

**QUESTIONNAIRE TO ASSESS IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
ON ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS (DECISION II/3)**

Please fill in and return this questionnaire to the Aarhus Convention secretariat by  
20 November 2006

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**Remark: FL = Flemish Region, WA = Walloon Region, BC = Brussels-Capital Region, Fed = Federal authority**

1. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to para 9 (c) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Reports on the state of the environment are:

i. Generally available **X (Regions)** Partly available \_\_\_ Not **yet** available **X (Fed)**

ii. Please provide internet link  
<http://www.milieurapport.be/>;  
[http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=BEL\\_NARA-NARA2005](http://www.inbo.be/content/page.asp?pid=BEL_NARA-NARA2005);  
<http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/eeew>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=628>

iii. Are reports on the state of the environment legally required to be available?  
Yes **X** No \_\_\_

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information?  
Yes **X** No \_\_\_

v. Comments  
- **Regions: General applicable regulation: Flemish Government Decree of 28.10.05 on dissemination of environmental information**  
**web portal: [www.milieuinfo.be](http://www.milieuinfo.be); Walloon Government Decree of 16/03/06 on access to environmental information; Brussels Order of 18/03/04 on access to environmental information**  
- **Federal: Obligation deriving from the new law of 05/08/06 on access of the public to environmental information (art 16). The first federal report on the state of the environment will be available in 2009.**

b) Texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment are:

i. Generally available **X** Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link  
[www.staatsblad.be](http://www.staatsblad.be) / [www.moniteur.be](http://www.moniteur.be) or  
<http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi/welcome.pl> (Belgian legislation);  
[www.aarhus.be](http://www.aarhus.be); [www.emis.vito.be/navigator](http://www.emis.vito.be/navigator) (Flemish coordinated environmental legislation);

<http://212.123.19.141/ALLESNL/wet/index.vwp?SID=0> or  
[www.codex.vlaanderen.be](http://www.codex.vlaanderen.be) (Flemish coordinated legislation);  
<http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/DroitContent.asp?ref=1541>;  
[www.health.fgov.be](http://www.health.fgov.be) (>environment); <http://mineco.fgov.be> (Energy);  
[www.mumm.ac.be](http://www.mumm.ac.be) (Management Unit of the North Sea Mathematical Models); [www.fanc.fgov.be](http://www.fanc.fgov.be) (Nuclear control)

- iii. Are texts of legislation, regulations, rules and other legally binding instruments on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes **X** No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes ☐ No ☐
- v. Comments
- 
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c) Texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements are:

- i. Generally available **X (WA, BC & Fed)** Partly available **X (FL)** Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link  
portal [www.milieuinfo.be](http://www.milieuinfo.be); <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/>; [www.brunotoback.be](http://www.brunotoback.be)
- iii. Are texts of policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment legally required to be available? Yes **X** No ☐
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements (according to article 5, para 3) for progressive improvement in the availability of this information? Yes **X** No ☐
- v. Comments
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d) Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation, where it is held in electronic form, is:

- i. Generally available ☐ Partly available **X** Not available ☐
- ii. Please provide internet link  
<http://www.mervlaanderen.be/>; <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://mineco.fgov.be>; [www.mumm.ac.be](http://www.mumm.ac.be); [www.fanc.fgov.be](http://www.fanc.fgov.be)
- iii. Are environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No **X**
- iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No **X**
- v. Comments

**Walloon Region: For plans and programmes, EIA documents are made available to the public by the competent authorities during a legally binding public enquiry, including through the internet.  
For licences and permits, those documents are made available to the public concerned through the local authorities during a legally binding public enquiry (written procedure for submitting comments).  
Brussels-Capital Region: Documents are available during a legally binding public enquiry or at somebody's request.  
Federal: The competences for environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation are dispersed between other federal public services like the FPS Economy, SMEs, Self-employed and**

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**Energy, the Federal Agency for Nuclear Control and the Management Unit of  
the North Sea Mathematical Models (for the marine environment).**

e) Reference to where environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment documentation can be accessed is:

