

# Template for summary reports in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health

## Executive summary

*Please provide an overall evaluation of the progress achieved in implementing the Protocol in your country during the reporting period. Please provide a short description of the main steps taken and highlight important achievements, key challenges, success factors and concrete good practice examples.*

*Suggested length: maximum 2 pages*

In France, the Public Health Act of 3 August 2004 provides for the publication, of a National Health and Environment Plan every five years, and in this context, the National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE 3) for 2015-2019, served as a reference material that set important actions for drinking water and sanitation.

It has indeed highlighted issues pertaining to the Water Safety Management Plans promoted by the World Health Organization, to drinking water catchment protection and the prevention of water resources pollution, to action programmes regarding micropollutants in water, to the On-site Sanitation National Action Plan, to the reuse of treated waste water, to the prevention of legionellosis and to equitable access to water in its various geographical, populational, pricing or social dimensions.

The actions of the 3rd National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE 3) have been implemented and given their important dimension and their areas of progress, it will be possible to continue them after 2019.

In France, the quality of water intended for human consumption is constantly monitored, which makes it the most controlled consumable product. Moreover, the sanitary control data conducted by the Regional Health Agencies are public and available for each municipality, including on the website of the Ministry responsible for health.

Several indicators and targets pertaining to the compliance of drinking water distribution units are used in relation with public policies. Thus, two indicators have been selected by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Research (INSEE) for the monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal on clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) of the 2030 United Nations Agenda. The Road map is under development.

Revising the EU Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC will also further enhance water safety in the coming years.

In France, Sectoral Plans constitute the working framework of the Health and Environment Ministries for areas with issues, such as the On-site Sanitation National Action Plan 2015-2019 or the Government Plan for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services in the French Overseas Territories 2016-2021.

The experimental social pricing of water that was established during the period 2015-2019 constitutes a progress area regarding the implementation of the Right to water. Regular reporting to the National Water Committee (Water Parliament) (Comité national de l'eau (Parlement de l'eau)) and to the Advisory committee on prices and quality of public water and sanitation services (Comité consultatif sur le prix et la qualité des services publics d'eau et d'assainissement) indicates stakeholder consultation in implementation policies.

In conclusion, water-related subjects are managed in a well-established and mature governance framework and the national dialogue of "Assises de l'eau" (2018-2019) highlights the will to gather public or private actors from the water sector and civil society around important subjects of the public water, sanitation and water resource services.

## Part one

### General aspects

1. Were targets and target dates established in your country in accordance with article 6 of the Protocol?

*Please provide detailed information on the target areas in part two.*

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

*If targets have been revised, please indicate the date of adoption and list the revised target areas. Please provide detailed information in part two.*

France must respect the targets established by European directives that apply within the scope of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Moreover, specific national targets are included in the National Health and Environment Plan (Plan national santé-environnement (PNSE)) jointly developed by the Ministries responsible for Health, Environment, Research and Labor. In order to meet the populations, actors and territories' specific needs, the National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE) is implemented at local level through Regional Health and Environment Plans

Furthermore, national targets are defined in a multiannual framework for the main Ministry operators that are action pilots on water and health: National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES), National Public Health Agency (ANSP), French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) and the French Development Agency (AFD).

In accordance with the provisions of the Law of 9 August 2004 on public health policy, France develops a National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE) every five years. Thus, PNSE 1 (2004-2008), PNSE 2 (2009-2013) and PNSE 3 (2015-2019) that include specific targets on "water and health" have been published. Interministerial work has been initiated in 2019 to develop a new PNSE 4.

PNSE 3 (2015-2019) aims to reduce, to the greatest possible extent and in the most effective manner, the impacts of environmental factors on health to enable everyone to live in an environment favorable for health. It is developed around four categories of issues proposed by a Scientific Support Committee: priority health issues; issues related to the awareness of exposure and their effects ; issues related to research on health and environment ; issues related to territorial actions, information, communication and training. PNSE 3 (2015-2019) defines different actions on "water and health":

- Implement the protection of catchments used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and diffuse pollutions;
- Monitor priority emergent substances in catchments used to supply drinking water against accidental pollution and pollutions;
- Promote the implementation of Health Safety Plans for drinking water supply (it is one of the 10 priority actions to be implemented and to developed in the Regional Health and Environment Plan PRSE 3);
- Develop a National Action Plan on On-site Sanitation;
- Develop a National Action Plan on Micro-pollutants in Water;

- Analyze the impact disparities of legionellosis on the territory;
- Support equitable access to drinking water and sanitation.

In the framework the 4th National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE 4) development, the General inspection services of the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity has provided a report on the assessment of the implementation of 3rd National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE 3).

2. Were targets and target dates published and, if so, how?

*Please explain whether the targets and target dates were published, made available to the public (e.g., online, official publication, media) and communicated to the secretariat.*

PNSE 3 (2015-2019) was the subject of a press release issued by the Ministers responsible for Environment and Health, after its presentation to the Council of ministers, on 12 November 2014. PNSE 3 is published online on the following websites:

- Website of the Ministry responsible for Health: <http://www.sante.gouv.fr/plan-national-sante-environnement-pnse-3-2015-2019.html>
- Website of the Ministry responsible for Ecology: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Plan-national-sante-environnement,41393.html>

PNSE 3 (2015-2019) is supported at local level under the instruction of the Government of 27 October 2015 on the development of Regional Health and Environment Plans.

Through a mail from the Director-General for Health (Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity) and the Director of Water and Biodiversity (Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition) on 24 August 2017, the Joint secretariat of the Protocol has received notice of a list of national targets published since 2013 in the main plans and programmes:

- National Health Strategy
- Instruction from the General Secretariat of the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity of 17 July 2014 on the development of Multi-annual targets and resources contracts between the State and the Regional Health Agencies
- Programme of work of the National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety (ANSES)
- Programme of work of the National Public Health Agency
- Governmental Plan 2016-2026 for the Sustainable Management of Water and Sanitation Services in the Overseas Regions
- National Health and Environment Plan 2015-2019
- National Action Plan for On-Site Sanitation 2014-2019
- Territorial interministerial Programme of the State
- Government's Road Map for Ecological Transition

This document summarizes the main targets on “water and health” that are implemented through the action of several ministerial departments: Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition, Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Ministry of Action and Public Accounts, Ministry of the Interior and Ministry of Overseas Territories.

3. Has your country established national or local arrangements for coordination between competent authorities for setting targets? If so please describe, including information on which public authority(ies) took the leadership and coordinating role, which public authorities were involved and how coordination was ensured.

Targets of the National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE) are set by directly concerned Ministries (Ministries in charge of environment, health, research and labor). Other ministries (ministries of agriculture, industry) have also been associated with the development of this plan.

Coordination and management roles are jointly assumed by Ministries in charge of Environment and Health. To define the targets of the PNSE, Ministries rely on assessment reports on the implementation of targets of the previous PNSE, on the conclusions of exchange meetings with local services in charge of Regional Health and Environment Plans (PRSE), and on the work carried out by three specific working groups, a Scientific Support Committee and a Steering Committee.

In addition, the Ministry in charge of environment conducts a public consultation via its dedicated website.

National consultation on water policy also relies on the National Water Committee (Comité National de l'eau (CNE)). The latter, which is attached to the Ministry in charge of Environment, was established in 1964 by the Law on the Regime and Distribution of Waters and Protection Against Pollution to discuss issues that are common to the large River Basins. Its role has been extended by the Law on Water and Aquatic Environments of 30 December 2006.

The National Water Committee (CNE) is consulted on the geographical constituencies of basins and groups of basins, on water management and allocation projects of a national or regional nature and on the development of water law or regulation, on the strategic guidelines of the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB), on the price of water billed to users and the quality of public water and sanitation services.

The National Water Committee (CNE) includes: representatives of the State and its public institutions, Members of Parliament (two Deputies and two Senators), members of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the Presidents of the Basin Committees and the Water and Biodiversity Committees, representatives of territorial authorities, including association of elected officials, representatives of users, the presidents of the Local Water Commission, and qualified people.

In 2015, the National Water Committee (CNE) was entirely renewed for six years and has more than 160 regular members.

4. Was a programme of measures or action plan developed to support implementation of the targets? If so, please briefly describe that programme or plan, including how financial implications were taken into account.

