of groundwater bodies to be in a good status by the end of 2015
- [4] → Maps 7 and 8
- [5] Public inquiry scheduled for July 2015 (<http://eau.wallonie.be>)
- [6] E.g. when the soil-aquifer transfer or ecosystem recovery takes a long time.

Fig. 7-1a Status of surface water bodies in Wallonia (2009-2013)

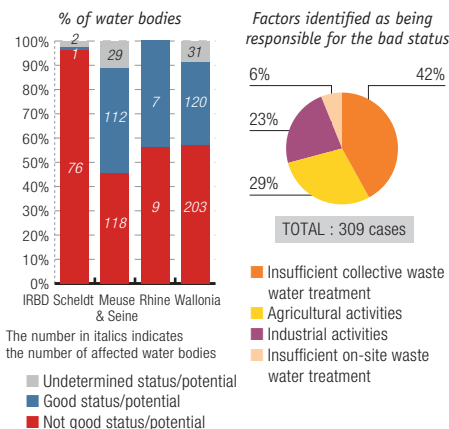


Fig. 7-1b Status of groundwater bodies in Wallonia (2009-2013)