- Generally available **X (FL)**      Partly available **X (WA, BC & Fed)**      Not available \_\_\_\_
- Please provide internet link  
<http://www.mervlaanderen.be/>; portal: [www.milieuinfo.be/](http://www.milieuinfo.be/);  
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/>; <http://www.ibgebim.be/>;  
<http://mineco.fgov.be/>; [www.mumm.ac.be/](http://www.mumm.ac.be/); [www.fanc.fgov.be/](http://www.fanc.fgov.be/)

f) Data on environmentally significant releases and transfers of pollutants, within the scope of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (PRTR), are:

I. Generally available \_\_\_\_      Partly available **X**      Not available \_\_\_\_

II. Please provide internet link  
<http://www.vmm.be/servlet/be.coi.gw.servlet.MainServlet/id1162982053391/standard/?toDo=open&id=8>; <http://www.eper.cec.eu.int>

III. Are PRTR data legally required to be available?      Yes **X**      No \_\_\_\_

IV. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information?      Yes **X**      No \_\_\_\_

V. Comments

**At present time only releases data are available. Full PRTR data will be available through the Convention national node ([www.aarhus.be](http://www.aarhus.be)), the web sites of each regional competent authorities and through the E-PRTR web site when EU E-PRTR Regulation will be implemented and when the Protocol has entered into force.**

g) Information on mechanisms related to access to justice within the meaning of the Convention is:

i. Generally available **X (Fed, WA & BC)**      Partly available **X (FL)**      Not available \_\_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link  
[www.aarhus.be/](http://www.aarhus.be/); <http://www3.vlaanderen.be/openbaarheid/burger.php>;  
<http://environnement.wallonie.be/> &  
[http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/droit\\_information](http://mrw.wallonie.be/dgrne/droit_information);  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=2018>;  
[www.health.fgov.be](http://www.health.fgov.be)  
([https://portal.health.fgov.be/portal/page?\\_pageid=56.512525&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](https://portal.health.fgov.be/portal/page?_pageid=56.512525&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)); [www.just.fgov.be](http://www.just.fgov.be)

iii. Is information on mechanisms related to access to justice legally required to be available?      Yes **X**      No \_\_\_\_

**See Comments**

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information?      Yes \_\_\_\_      No **X**

v. Comments: **There is a general legal requirement that with every formal decision the possibilities of appeal need to be mentioned in the decision.**

2. In your country, among documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6, and where held in electronic

form, which categories of environmental information are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Applications for licences or permits are:

i. Generally available ☒ (BC)      Partly available ☒ (FL)      Not available ☒  
(WA & Fed)

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable <http://www.mina.be/emil.htm>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contentu/content.asp?ref=1662>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contentu/content.asp?ref=2114> (Legally  
binding process of public enquiry)

iii. Are applications for licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☒

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this  
information? Yes ☒ (FL)      No ☒  
(WA & Fed)

v. Comments:

- **Flemish Region: Data concerning environmental permits are scattered among different authorities (regional, provincial and local/community). There is now a project going on to integrate all the information about environmental (and also building) permits. This project includes (1) an integrated database of environmental permits, (2) an internet application to consult this database, (3) an internet application to start a permit procedure, (4) an integrated back office to follow the permit (on different governmental levels: region, province and local community).**
- **Walloon Region: For licences and permits, those documents including those dealing with environmental impact assesment are made available to the public concerned through the local authorities during a legally binding public enquiry (written procedure for submitting comments).**
- **Federal: No information is available on federal level. Mainly the Regions are competent for licences and permits, except for permits and authorizations to the marine environment and for permits concerning nuclear installations.**

b) Draft licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ☐      Partly available ☒ (FL)      Not available ☒ (WA,  
BC & Fed)

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Are draft licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☒

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this  
information? Yes ☒ (FL)      No ☒  
(WA, BC & Fed)

v. Comments: **Flemish Region: see a) v. same project.**  
**Brussels-Capital Region: Copies of the documents are available at request.**

c) Final licences or permits and their attached conditions are:

i. Generally available ☐      Partly available ☒ (FL)      Not  
available ☒ (WA, BC & Fed)

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Are final licenses or permits legally required to be available? Yes ☒ (Fed)      No  
(FL, WA & BC)

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive  
improvements for this information? Yes ☒ No ☐

v. Comments: **Flemish Region: see a) v. same project**

**Brussels-Capital Region: Copies of the documents are available at request.**  
**Walloon region: Final decisions are made available to the public by local authorities but for the moment not through Internet.**

d) Comments of third parties on draft permits and conditions are:

i. Generally available ☐ Partly available ☒ (WA) Not available ☒ (FL, BC & Fed)