Various Action Plans have been implemented within the context of sectoral policies. For instance, Governmental Plan 2016-2026 for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services in the French Overseas Regions was signed in May 2016 by Ministers in charge of environment, health and overseas

territories and aims to strengthen the public water and sanitation service by establishing Progress Contracts between the States and local authorities.

A Steering Committee gathers twice a year and a Technical Committee gathers once a month, and brings together Ministries and State operators that provide financing for the operations.

5. What has been done in your country to ensure public participation in the process of target setting in accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, and how was the outcome of public participation taken into account in the final targets set?

Announced by the President of the Republic on 24 November 2018 during the Congress of the Mayors and intercommunal Presidents of France, the consultation process of the “Assises de l’eau” was carried out in the spring of 2018, in a first cycle, on the main themes related to public health and sanitation services and has allowed the initiation of a large consultation with locally elected officials through an online consultation (2500 answers from elected mayors), but also exchanges on the ground within Basin Committees.

In the spring of 2019, a second cycle of the “Assises de l’eau” under the theme “Climate change and water resources: how will territories and all stakeholders adapt?” was launched on the main subjects related to water resources: protection of water resources, sharing of water resources, economy of water resource and solutions based on nature.

The “Assises de l’eau” are organized around Working Groups on 4 themes and around Steering Committees chaired by Members of the Government, in presence of all the stakeholders, the public sector and representatives of civil society

6. Please provide information on the process by which this report has been prepared, including information on which public authorities had the main responsibilities and what other stakeholders were involved.

This report has been drafted by the General Directorate of Health of the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity and the Water and Biodiversity Directorate of the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition. The information published by the National Public Health Agency have been used concerning epidemiological data.

7. Please report any particular circumstances that are relevant for understanding the report, including whether there is a federal and/or decentralized decision-making structure.

In the area of the prevention and management of water-related health hazards, missions are carried out at national level by the General Directorate of Health of the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity, in relation with the National Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health Safety, the National Public Health Agency and at regional level by 17 Regional Health Agencies for the regions Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Burgundy- Franche-Comté, Brittany, Centre Val-de-Loire, Corsica, Grand-Est, Hauts-de-France, Ile-de-France, Normandy, Occitanie, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur and the Overseas region : Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique and Indian Ocean.

The Regional Health Agencies were established in 2010 and are public institutions of the State that serve Multi-annual targets and resources contracts.

The Public Water and Sanitation Service is provided by the municipalities or inter-municipalities, in accordance with the legislative provisions that were modified by the recent Law of 7 August 2015 defining a new territorial organization of the Republic.

## **Part two**

### **Targets and target dates set and assessment of progress**

*For countries that have set or revised targets and target dates, please provide information specifically related to the progress towards achieving them. If you have not set targets in a certain area, please explain why.*

*For countries in the process of setting targets, please provide information on baseline conditions and/or targets considered under the relevant target areas.*

*Suggested length: one page (330 words) per target area.*

#### **I. Quality of the drinking water supplied (art. 6, para. 2 (a))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The primary target is to comply with provisions of the national regulation transposing Directive 98/83/EC and Directive 2013/51/Euratom concerning radiation protection parameters.

The National Health and Environment Plan PNSE3 (2015-2019) intends in particular to:

- Implement protection of catchments used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and diffuse pollutions;
- Monitor priority emergency substances in catchment used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and pollutions;
- Promote the implementation of Health Safety Plans for drinking water supply;
- Develop a National Action Plan on Micro-pollutants in Water;

Finally, several national indicators allow monitoring the evolution of the quality of water intended for human consumption:

- Proportion of the population supplied at least once with non-compliant water during the year for microbiological parameters (E. coli and enterococci);
- Proportion of the population supplied at least once with non-compliant water during the year for pesticide parameters;
- Percentage of drinking water distribution units presenting non-compliance with quality limits for bacteriological parameters and/or presenting non-compliance with quality limits for physicochemical parameters during a period of at least 30 days in aggregate over the year.

This indicator is intended for regional use in the frame of Multi-annual targets and

resources contracts 2015-2018 between the State and Regional health agencies.

This indicator is also used at national level in performance documents attached every year to the Budget Bill, where it is indicated by the last measured annual value and the target value for the year to follow.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

In its previous reports, France has described in details the principles and provisions taken from a legislative and regulatory point of view, regarding drinking water safety and especially the authorizations for the abstraction and distribution of water intended for human consumption, sanitary control of drinking water by Regional Health Agencies and of water quality monitoring by the authorities responsible for water production and distribution.

Since 2013, the Directorate General for Health services of the Ministry of Solidarity have drawn up an annual report of their action on the prevention and management of water-related health hazards. This annual report has been delivered in the form of a synthetic document over 11 subjects and a detailed report. These documents are available online on an Intranet website on health and environment and is primarily aimed at the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity staff members.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

France has reinforced the health security framework pertaining to the water safety control official analyses conducted by Regional Health Agencies:

- Instruction DGS/EA4/DUS/2016/88 of 4 March 2016 on the organization and operation of the water testing laboratories network.
- Information Note DGS/EA4/2019/26 of 6 February 2019 on the implementation of the provisions of Decree of 11 January 2019 amending Decree of 5 July 2016 on the conditions for authorizing laboratories to perform sampling and water safety control analyses and Decree of 19 October 2017 on analysis methods used for water health controls.

France has reinforced the management of water safety control official data and has provided periodic reports on the quality of water. Annual reports on water quality have been published on the website of the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity.

- Instruction DGS/EA4/2016/272 of 8 September 2016 aiming to enhance the data quality of the information system on water intended for human consumption “SISE-Supply water” (« SISE-Eaux d’alimentation »)
- Information Note DGS/EA4/2017/277 of 25 September 2017 on the modalities for developing and validating the national report on the quality of the water intended for human consumption (EDCH) from 2014 to 2016 to be submitted the European Commission pursuant to article

13 of Directive 98/83/EC

- Instruction DGS/EA4/2018/118 of 22 May 2018 on the dissemination of version 4.1 of the information system on health and environment on supply water (“SISE-Supply water”)

France has supported the establishment of the Water Safety Management Plans provided for by the provisions of the National Health and Environment Plan:

- Information Note DGS/EA4/2018/9 of 9 January 2018 on Safety Management Plans on water intended for human consumption

Moreover, modalities concerning the management of exceedance of some parameters have been specified:

- Information Note DGS/EA4/2018/92 of 4 April 2018 on sanitary control and management of health risks related to the presence of radon in water intended for human consumption
- Information Note DGS/EA4/2018/93 of 5 April 2018 on health risk management in case of an exceedance of water quality limits for boron and selenium in water intended for human consumption

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

At the outcome of a consultation under the auspices of the National Council for Statistic Information (Conseil national de l’information statistique (CNIS)), a national dashboard including 98 indicators was established by the French national institute of economic and statistical information (Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (INSEE)). The national framework for the monitoring of the country's progress in achieving the 17 SDG thus includes a national indicator 6.11 on the population supplied with non-compliant water for microbiology and the population supplied with non-compliant water for physico-chemistry.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **II. Reduction of the scale of outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease (art. 6, para. 2 (b))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

About 1,200 cases of legionellosis are reported every year in France (1630 cases of legionellosis were reported to Regional Health Agencies in France in 2017 when 1218 had been reported in 2016).

A study on the geographical (east-west) gradient factors of legionellosis on the territory has been conducted to meet one of the targets established by the National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE).



Other episodes of water-related diseases, including acute gastro enteritis cases only result from rare and occasional malfunctions of water production installation (breakage of pipes, backflow, high turbidity of raw water episodes) or major flooding.

The National Public Health Agency (ANSP) and the Interregional Epidemiology Unit (CIRE) provide epidemiological follow-up.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

For almost a decade, a training on legionellosis prevention has been included in the annual continuous training program of the School for Higher Education in Public Health (Ecole des hautes études de santé publique (EHESP)).

France has published recent recommendations for the management of legionella-related risks and legionellosis prevention (High Council for Public Health – Haut Conseil de la santé publique (HCSP), Legionellosis-related Risks, Guide on investigation and management support).

France has reinforced the detection of drinking water related gastroenteritis cases:

- Instruction DGS/EA4/2019/46 of 27 February 2019 on the monitoring mechanism for medicalized acute gastroenteritis grouped cases of possible waterborne origin

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Given the number of legionellosis cases reported in France in the past few years, further action could be considered on this matter in the context of a new National Health and Environment Plan (PNSE 4).

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France's Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

### **III. Access to drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (c))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

In its action 101, the 3rd National Health and Environment Plan, PNSE 3 (2015-2019), provides for supporting equitable access to water and sanitation.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Beyond issues pertaining to the compliance with drinking water quality requirements, depending on the studied populations and territories, health issues related to drinking water can also arise from inequitable access to water in its three main dimensions: geographical, pricing and social dimensions.

The National Health Strategy (SNS), issued by the Decree of 20 December 2017, recalls that in France, access to water is a fundamental right and a vast majority of the population is connected to public drinking water supply networks. In areas where less than 500 inhabitants are supplied, the quality of water is not constantly compliant with microbiological requirements for 13.2 % of the population, whereas it only concerns 0.3 % of the population in areas where more than 10,000 inhabitants are supplied. However, in 2014, 6 % of the population was supplied with water whose quality wasn't constantly compliant with pesticides regulatory limits. The National Health Strategy (SNS) also intends to reinforce access to drinking water, in particular in French Guiana and Mayotte.

The Ministry in charge of health has published Information Note of 16 December 2016 for the Regional Health Agencies (Agences régionales de santé (ARS)) on the dissemination of the assessment tool on equitable access to drinking water and sanitation developed in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health (WHO-Europe, UNECE), which aims to inform the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) on official documents published under the Protocol and their possible use in relation with their regional partners. The assessment tool has been used in the Region Ile-de-France (Paris metropolis).

In relation with these activities, a Group of Experts on equitable access, bringing together NGOs and representatives of the Ministries of Health and/or Environment from a dozen of countries from the WHO European Region, gathered at the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity in Paris on 26 and 27 June 2018 in the presence of 4 ministerial departments (Environment, Health, Europe and Foreign Affairs and Overseas Territories). For France, subjects in relation with water social pricing experimentation and the provisions of the Government Plan for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services in the French Overseas Territories were presented.

Furthermore, equitable access to water and sanitation is one of the main priorities in the new draft Directive (article 13) on the quality of drinking water was adopted by the European Commission on 1st February 2018. It has been discussed among Member States during the dialogue of the Environment group (WPE) of the Council of the European Union.

The Draft Bill n°2715 aiming at the effective implementation of the right to drinking water and sanitation, introduced in April 2015 by M. Michel Lesage, Depute, was discussed in the Parliament in 2017.

By the Decree of 14 April 2015 amended by the Decree of 31 July 2015, with regard to water social pricing experimentation, the Government has authorized 50 local authorities organizing drinking water services, including 8 cities (Paris, Lille, Bordeaux, Nantes, Strasbourg, Grenoble, Rennes, Brest), to introduce, on an experimental base, exceptions to the provisions of the General Code for regional authorities provided for in law “Brottes” published on 15 April 2013. In 2017, this experimentation was monitored by the Advisory committee on prices and quality of public water and sanitation services (CCPQSPEA), attached to the National Water Committee (CNE). A report on the 4 effective years of this experimentation is submitted to the National Water Committee (CNE) in 2019.

In 2016, The Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition, the Ministry of Overseas Territories, closely related to the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity, published a Government Action Plan for the sustainable management of drinking water and sanitation services in Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, La Réunion, Mayotte and Saint Martin. This Plan is discussed by a Technical Committee that meets monthly since 2017 with the services of the Water and biodiversity department (DEB), the General Health Directorate (DGS), the Directorate-General of Overseas Territories (DGOM), the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) and the French Development Agency. Following these works, several Progress Contracts established in the framework of the Plan have been signed in 2018; the first one was signed with the Community of Communes of Marie-Galante (Guadeloupe). As a continuation of the regional Conferences of actors, in order to step up the deployment of the Plan, a Day on Water and Sanitation with a number of elected representatives of the French Overseas Territories was organized on 17 November 2018.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Water social pricing experimentation is regularly presented to the National Water Committee (CNE) or to the Advisory committee on prices and quality of public water and sanitation services (CCPQSPEA), attached to the CNE.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

In view of the definitions of the JMP programme, almost 100 % of the population in France has access to an improved water supply source. Therefore, on a macroscopic scale, it is not possible to further improve this target indicator. However, the right to water and sanitation is not fully effective for all:

- from a pricing and financial point of view, there is a consensus considering that the cost is excessive when the water bill exceeds 3% of households' income. Also, some reports estimate that nearly a million households in France have access to water at a price considered excessive in relation to their income.
- from a geographical point of view, specificities are encountered especially in mountain areas or in Overseas Territories.

- from a population point of view, the right to water is not effective for more than 100,000 people who have no permanent or direct access to water and sanitation, including homeless people and people living in precarious habitat or migrants.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France's Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

#### **IV. Access to sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (d))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

With regard to sanitation, France must comply with the provisions of the European Directives, in particular Directive 2000/60/EC and Directive 91/271/EEC.

In France, the main issue is no longer to ensure access to water and sanitation, which today services almost the entire population, but ensure that the sanitation systems have the necessary purification equipment to properly treat the pollution load they receive with regard to European requirements.

Sanitation is collective (urban population) or on-site (rural population).

**Collective sanitation**

Urban wastewater from populations concentrated in one area (urban area) are connected to a public collection network that carries out effluent to a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) to be treated and then discharged into the receiving environment, in accordance with European Directive 91/271/EEC.

In France, the dwellings of almost 55 million people are connected to a collective sanitation system. Out of these, 97 % have a sanitation system complying with regulations.

It is estimated that, each year, about 3 to 4 % of the WWTP should be renewed for obsolescence or lack of treatment capacity (the lifetime of a WWTP is about 30 to 40 years). About one hundred WWTP belonging to sanitation urban areas of more than 2,000 Eh are rebuilt or rehabilitated every year.

**On-site sanitation**

Dwellings that are not serviced by a public wastewater network have to treat their wastewater themselves before discharging them into the environment by implementing an individual installation of domestic water treatment.

It is estimated that there are 5 million on-site sanitation systems, concerning 17% of the population which represents about 12 million people living in France. Out

these 12 million people, 96 % have established an individual wastewater treatment installation.

In addition, the National Health and Environment Plan PNSE3 (2015-2019) defines as a target the publication of a National Action Plan on on-site sanitation, which was realized by ministries responsible for ecology and health. The targets of this new Action Plan, running until 2019 are: improve the application of the regulation on on-site sanitation, make mechanisms more reliable, more reliable, more sustainable and more understandable for users, to give greater visibility of the sector to the industrial world and to ensure the professionalization of actors, from facility design to inspection. The Action Plan and related regulations are available on the website:

<http://www.assainissement-non-collectif.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).

In its previous reports, France described in detail the published regulations.

Since the previous report, the following management measures have been published by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition:

Information Note of 13 July 2016 on implications of Law n° 2015-991 of 7 August 2015 defining a new territorial organization of the Republic on the exercise of jurisdiction on “water” and “sanitation” by public establishments for intercommunal cooperation

Technical Note of 12 August 2016 concerning research on micro-pollutants in raw water and treated wastewater from wastewater treatment plants and their reduction

Information Note of 18 September 2017 on the exercise of jurisdiction on “water” and “sanitation” by public establishments for intercommunal cooperation

Technical Note of 29 January 2018 concerning research on micro-pollutants in raw water and treated wastewater from wastewater treatment plants and their reduction regarding the French Overseas departments and regions

Technical Note of 2 May 2018 on the inspection of the Public On-site Sanitation Service (SPANC)

Instruction of 28 August 2018 on the application of Law n°2018-702 of 3 August 2018 on the implementation of the transfer of authority on water and sanitation to the Community of Communes

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Regarding EEC Directive 921/271/EEC on urban waste-water treatment, the last litigation for failing to implement the Directive dates to July 2017.

Today the challenge is to verify that wastewater is collected and treated, including heavy rainfall, to limit discharge of untreated wastewater.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **V. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for water supply (art. 6, para. 2 (e))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5 of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VI. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (e))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Treatment targets are set by Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban wastewater treatment according to the size of the urban area and the sensitivity of the environments (sensitive areas or not).