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

iii. Are comments of third parties legally required to be available? Yes ☐ No ☒

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to meet requirements for progressive improvements for this information? Yes ☒ (FL) No ☒ (WA, BC & Fed)

v. Comments: **Flemish Region: see a) v. same project**  
**Brussels-Capital Region: Files can be consulted at request.**

e) Where it is not available in electronic form, a reference to where documentation forming an integral part of any licensing or permitting process subject to the provisions of article 6 can be accessed is:

i. Generally available ☒ (FL & WA) Partly available ☒ (BC & Fed) Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable  
<http://www.milieuinfo.be/milieu-informatie/openbare-documenten/vergunningen/>; <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/content/content.asp?ref=1949>;  
[www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Sea-based/windmills.php](http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Management/Sea-based/windmills.php)

iii. Is such a reference legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☒ No ☐

v. Comments: **Flemish Region: This will be part of a portal website on environmental information (in general), where the links for documentation will be described.**

3. In your country, which categories of environmental information (according to the paragraph 9 (d) of the *Recommendations* annexed to decision II/3) are publicly accessible through the Internet:

a) Environmental monitoring data held by or on behalf of public authorities, including spatial attributes are:

i. Generally available ☒ Partly available ☐ Not available ☐

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable  
<http://www.milieuinfo.be/milieu-informatie/openbare-documenten/monitoringsgegevens/>; <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/content/content.asp?ref=394>;  
[www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Monitoring/index.php](http://www.mumm.ac.be/EN/Monitoring/index.php)

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes ☒ No ☐

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes ☐ No ☐

v. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

b) Product information that enables consumers to make informed environmental choices is:

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i. Generally available **X** Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable

[www.ecolabel.be](http://www.ecolabel.be); [www.health.fgov.be](http://www.health.fgov.be) (>environment>sustainable production and consumption); [www.fytoweb.be](http://www.fytoweb.be);  
<http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/content/content.asp?ref=775>;  
<http://www.observ.be/beta/>

iii. Are such data legally required to be available? Yes **X (Fed)** No **X (Regions)**

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

c) Good practice information and guidelines on better environmental management are:

i. Generally available **X** Partly available \_\_\_ Not available \_\_\_

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable

<http://www.emis.vito.be/>;  
<http://www.mina.be/bbt.html>; <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
<http://www.ibgebim.be/>; [www.klimaat.be/www.climat.be](http://www.klimaat.be/www.climat.be);  
[www.ecolabel.be](http://www.ecolabel.be); [www.bombylius.be](http://www.bombylius.be);  
[www.schoneauto.be/www.voiturepropre.be](http://www.schoneauto.be/www.voiturepropre.be); [www.de-noordzee.be](http://www.de-noordzee.be);  
[www.energievreters.be/www.energivores.be](http://www.energievreters.be/www.energivores.be) (launch in December)

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes \_\_\_ No **X**

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

v. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

d) Appropriate metadata or background information so that the methods, processes and standards of data collection are transparent to future data users is:

i. Generally available **X (Fed & BC)** Partly available **X (FL)** Not available **X (WA)**

ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable

[http://aps.vlaanderen.be/statistiek/over\\_cijfers/info.htm](http://aps.vlaanderen.be/statistiek/over_cijfers/info.htm);  
<http://www.milieurapport.be>; <http://www.ibgebim.be/>;  
[http://statbel.fgov.be/port/env\\_nl.asp](http://statbel.fgov.be/port/env_nl.asp)

iii. Is such information legally required to be available? Yes \_\_\_ No **X**

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes \_\_\_ No **X**

v. Comments \_\_\_\_\_

e) Meta-information including catalogues of data sources and details of the scope of information held by public authorities and mechanisms for the provision of access to environmental information is:

i. Generally available **X (WA & Fed)** Partly available **X (FL & BC)**  
Not available \_\_\_

- ii. Please provide internet link, if applicable  
[www.milieuinfo.be](http://www.milieuinfo.be); <http://environnement.wallonie.be>;  
[http://statbel.fgov.be/port/env\\_nl.asp](http://statbel.fgov.be/port/env_nl.asp)

iii. Is such meta-information legally required to be available? Yes **X (Fed)**  
No **X (FL & BC)**

iv. If not generally available, do you have plans to progressively improve access to this information? Yes **X (BC)**  
No **X (FL)**

v. Comments

**Brussels-Capital Region: There is a plan to make available to the public the virtual library of Brussels environment, the administration of environment and energy of the Brussels capital region.**

4. In your country, what proportion of members of the public has electronic access:

a) In their place of residence?