They are transposed into the National Sanitation Action Plan 2012-2018. The target of the Ministry in charge of environment is to maintain the current compliance rate of wastewater treatment plants (WWTP), which reaches around 98%, because there will always be a 2 to 3% of new annual non-conformities related to load changes and obsolescence of some structures. At the end of every year, a list of newly urban areas and WWTP that are non-compliant or saturated, or that even require new deadlines as sensitive areas, is established. As of 31 December 2014, it was expected that compliance of the most delayed WWTP would be completed in 2019.

The second cycle of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) also requires achieving good water status by the end of 2021. This target should be achieved by strengthening treatments on a number of WWTP and to reduce discharge of collection systems in case of wet weather. Strengthening phosphorus or ammonia nitrogen treatment should be considered in new sensitive areas.

When sectoral directives apply (swimming, shellfishery...) treatment and collection levels and must be adapted to these issues.

Regarding on-site sanitation installations, the target is to eliminate any environmental or health impact. All the deadlines of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive have already been exceeded. If new non-conformities appear in dry or wet weather then the challenge is to solve this problem as quickly as possible.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

With regard to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, regulatory measures are the following: formal notice to meet deadlines, consignment of amounts if deadlines are not respected, blocking urban planning projects in case of non-compliance, pending the start of works, records and judicial procedures followed by the prosecutor in some cases.

Financial measures taken by water agencies are: abolition of allowances for treatment in case of non-compliance, establishment of contracts with local authorities and reduction of support in case of non-compliance with deadlines. Water agencies are continuing their support programs. In some cases, regions and departments are involved. In Overseas Departments, the European Union (EU funds) intervenes as well as the French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB).

There is a need to prevent any new case of non-compliance. Any new WWTP declared non-compliant must ensure compliance as soon as possible. Hence dashboards are published to monitor the work at national level.

All data on collective sanitation is available on the internet, making it possible for more than 400 water stakeholders to access it daily. The dissemination of this data also has an important economic role allowing companies to organize their market.

Regarding the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Water Development and Management Master Plans (SDAGE) were voted at the end of 2015 for each major River Basin for the period 2016-2021. These SDAGEs include programs of measures implemented to achieve the targets of the Water Framework Directive.

Dissemination of environmental quality data is a way to acquire better knowledge of the environments and to facilitate the adoption of appropriate measures. Concerning on-site sanitation, an Action Plan was set to promote a comprehensive approach.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Regarding Directive 921/271/EEC on urban waste-water treatment, the last litigation for failing to implement the Directive dates to July 2017.

Regarding the Water Framework Directive (WFD), biochemical demand in oxygen dropped by almost half over the period 1998-2012, a result of improved performances achieved by WWTP, even if the indicator is fairly stable since 2008. Ammonium, another parameter characteristic of the effectiveness of purifying treatments, also confirms a clear decreasing trend (-62%), but more influenced by low rainfall for years 2003, 2005 and 2011, which resulted in a bad dilution. Similarly, orthophosphate nearly reduced by half over the period, resulting from the combined effect of a significant reduction of agricultural inputs and an improvement of urban plants performance.

Regarding on-site sanitation, pollution being diffuse, impact is much more difficult to identify especially because all receiving environments (soil or surface areas) have an important self-purifying capacity in relation to low pressures of induced pollution.

Regarding sectoral directives, please refer to specific chapters of the report. If collection systems or plants have an impact on a swimming area or a shellfish aquaculture area, measures must be taken at the earliest stage to stop this impact. Numerous WWTP in coastal areas have already set up a removing system for microbiology but nowadays it is fundamental to have a very significant reduction in discharges during wet weather.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **VII. Application of recognized good practices to the management of water supply (art. 6, para. 2 (f))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Catchment protection is a requirement in France since 1964 through the establishment of protection perimeters (PP) by declaration of public interest.

In addition, National Health and Environment Plan PNSE 3 (2015-2019) defines several important actions to improve drinking water quality:

- Implement protection of catchments used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and diffuse pollutions;
- Monitor priority emergency substances in catchment used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and pollutions;



- Promote the implementation of Health Safety Plans for drinking water supply (it is one of the 10 priority actions to be implemented and declined in the Regional Health and Environment Plan PRSE 3);
- Develop a National Action Plan on Micro-pollutants in Water.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Promoting the development of Health Safety Plans for water supply. The Code of public health (Code de la santé publique - CSP) provides for the establishment of a permanent monitoring of water quality, conducted by the person in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE), based on an identification of dangers presented by the drinking water supply system. This monitoring, complementary to health control managed by Regional Health Agencies (ARS), is not limited to an analytical verification of water quality, but also includes an audit of measures taken for the protection of used resource and of operation of the installations, and the conduction of a health file gathering all information collected for monitoring.

People in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE) are also encouraged to implement a quality management system including hazard identification and actions to control them.

Presentation meetings at the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) on the securing actions for the water supply have been organized since 2015. The sharing of experience of ARS Nouvelle-Aquitaine on health security of water intended for human consumption was one of the presentations. A National Task Force with ARS has been established in 2017 to develop guidelines in the framework of the implementation of Water Health Security Management Plans (Plans de gestion de la sécurité sanitaire des eaux - PGSSE). These actions have allowed the publication of the Information Note to ARS DGS/EA4/2018/9 of 9 January 2018. Since then, a specific training was established on this subject by the School for Higher Education in Public Health (EHESP) in relation with the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity, primarily intended for ARS staff members. Work has also been carried out by associations and professional associations and federations: Scientific and technical associations for water and environment, National federation of local licensing authorities.

Regarding the protection of catchments used to supply drinking water, the achievement indicator can be regularly monitored through data provided by the ARS in the information system of the Ministry of Health. At the end of 2018, the number of protected catchments by declaration of public utility and through the establishment of protective perimeters had reached 25,917, that is 78.2% of the catchments (85.3% of flows), against 24,798 on 1 January 2017, which represented 74.6% of catchments (82.9% of flows).

Furthermore, in the frame of the protection of 1,000 identified priority catchments in the Water Development and Management Master Plans 2016-2021 and the relaunch of this policy, the Ministries in charge of environment, agriculture and health, have organized, following the environmental conference of 2016, a series of thematic workshops to identify the actions that should be included in the Map Road to advance in a technical and regulatory manner on this matter. The aim was also to identify topics on which there is consensus and challenges. Based on these findings, an interministerial instruction project for the relaunch of this policy was finalized in 2019 by the relevant ministries. The protection of priority water catchments is currently discussed in the context of the second cycle of the “Assises de l’eau”,

launched in November 2018 and regarding “Climate change and water resources: how will territories and all stakeholders adapt?”. These discussions will allow the amendment of the Road Map resulting from the thematic workshops above-mentioned.

Regarding micro-pollutants, it refers to substances of very low concentration (microgram per liter, or even nanogram-per-liter) having adverse effects on the environment. Numerous substances (European regulation has made an inventory of more than 110,000 substances) where different physico-chemical properties are concerned, including organic or mineral substances, biodegradable or not, such as plasticizers, detergents, metals, hydrocarbons, pesticides, cosmetics or even human or veterinary medicinal products.

The new Micro-pollutants Plan 2016-2021 includes all substances that are likely to contaminate continental and coastal surface waters, groundwaters, the biota, the sediments and water intended for human consumption. Established by the Ministries in charge of environment, health and agriculture, the plan was launched by the Ministry in charge of environment in September 2016 during a Symposium on medication residues in water (Symposium Icraphe, Paris). The Steering Committee gathers once a year.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

The main actions provided for by PNSE 3 (2015-2019) have been conducted.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France’s Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

## **VIII. Application of recognized good practice to the management of sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (f))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

See Chapters IV and VI of this report.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Actions implemented by the Ministry responsible for the environment on sanitation are:

- Renewed Action Plan on sanitation for the period 2012-2018;
- Publication of a new decree, Decree of 21 July 2015, regulating collective and on-site sanitation receiving a gross load of organic pollution higher than 1.2 kg/day of BOD5;
- Publication of a Technical Note on 7 September 2015 specifying provisions to be complied with for monitoring the natural environment in wet weather at the collection systems level and performance achieved in terms of waste water collection;

- Promotion of integrated management (at the source) of rainwater and alternative techniques (such as swales, trenches, rain gardens, etc.). The policy of the Ministry responsible for the environment is directed towards reducing soil sealing in order to favor infiltration of rainwater;
- Publication of a National Action Plan on On-site Sanitation for the period 2015-2019;
- Implementation of training courses for actors and involvement of central administration in conferences to communicate about this policy;
- Updated by the decentralized services of databases and their validation at regional and national levels in order to have reliable data;
- Development of a single national IT platform for data exchange (Vers'eau);
- Development of new IT tools to channel regulatory information and self-monitoring on sanitation (Wake for data relating to sewage sludge spreading plans and campaigns and Reed for self-monitoring raw data and operation);
- Data transparency through data publication and presentation on a website dedicated to all public collective sanitation which completely falls within the scope of open government data;
- Availability for water stakeholders on sanitation through this sanitation portal of numerous information on collective sanitation, <http://assainissement.developpementdurable.gouv.fr/>
- Publication and monitoring of national scorecards on non-conformities situation in treatment plants regularly elaborated and updated with a request for variation at basin level.