More than 80% \_\_\_ 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% **X** 20-39% \_\_\_ Less than 20%

b) In their place of work (employment, school etc.)?

More than 80% **X** 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% \_\_\_ 20-39% \_\_\_ Less than 20% \_\_\_

c) In a publicly accessible facility (internet café, public library, kiosk etc.)?

More than 80% **X** 60-79% \_\_\_ 40-59% \_\_\_ 20-39% \_\_\_ Less than 20% \_\_\_

5. In your country, has the scope of environmental information that is electronically accessible since 2005:

Generally increased **X (Fed, WA & BC)** Partly increased \_\_\_ Remained the same **X (FL)**  
Declined \_\_\_

6. For the majority of Internet users in your country, what is the most common form of Internet access:

Dial-up (telephony) \_\_\_ Wi-Fi (wireless networking) \_\_\_ Broadband **X** Don't know: \_\_\_

*Broadband is a term that encompasses DSL, cable and satellite high-speed Internet connections. DSL stands for "Digital Subscriber Line". Variants include ADSL, HDSL, IDSL, VDSL and SDSL.*

7. Please describe any methods or measures that are used to gauge the level of actual use of environmental information accessed electronically in your country (for example, tracking of web traffic statistics on official environmental information sites):

**Web traffic statistics (Walloon Region and Brussels-Capital Region); Nedstat (tool for tracking visitors and page views of the site - a federal report will be available soon); on line satisfaction survey (Walloon Region); auditing (Brussels-Capital Region)**

8. Please identify in the table below the

- a) main users of environmental information in your country, and
- b) methods used to assess their information needs.

**Comments:**

**At present time we don't have scientific information concerning the main users of environmental information in Belgium. Because the (federal) website is rather new, our priority is to improve the information it contains, but future scientific research on this specific issue will be very useful to us.**

**Available data are:**

- The people who had participated at the (online) consultation concerning the draft of the national biodiversity strategy 2006-2016 were mostly individuals (90%). 10% participated on behalf of an institution.
- People who demand environmental information at our (federal) information desk are mainly private persons and students, but we also receive questions from communities and firms.
- The majority of the visitors of the federal website [www.health.fgov.be](http://www.health.fgov.be) mainly consult the information for professionals and mainly during the office hours (and are therefore probably mainly professionals).

*You may choose one or more categories.*

a) Main User	b) Methods
Government  <b>X</b>	
Academia / Schools  <b>X</b>	



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General Public  X	<b>Flemish Region: Independant Research project "Optimisation of the effectiveness and user-friendliness of the (digital) environmental information targeted at the consumer"</b>  <b>Brussels-Capital Region: assessment of awareness campaigns, analysis of web statistics</b>
Nongovernmental Organizations  X	
Private sector  X	<b>Contacts with professionals, with federations, Assessment of awareness campaigns, analysis of web statistics (Brussels-Capital Region)</b>
Others (Please identify)	

9. If your Ministry or agency has assessed user needs for environmental information, please briefly describe how successful it has been.

**Walloon Region: Results from 2003 online satisfaction survey resulted in web portal improvements including regarding access to information.**

**Brussels-Capital Region: Following a general assessment of the success of all communication practices of Brussels environment-IBGE-BIM, a lot of measures to improve the impact of the communication were adopted. Among them, the decision to make a new website, to progressively give access to the public to the Virtual library of the institution, to print new publications, to improve the quality and the distribution of the magazines, to give more resources to communication,...**

10. In your country, how is progress on improving electronic access to environmental information being communicated to the public?

**Recently via a federal brochure for the public that describes the procedure to obtain environmental information according to the Aarhus Convention**

**+ Via information booths at environmental fairs**

**The official reports requested by the Aarhus convention are online available to the public as well as the activity reports a.o. from regional competent authorities.**

11. What concrete steps have been undertaken to ensure that information is available electronically? Please include reference to national web portals or other sites of interest.

- Creation of [www.aarhus.be](http://www.aarhus.be);

- Creation of a Flemish web portal [www.milieuinfor.be](http://www.milieuinfor.be); Walloon web portal since 2000 (<http://environnement.wallonie.be>); Brussels-Capital web portal <http://www.ibgebim.be/>

- Federal: launching of an environmental information desk and description of the new procedure on [www.health.fgov.be/infoaarhus](http://www.health.fgov.be/infoaarhus) (+ an information session for other federal public services and different communication officers)

12. Is public access to environmental information through the Internet or other electronic means provided as a matter of practice or is there a legally enforceable right to such access? If possible, please include reference to relevant national policies or provisions of national law referring to this right.

**It is a legally enforceable right, according to EU Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC.**

**Applicable legislation: the Flemish Government Decree of 28.10.05 on dissemination of environmental information, the Walloon Government Decree of 16/03/06 on access to environmental information, the Brussels Order of 18/03/04 on access to environmental information and the Federal Law of 05/08/06 on access of the public to environmental information.**

13. Has your country formulated and implemented national "e-government" strategies for the use of electronic tools to facilitate administrative processes and services, to make public administration more transparent and efficient in providing available environmental information and dealing with requests for such information from the public? Please include relevant title(s), name(s), contact information of responsible officer(s) and timeframe for implementation.

**- Flemish Region:**

**Yes, there is an overall e-government program and policy for the Flemish authorities. Past e-government policy gave priority to front-office applications (Flanders portal site), with comparatively little attention being paid to the underlying "back-office applications", even though they are vital for the development of effective e-government. The Flemish E-government co-ordination unit was created as a separate entity, that needs to work in partnership with the Flemish Info Line, the regulatory management unit and the ICT Management and Control service. Co-operation is also underway with various entities responsible for e-government implementation within the Authorities of Flanders. This information is available on <http://www3.vlaanderen.be/e-government/en/index.php>.**

**- Walloon Region:**

Yes. For more information see: <http://egov.wallonie.be>

**- Brussels-Capital Region: Contact: Pierre-Yves Vandegheerde, Brussels Environment-IBGE-BIM, pyv@ibgebim.be.**

**- Federal government: Yes. For more information see: [www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be) - 'about e-government' (see 'cooperation agreement' between all authorities)**

14. In which types of environmental decision-making process (in the sense of articles 6, 7 and 8 of the Convention) may public participation take place electronically? What are the main steps in the process? If possible, please give concrete examples.

**- Flemish Region: In some cases, public participation is possible during the preparation of plans and programmes, on an ad hoc basis.**

**- Brussels-Capital Region: The public can participate to assessment of projects of plans (waste, noise, management of nature,...) through the internet website.**

**- Federal government: Public participation has to take place for every plan and programme related to the environment. This is done mostly electronically. Example: the National Biodiversity Strategy (public participation took place in April-May 2006).**

15. Have comprehensive environment-related programmes, including specific training programmes linking the use of information technology applications to the promotion of good environmental governance, been developed and implemented in your country?

a) Yes **X (BC)** No **X (other)**

b) Is the training programme:

i. Ongoing \_\_\_ Periodic \_\_\_ One-time \_\_\_

ii. Financed through international assistance \_\_\_  
State-financed (National or local government) \_\_\_  
Privately-financed (philanthropy, NGO, private sector) \_\_\_  
Other (please describe) \_\_\_

c) Please provide the date(s) of initiation and target audience of environment-related training programmes:

**Brussels-Capital Region: A lot of trainings for professionals or for the public are organized each year: about management of energy, about eco-construction, about environmental management, about composting, ...**

<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=1642>

<http://www.ibgebim.be/francais/contenu/content.asp?ref=2013>

16. Please describe any measures taken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the development and use of electronic tools to provide environmental information to the public?

**- Flemish Region: Industry and local authorities, as providers of information, are involved with the project on licence information (see question 2, a), V.)**

**Users of information (including civil society) are not involved on a structural basis. However, the public can always give reactions, suggestions and comments to this new database. Relevant reactions will be taken into account to the extent appropriate.**

**- Federal government: Different stakeholders are involved in the development of information tools such as the database of biocides, the REACH-helpdesk and [www.bombylius.be](http://www.bombylius.be). This was rather an indirect consequence of the work than a direct objective.**

17. What are the most important challenges and obstacles in your country to the use of electronic tools to implement the *Recommendations* contained in decision II/3?