Water police services, French Agency for Biodiversity (AFB) and Water agencies are directly involved in the implementation of this work.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **IX. Occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment stipulates that all wastewater produced by the urban area is collected, transported and treated before its release into the environment. This obligation is included in articles R.2224-10 articles and R.2224-11 of the general code of local authorities and in the Decree of 21 July 2015 on collective sanitation.

During dry weather, necessary actions to comply with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive are almost complete. The European Commission allows direct wastewater discharges during dry weather if they represent less than 1% of the gross load of organic pollution of the urban area sanitation, within the limit of 2,000 inhabitant-equivalents. Such tolerance corresponds to non-chronic releases, of short duration, low rate and low frequency and not affecting compliance with the target of the Directive.

Regarding on-site sanitation, almost all dwellings have now a more or less efficient individual sanitation system, but 4% of the installations must be renewed every year. Priority is given to facilities that pose health or environmental problems.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

See Chapters IV-2 and VI-2 of this report.

Contractors set up a monitoring of collection systems and of treatment plants in order to maintain and verify their effectiveness and to control the absence of direct discharge of untreated wastewater in dry weather.

In case of problems, measures, coercive if necessary, are taken by services in charge of monitoring the compliance of the installations.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See Chapters IV and VI-3 of this report.

Today, almost all urban areas of sanitation no longer discharge untreated wastewater during dry weather. Priority is given to discharges of untreated sewage during wet weather.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **X. Occurrence of discharges of untreated storm water overflows from wastewater collection systems (art. 6, para. 2 (g) (ii))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Today, one of the main areas of work at national level regarding collective sanitation concerns the reduction of discharges of untreated sewage during wet weather, from a qualitative and quantitative perspective. Indeed, discharges of untreated wastewater during wet weather cause:

- Bathing areas and shellfishery areas decommissioning and food poisoning of many people eating seafood,
- Non-compliance with targets in some Natura 2000 areas for emblematic species (white-clawed crayfish, freshwater pearl mussel),
- Failure to achieve good ecological and chemical status of the Water Framework Directive,
- Widespread contamination of our rivers and lakes by pathogenic germs that may cause public health problems in connection with boating, reuse of river water, river fishing,
- Massive contamination of rivers and oceans by micro and macro waste causing death of hundreds of thousands of fish, marine mammals and seabirds. This issue is in direct link with the targets of the Marine Strategy Directive strategy.

It is therefore essential to better take into account this issue, which is part of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, at global scale.

The target set by national legislation is to intercept and treat wastewater until situations of heavy rainfall that correspond to the 95 percentile of flow arriving at the plant (called reference flow). If necessary, considering the targets of the Water Framework Directive, more ambitious goals can be imposed by the water police services.

Technical Note of 7 September 2015 of the Ministry responsible for ecology recalled provisions to be respected on the monitoring of direct discharges to the environment by collection systems during wet weather. To comply with the meaning of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, the note specifies that collection systems must meet one of the following three options:

- Discharges during wet weather represent less than 5% of the volumes of wastewater produced by sanitation urban area during a year;
- Discharges during wet weather represent less than 5% of pollution stream produced by sanitation urban area during a year;
- Less than 20 days of discharges were recorded during the year at the level of each storm overflow subject to regulatory self-monitoring.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

To assess compliance of collecting systems according to one of the above-mentioned criteria, the Decree of 21 July 2015 provides for the following structures be subject to self-monitoring without delay:

- Storm overflow (and pumping stations overflows located downstream of an area serviced entirely or partly by a unitary network) located downstream of a section for collecting a gross load of organic pollution (CBPO) by dry weather superior or equal to 120 kg/d of BOD5 (unitary or mixed network). Such monitoring measures the daily discharge time and provides an estimate of discharges volumes.
  - Monitoring this type of storm overflows can be limited if the prefect decides so, to storm overflows which represent minimum 70% of direct discharges to the

environment. The choice of this form of monitoring is a decision of the prefect and must be specified in an authorization decree and in the self-monitoring manual.

- Storm overflow (and pumping stations overflows located downstream of an area serviced entirely or partly by a unitary network) located downstream of a section for collecting a gross load of organic pollution (CBPO) by dry weather superior or equal to 600 kg/day of BOD5 and discharging more than 10 calendar days per year on five-year period average (unitary and mixed network). Such monitoring consists of a measurement of continuously discharged volumes and an estimate of pollution flow discharged. The pollution load discharged into the receiving environment is estimated based on the concentration of unpurified wastewater measured at the entry of the wastewater treatment plant.

- Overflows of pumping stations in separate system located downstream of a section for collecting a gross load of organic pollution (CBPO) by dry weather superior or equal to 120 kg / day of BOD5. Such monitoring consists of a measure of the daily discharge time.

The second step to assess the compliance of collection systems is to use a national program to ensure the right match between the rates at the entry of the plants and the objectives set by regulations. In case of problems, measures, coercive if necessary, are taken by services in charge of monitoring installations compliance.

The programs of measures included in the Water Development and Management Master Plans (SDAGE) may also provide for special measures.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See Chapter VI-3. Progress is to be estimated with respect to environmental quality evolution. But rainfalls being intermittent by definition, the quality parameters of integrators (biological indices, etc.) may be affected by phenomena of occasional massive discharges while physicochemical quality seems good.

Provisions of new Decree of 21 July 2015 and of the Technical Note of 7 September 2015 are expected to improve the situation and reduce discharges of untreated wastewater during wet weather. The Decree of 21 July 2015 reinforces the primacy given to management at the source in optimizing sanitation systems.

For the quality of shellfishery areas, see corresponding section.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France's Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

## **XI. Quality of discharges of wastewater from wastewater treatment installations (art. 6, para. 2 (h))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

See Chapter VI-1 of this report.

Targets are defined in the national legislation which derives from European regulations. The Decree of 21 July 2015 specifies the treatment levels to be respected. This decree is a transcript of European Directives.

This regulation is available online on the sanitation portal: <http://assainissement.developpementdurable.gouv.fr/>

Treatment targets are to be achieved for a daily volume entering at or below the reference rate, corresponding to the 95 percentile of flows arriving at the station, and excluding unusual situations described in the Decree of 21 July 2015 (maintenance, disaster natural, breakdowns etc.)

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

See Chapter VI-2 of this report.

To achieve the target, contractors of treatment plants have to set up a monitoring of their systems according to parameters and at intervals defined in national regulation. Such monitoring information is transmitted to the service responsible for monitoring sanitation facilities which rules according to their values on the compliance or noncompliance of the sanitation system.

In addition, service in charge of monitoring can carry out on site controls to monitor compliance with the requirements of national regulations.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

See Chapter VI -3 of this report.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France's Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

## **XII. Disposal or reuse of sewage sludge from collective systems of sanitation or other sanitation installations (art. 6, para. 2 (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

There is no quantitative target. The qualitative target is to ensure sustainability of sludge management resulting from the treatment of waste water, by adapting the regulatory framework to ensure sustainable sludge management, by improving scientific knowledge to anticipate and by supporting technical and economic actors in the sector to help them in their choices. It is a national scope target within the 2012-2018 Plan “for a sanitation policy contributing to aquatic quality targets”.

This target was adopted considering the existing will to favor sludge recycling, particularly through agricultural development and to reduce to a bare minimum waste landfilling.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Spreading practices are regulated by the Water Law which requires systematic reporting to the State representative (Prefect), providing impact study and management plans as well as realizing the traceability of the spread lands. Pollutants concentrations (7 metals, 3 PAH and sum of 7 main PCB) contained in spread sludge are regulated, monitored and limited. Limit flows spread on the soil over 10 years are planned. Sludge may not be spread when soils have certain characteristics. National recommendations on these practices result from the requirements of Directive 86/278 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

No target has been set.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

The recovery of sludge is a priority but the possibility of their recovery (sludge spreading, composting, methanization) depends on the local context. This is why no national target has been set in this area.



### **XIII. Quality of wastewater used for irrigation purposes (art. 6, para. 2 (i))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

National Health and Environment Plan PNSE 3 (2015-2019) defines two targets related to the reuse of treated wastewater:

- Participate in European work on defining criteria for the reuse of treated wastewater;
- Accompany the testing of two treatment plants demonstrators with reuse of treated wastewater for currently unregulated uses.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Ministries responsible for environment, health and agriculture published the amended (in 2014 and 2016) Decree of 2 August 2010 on the use of water coming from the purification of treated urban waste water for irrigation of crops or green areas.

Provisions of this legislation provide a frame for the reuse of treated wastewater to ensure protection of public health and the environment by protecting people handling crops, consumers of products irrigated this in this manner and irrigation professionals, people that often visit these irrigated green spaces and residents.

It applies to urban waste water treatment plants and to on-site sanitation installation of more than 20 inhabitant-equivalents. Only irrigation of crops or green areas is allowed. Other uses, such as washing roads, are not part of its scope.

The Decree defines use limitations (possibility or not according to irrigation mode), distance and terrain constrains, according to the quality level of treated wastewater. It requires the establishment of a quality monitoring program of treated waste water and of the soil quality that will be irrigated, as well as traceability of irrigation operations. Use limitations are related to the nature of irrigated vegetation and associated risks.

Regarding green areas accessible to the public, irrigation should take place outside opening hours to the public. Distance limitations have also been established to protect some sensitive activities (swimming, shellfishery, etc.).

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Since its previous report, France has published the following regulations:

- Decree of 26 April 2016 amending Decree of 2 August 2010 on the use of water coming from the purification of treated urban waste water for irrigation of crops or green areas

Decree of 29 January 2018 on the implementation of an experimentation pertaining to the use of water coming from the purification of treated urban waste water to ensure irrigation and spray fertilization of field crops

Since the previous report, management measures have been published by the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity:

Interministerial Instruction DGS/EA4/DEB/DGPE/2016/135 of 26 April 2016 on the reuse of treated waste water for irrigation of crops or green areas.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

France's Road Map for the implementation of SDG6 on water and sanitation is under development (steered by the Ministry of Solidarity and Ecological Transition).

#### **XIV. Quality of waters which are used as sources for drinking water (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Catchment protection is a requirement in France since 1964 through the establishment of protection perimeters (PP) by declaration of public interest.

In addition, National Health and Environment Plan PNSE 3 (2015-2019) defines several important actions to improve drinking water quality:

- Implement protection of catchments used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and diffuse pollutions;
- Monitor priority emergency substances in catchment used to supply drinking water against accidental pollutions and pollutions;
- Promote the implementation of Health Safety Plans for drinking water supply and develop a national plan on micro-pollutants in water.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Furthermore, in the frame of the protection of 1,000 identified priority catchments in the Water Development and Management Master Plans 2016-2021 and the relaunch of this policy, the Ministries in charge of environment, agriculture and health, have organized, following the Environmental Conference of 2016, a series of thematic workshops to identify the actions that should be included in the Map Road to advance in a technical and regulatory manner on this matter. The aim was also to identify topics on which there is consensus and challenges. Based on these findings, an interministerial instruction project for the relaunch of this policy was finalized in 2019 by the relevant ministries. The protection of priority water catchments is currently discussed in the context of the second cycle of the "Assises de l'eau", launched in November 2018 and regarding "Climate change and water resources: how will territories and all stakeholders adapt?".

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Regarding the protection of catchments used to supply drinking water, the achievement indicator can be regularly monitored through data provided by the ARS in the information system of the Ministry of Health. At the end of 2018, the number of protected catchments by declaration of public utility and through the establishment of protective perimeters had reached 25,917, that is 78.2% of the catchments (85.3% of flows), against 24,798 on 1 January 2017, which represented 74.6% of catchments (82.9% of flows).

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

At the outcome of a consultation under the auspices of the CNIS (National Council for Statistic Information), a national instrumental panel including 98 indicators was established by the French national institute of economic and statistical information (INSEE). The national framework for the monitoring of the progress in achieving the 17 SDGs thus includes a national indicator 6.i2 on the quality of surface waters and groundwater, referring to the good ecological or chemical status.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XV. Quality of waters used for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

The target is to comply with provisions of the national regulation transposing Directive 2006/7/EC.

Bathing water quality control has been carried out on more than 3350 sites in freshwater and sea water, by Regional Health Agencies (ARS). Every year, more than 3400 official samplings used for the health control analyses organized by the ARS, are used to assess and classify the bathing water quality at the end of the season, according to criteria set by European Directive 2006/7/EC. Bathing waters are classified according to threshold and imperative values set for *Escherichia coli* and Intestinal Enterococci parameters. Their presence in water indicates a faecal contamination more or less significant depending on the detected concentration.

Since 2013, the method provided for in Directive 2006/7/EC to calculate bathing water quality has entered into force: bathing water is given one of the following 4 quality classes: “excellent”, “good”, “sufficient” or “insufficient”, according to the analysis results obtained during the 4 last seasons and using a statistical method with different quality limits between freshwater and sea water.

Thus, the results of the analysis conducted since 2013, in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017 have been taken into consideration for the 2017 classification.

The result of these analyses confirms the general good level of bathing water quality in France. These results are made available online in real time during the whole bathing season on the website of the Ministry in charge of Health: [baignades.sante.gouv.fr](http://baignades.sante.gouv.fr)

These results allow vacationers and people living close to bathing areas to have information about the quality of water from a health safety point of view. They also allow health authorities to constantly monitor the quality of water and prevent human health hazards.

During bathing season 2017, 3,379 bathing sites were reported to the European Commission (1,314 in freshwater and 2,065 in sea water), scattered in departments of Mainland and Overseas France. 34,441 water samples were abstracted from these bathing sites, leading to more than 68,000 microbiological analyses.

In 2017, 90,9 % of the bathing sites were classified as being of excellent or good quality. These results are stable in comparison with years 2016 and 2015 (91 %).

In 2017, 2.4 % of the sites were classified as being of insufficient quality, that concerned 80 sites. These results have slightly improved in comparison with 2016 (2.5 %, that concerned 82 sites out of 3359 in total) and 2015 (2.9 %, that concerned 97 sites out of 3345 in total).

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Every year, the Ministry in charge of public health publishes a on its website a report on bathing water quality concerning both sea water and freshwater. Furthermore, the Ministry has recently published the Information Note DGS/EA4/2017/149 of 18 April 2017 on the organization of a national campaign of amoebas' measurements in bathing waters.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

The bathing water quality is assessed annually and is reported to the European Authorities whose conclusions are public:

<https://www.eea.europa.eu/fr/publications/qualite-des-eaux-de-baignade-9>

According to the report published in 2018 by the Ministry responsible for

Health and Solidarity, bathing water quality has slightly improved in the past few years:

- The proportion of bathing sites with excellent water quality increased from 77 % to 78.5 %. Nonetheless, with these results, France appears slightly below the European average (85 %).
- The proportion of bathing sites with insufficient water quality decreased from 2.5 % to 2.4 %.
- The proportion of bathing sites with at least a sufficient water quality increased from 95 % to 95.5 %. With these results, France appears slightly below the European average (96.7 %).

If we consider a longer period of time to have a better vision of the evolution of the situation, bathing water quality has improved from 2013 to 2017: the proportion of bathing sites with an excellent water quality increased from 76.5 % to 80 %.

- The proportion of bathing sites with an insufficient water quality decreased from 3.68 % to 2.4 %.

- The proportion of bathing sites with at least a sufficient water quality increased from 96 % to 97.5 %.

Thus, further efforts should be made to improve water quality and bathing water profiles, whose implementation rate is improving every year, will contribute to improving the quality.

- Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Graph n°3: Evolution of the quality of the overall bathing waters (freshwater and sea water) from 2013 to 2017 (in %)

Source: Ministry responsible for health

Blue: excellent

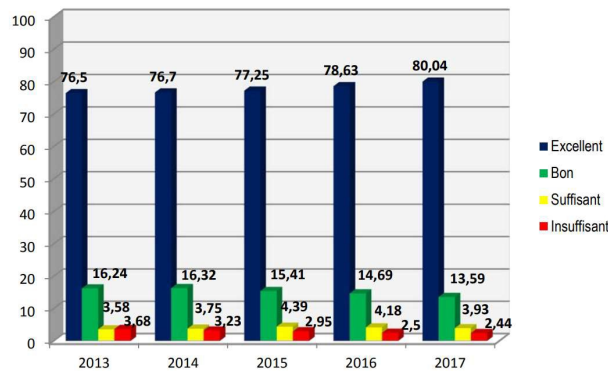
Green: Good

Yellow: Sufficient

Red: Insufficient

Graphique n°3 : Evolution de la qualité de l'ensemble des eaux de baignade (eau douce et eau de mer) de 2013 à 2017 (en %)

Source : Ministère chargé de la Santé (DGS/ARS)



- If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVI. Quality of waters used for aquaculture or for the production or harvesting of shellfish (art. 6, para. 2 (j))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).

Since its previous report, France has published the following regulations:

Decree n°2019-299 of 10 April 2019 on health security of artificial bathing sites

Decree of 15 April 2019 on water quality analysis programme and quality limits and references for artificial bathing sites.

Decree of 15 April 2019 on the content of the artificial bathing sites' declaration files and of the authorization for using water that is not intended for human consumption to supply an artificial bathing site.

Decree of 15 April 2019 on the number of visitors, the heath facilities and the rules of procedure of artificial bathing sites.

3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

The regulatory system being recent, it hasn't been assessed yet.

4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVII. Application of recognized good practice in the management of enclosed waters generally available for bathing (art. 6, para. 2 (k))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XVIII. Identification and remediation of particularly contaminated sites (art. 6, para. 2 (l))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XIX. Effectiveness of systems for the management, development, protection and use of water resources (art. 6, para. 2 (m))**

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.
2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **XX. Additional national or local specific targets**

*In cases where additional targets have been set, for each target:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

2. Please describe the actions taken (e.g., legal/regulatory, financial/economic, informational/educational and management measures) to reach the target (see also article 6, paragraph 5, of the Protocol).
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

## **Part three**

### **Common indicators<sup>1</sup>**

#### **I. Quality of the drinking water supplied**

##### **1. Context of the data**

1. What is the population coverage (in millions or per cent of total national population) of the water supplies reported under sections 2 and 3 below?

*The rationale of this question is to understand the population coverage of the water quality data reported under sections 2 and 3 below.*

*Please describe the type of water supplies for which data is included in the following tables, and the population share covered by these supplies.*

*Please also clarify the source of the water quality data provided (e.g., data from regulatory authorities).*

In France, providing the population with tap water of good quality is a public health issue and a major concern for public authorities. Tap water production and distribution is based on the operation of more than;

- 33,200 catchments abstracting from underground water or superficial resources (river, lake, dam);
- 16,700 drinking water treatment plants; more or less thorough treatments aim to eliminate from the abstracted raw water, the biological and chemical agents that are likely to imply a risk for health and maintain the quality of the produced water during its transport to the consumer's tap;
- 24,600 distribution networks (series of pipes and equipment) for supplying the population with water.

Tap water is monitored via regular sanitary inspection in order to ensure its quality for the population; it is the most controlled consumable product in France. This monitoring includes:

- Monitoring by the person in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE): mayors, presidents of local authorities or private operators that are entrusted with the

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<sup>1</sup> In order to allow an analysis of trends for all Parties under the Protocol, please use wherever possible 2005 — the year of entry into force of the Protocol — as the baseline year.



water service management. Competences of local authorities have been modified by Law of 7 August 2015 defining a new territorial organization of the Republic.

- Sanitary control implemented by the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) independently of the person in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE)

The tap water quality is assessed in relation to quality limits and references set by regulations for about sixty parameters (bacteriological, physico-chemical and radiological).

The frequency of sanitary control varies according to the water volume distributed by the production facilities and the number of people supplied by the distribution network. Throughout France, in 2017, the sanitary control programme carried out at the catchments, treatment plants et consumer's tap level resulted in more than 303,000 water sample abstractions leading to the collection of more than 18.2 million of analysis results.

Strict measures are provided for in the regulation to preserve the population's health during quality limits exceedances. In the absence of specific instructions from the person in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE), the mayor or the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) (or potentially from the doctor for infants), tap water can be safely consumed by the population.

2. Please specify from where the water quality samples reported in sections 2 and 3 below are primarily taken (e.g., treatment plant outlet, distribution system or point of consumption).

*The rationale of this question is to understand where the samples were primarily taken from for the water quality data reported in sections 2 and 3 below.*

The frequency of sanitary control varies according to the water volume distributed by the production facilities and the number of people supplied by the distribution network. Throughout France, in 2017, the sanitary control programme carried out at the catchments, treatment plants et consumer's tap level resulted in more than 303,000 water sample abstractions leading to the collection of more than 18.2 million of analysis results.

3. In sections 2 and 3 below, the standards for compliance assessment signify the national standards. If national standards for reported parameters deviate from the World Health Organization (WHO) guideline values, please provide information on the standard values.

*The rationale of this question is to understand any possible differences between the national standards for microbiological and chemical water quality parameters and the respective WHO guideline values.<sup>2</sup>*

## 2. Bacteriological quality

4. Please indicate the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*). Parties may also report on up to three other priority microbial indicators and/or pathogens that are subject to routine water quality monitoring.

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by "non-centralized versus centralized" water supplies or by*

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<sup>2</sup> The latest edition of the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* is available at: [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/).

population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column "area/category" in the table below accordingly.

If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.

Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.

Parameter	Area/category	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	Current value (specify year)
<i>E. coli</i>	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 2.9 %	All UDI: 1.5 %	All UDI: 1,4 %
	Urban	>= 5000 h: 0.3 %	>= 5000 h: 0.1 %	>5000 h: 0.1 %
	Rural			
Additional parameter 1:	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 3.1 %	All UDI: 1.3 %	All UDI: 1.2 %
Enterococci	Urban	>= 5000 h: 0.2 %	>= 5000 h: 0.1 %	>= 5000 h: 0.1 %
	Rural			
Parameter	Area/category	Average value (2014-2016)		
<i>E. coli</i> :	Overseas territories			
	Guadeloupe			>= 5000 h: 0.7 %
	French Guiana			>= 5000 h: 0.1 %
	Martinique			>= 5000 h: 0.1 %
	Mayotte			>= 5000 h: 0.2 %
	La Réunion			>= 5000 h: 0.8 %
Enterococci	Oversea Territories			
	Guadeloupe			>= 5000 h: 1,0 %
	French Guiana			>= 5000 h: 0.4 %
	Martinique			>= 5000 h: 0.4 %
	Mayotte			>= 5000 h: 1,5 %
	La Réunion			>= 5000 h: 0.8 %

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
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### 3. Chemical quality

5. Please report on the percentage of samples that fail to meet the national standard for chemical water quality with regard to the following parameters:

- (a) Arsenic;
- (b) Fluoride;
- (c) Lead
- (d) Nitrate.

6. Please also identify up to three additional chemical parameters that are of priority in the national or local context.