**Challenges:**

**Co-operation between (1) different governmental authorities (national (federal level), regions, provinces and local communities) and (2) different governmental bodies within the regional authorities concerning the environment.**

**Linking information systems (ICT) needs a lot of negotiation on semantic issues.**

**Different governmental bodies use different interpretation on e.g. the location for an environmental license.**

**Loads of people don't have access to the Internet or don't use it to search information. We need time and resources to make all the information available on an electronic form.**

18. Does your country have an Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node web portal? If yes, please identify the website address (url): [www.aarhus.be](http://www.aarhus.be)

19. Does your country have a designated Aarhus Clearinghouse National Node Administrator or contact point responsible for collecting, managing and updating the information contained in the national node? Yes **X** No ☐

Responsible for content management:

Name: **Mieke Van de Velde**

Title: **Communications officer Aarhus Convention**

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Technical contact:

Name: **idem**

Telephone: **idem**

Email: **idem**

20. Date of launch of national node of the Clearinghouse: (Month/Year) **18/09/2006**

21. How often does your national node administration update the National Clearinghouse web portal? Monthly **X** Quarterly ☐ Annually ☐ Never ☐

22. Approximately how many resource entries in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (<http://aarhusclearinghouse.unece.org>) reflect national content?

More than 10 ☐ 5 to 10 **X** Less than 5 ☐ None ☐

23. What method of communicating resource entries to the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy does your organization or agency prefer to use? Does it submit information:

By email to [aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org](mailto:aarhus.clearinghouse@unece.org) ☐

By email to staff of the Aarhus secretariat **X**

By email to national experts serving on Task Force ☐

By email to Clearinghouse National Node Administrator ☐

Using Clearinghouse's online form accessible to registered content managers ☐

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

24. Please describe any measures undertaken to promote the involvement of different stakeholders representing both providers and users of information, including civil society and private sector institutions, in the national node of the Clearinghouse.

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25. Please provide any additional comments below.

The Aarhus Convention Electronic Information Tools Task Force  
23-24 November 2006

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Thank you for completing this questionnaire!

Aarhus Convention Secretariat

Information Tools	Relevant provisions of the Aarhus Convention	Challenges & obstacles to ICT Implementation
<p><b>ELECTRONIC</b></p> <p>Internet E-mail Electronic Community Notice Boards/ Billboards CD-Rom Electronic data accessible through bar- code scanning Electronic data accessible through touch-tone dialling SMS – Short Messaging System Public electronic information kiosks Telephone Hotlines/Fax TV Teletext Other (to be specified)</p> <p><b>NON-ELECTRONIC</b></p> <p>Brochures Exhibitions Green community reps Info-shops (walk in) Libraries Newspapers Open days Posters TV, Cinema, Radio Other (to be specified)</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4, PARA. 1</b></p> <p>Response to requests for environmental information in the form requested</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 5, PARA. 3</b></p> <p>a) Reports on the state of the environment b) Texts of legislation on or relating to the environment c) Policies, plans and programmes on or relating to the environment, and environmental agreements d) Other information, to the extent that the availability of such information in this form would facilitate the application of national law implementing the Convention.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 6</b></p> <p>Public participation in decisions on specific activities which may have a significant effect on the environment</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 7</b></p> <p>Public participation concerning plans, programmes and policies relating to the environment</p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8</b></p> <p>Public participation during the preparation of executive regulations and/or generally applicable legally binding normative instruments</p>	<p><b>INSTITUTIONAL</b></p> <p>Limited scope or extent of environmental data collected in your country Limited standardization of data sets Poor cooperation with other agencies collecting environmental data Limited interest in utilizing ICT among: -Data providers (you) -Data users (pls. Quantify) Other priorities (pls. Detail) Lack of time to explore/implement</p> <p><b>ECONOMIC</b></p> <p>Limited market availability of equipment Lack of IT service providers Lack of technical support High cost of online access High cost of equipment Poor state of telecommunication networks</p> <p><b>CULTURAL</b></p> <p>Limited expertise/know- how</p> <p><b>LEGAL</b></p> <p>Unclear rules, legislation on environment and informational responsibility</p> <p><b>OTHER</b> (to be specified)</p>