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the column “area/category” in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Arsenic	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 3.07%	All UDI: 1.15%	All UDI: 0.92%
LQ = 10 µg/L	Urban	>= 5000 h: 1.57%	>= 5000 h: 0.08%	>= 5000 h: 0.11%
	Rural			
Fluoride	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 1.49 %	All UDI: 0.74%	All UDI: 0.58 %
LQ = 1,5 mg/L	Urban	>= 5000 h: 0.64%	>= 5000 h: 0.80%	>5000 h: 0.40%
	Rural			
Lead	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 1.64%	All UDI: 3.06%	All UDI: 2.63%
LQ = 10 µg/L	Urban	>= 5000 h: 1.17	>= 5000 h: 2.54%	>=5000 h: 2.22%
Since 2013	Rural			
LQ = 25 µg/L				

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Before 2013				
Nitrate LQ = 50 mg/L	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 1.64%	All UDI: 0.85%	All UDI: 0.60%
	Urban	>= 5000 h: 0.50%	>= 5000 h: 0.13%	>=5000 h: 0.11%
	Rural			
Additional parameter 1:	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 1.73%	All UDI: 1.02%	All UDI: 0.90%
Total iron	Urban	>= 5000 h: 1.21%	>= 5000 h: 0.67%	>= 5000 h: 0.64%
	Rural			
	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 6.10%	All UDI: 0.21%	All UDI: 1.65%
Additional parameter 2: Atrazine desethyl LQ = 0.1 µg/L	Urban	>= 5000 h: 2.15%	>= 5000 h: 0.00%	>= 5000 h: 0.29%
	Rural			

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Additional parameter 3:	<b>Total</b>	All UDI: 1.45%	All UDI: 0.21%	All UDI: 0,10%
Atrazine LQ = 0.1 µg/L	Urban	>= 5000 h: 0.33%	>= 5000 h: 0.00%	>5000 h: 0,00%
	Rural			

## II. Outbreaks and incidence of infectious diseases related to water

*In filling out the below table, please consider the following points:*

(a) *For reporting outbreaks, please report confirmed water-related outbreaks only (i.e., for which there is epidemiological or microbiological evidence for water to have facilitated infection);*

(b) *For reporting incidents, please report the numbers related to all exposure routes. In your response:*

(i) *Please report cases per 100,000 population;*

(ii) *Please differentiate between zero incidents (0) and no data available (-).*

*Please extend the list of water-related diseases, to the extent possible, to cover other relevant pathogens (e.g., enteric viruses, Giardia intestinalis, Vibrio cholerae).*

*Please indicate how the information is collected (e.g., event-based or incidence-based surveillance).*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data.*

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Incidence rate per 100,000 population (all exposure routes)</i>			<i>Number of outbreaks (confirmed water-borne outbreaks)</i>		
	<i>Value reported in the previous</i>		<i>Current value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous</i>		<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
	<i>Baseline (specify year)</i>	<i>reporting cycle (specify year)</i>		<i>Baseline (specify year)</i>	<i>reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	
Shigellosis	1,06/100.000	1.29/100.000	1,32/100.000	0	0	0
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection	1,2/100.000	0,94/100.000	1,40/100.000	0	0	0
Typhoid fever (Whole of France)	0,19/100.000	0,18/100.000	0,21/100.000	0	0	0

Typhoid fever (Mayotte)	14/100.000	19/100.000	14/100.000			
Viral hepatitis A	1,6/100.000	1,12/100.000	5,1/100.000	0	0	0
Legionellosis (Whole of France)	2,0/100.000	2,1/100.000	2,4/100.000			
Legionellosis (Brittany)	0,8/100.000	1,0/100.000	0,8/100.000			
Legionellosis (Franche-Comté)	5,9/100.000	4,8/100.000	4,2/100.000			
Cryptosporiosis						
Cholera:	No local case	No local case	No local case	0	0	0

### III. Access to drinking water

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” water supply systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to drinking water.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<b>Total</b>	100	100	100
Urban			
Rural			

- Estimates provided by the WHO/United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply and Sanitation. *JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.*

- National estimates. Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of drinking-water supplies are considered in the estimates in your country.

*In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to drinking water” refers to access to (tick all applicable):*

- Improved drinking water sources (as per JMP definition)
- Supplies located on premises
- Supplies available when needed
- Supplies that provide drinking water free from faecal contamination

#### IV. Access to sanitation

*If possible, please provide segregated data for urban and rural areas in the table below. If this is not possible, please consider reporting by alternative categories available in your country, for example by “non-centralized versus centralized” sanitation systems or by population number-based categories. If you do so, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.*

*If data can be reported neither for urban and rural areas nor for alternative categories, please report total (national) values only.*

*Please comment on the trends or provide any other important information supporting interpretation of the data with regard to access to sanitation.*

<i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<b>Total</b>		97	97
Urban		97	97
Rural		96	96

- Estimates provided by JMP. JMP definitions are available at <http://www.wssinfo.org/definitions-methods/watsan-categories>.
- National estimates. Please specify how “access” is defined and what types of sanitation facilities are considered in the estimates in your country.

*In particular, please specify if the above percentage on “access to sanitation” refers to access to (tick all applicable):*

- Improved sanitation facilities (as per JMP definition)
- Facilities not shared with other households
- Facilities from which excreta is safely disposed in situ or treated off site

## V. Effectiveness of management, protection and use of freshwater resources

### 1. Water quality

1. On the basis of national systems of water classification, please indicate the percentage of water bodies or the percentage of the volume (preferably) of water<sup>3</sup> falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive<sup>4</sup> classification, the percentage of surface waters of high, good, moderate, poor and bad ecological status, and the percentage of groundwaters/surface waters of good or poor chemical status; for other countries, in classes I, II, III, etc.).

#### (a) For European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive classification

##### (i) Ecological status of surface water bodies

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
High status		0,5	2,3
Good status		15,90	26,9
Moderate status		18,70	47,6
Poor status		12,10	11,60
Bad status		9,10	3,60
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		247/439	404/435
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

##### (ii) Chemical status of surface water bodies

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Good status		28,5	84,40
Poor status		4,0	5,10
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		143/439	389/435
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>3</sup> Please specify.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.



(iii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Good quantitative status		89,80	89,40
Good chemical status		58,90	69,10
Poor quantitative status		10,20	10,60
Poor chemical status		40,90	30,90
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>		561/574	645/645
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>			

(b) **For other countries**

(i) *Status of surface waters*

<i>Percentage of surface water falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>a</sup> Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

(ii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters falling under class<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
I			
II			
III			
IV			
V			
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>			
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>			

<sup>a</sup> Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

2. Please provide any other information that will help put into context and aid understanding of the information provided above (e.g., coverage of information provided if not related to all water resources, how the quality of waters affects human health).

**2. Water use**

3. Please provide information on the water exploitation index at the national and river basin levels for each sector (agriculture, industry, domestic), i.e., the mean annual abstraction of freshwater by sector divided by the mean annual total renewable freshwater resource at the country level, expressed in percentage terms.

<i>Water exploitation index</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Agriculture		7,4 %	8,6 %
Industry <sup>a</sup>		78,1 %	76,8 %
Domestic use <sup>b</sup>		14,5 %	14,6 %

<sup>a</sup> Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling.

<sup>b</sup> Please specify whether the figure only refers to public water supply systems or also to individual supply systems (e.g., wells).

## **Part four**

### **Water-related disease surveillance and response systems**

1. In accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol:

Has your country established comprehensive water-related disease surveillance and early warning systems according to paragraph 1 (a)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

Has your country prepared comprehensive national or local contingency plans for responses to outbreaks and incidents of water-related disease according to paragraph 1 (b)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

Do relevant public authorities have the necessary capacity to respond to such outbreaks, incidents or risks in accordance with the relevant contingency plan according to paragraph 1 (c)?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

2. If yes or in progress, please provide summary information about key elements of the water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response systems (e.g., identification of water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, notification, communication to the public, data management and reporting). Please also provide reference to existing national legislation and/or regulations addressing water-related disease surveillance and outbreak response.

3. Please describe what actions have been taken in your country in the past three years to improve and/or sustain water-related disease surveillance, early warning systems and contingency plans, as well as to strengthen the capacity of public authorities to respond to water-related disease outbreaks and incidents, in accordance with the provisions of article 8 of the Protocol.

## **Part five**

### **Progress achieved in implementing other articles of the Protocol**

Please provide a short description of the status of implementation of articles 9 to 14 of the Protocol, as relevant.

*Suggested length: up to two pages*

## **Part six**

### **Thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol**

#### **1. Water, sanitation and hygiene in institutional settings**

1. In the table below, please provide information on the proportion of schools (primary and secondary) and health-care facilities that provide basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

*Basic services refer to the following:*

(a) *Basic sanitation service: Improved facilities (according to JMP definition), which are sex-separated and usable at the school or health-care facility;*

(b) *Basic drinking water service: Water from an improved source (according to JMP definition) is available at the school or health-care facility;*

(c) *Basic hygiene service: Handwashing facility with water and soap available to students (schools) or patients and health-care providers (health-care facilities).*

If the above definitions/categories do not apply in your country, please report for alternative categories for which data are available. In this case, please indicate the reported categories by renaming the rows in the table below accordingly.

Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100
Basic drinking-water service	100
Basic hygiene service	100
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100
Basic drinking-water service	100
Basic hygiene service	100

2. Has the situation of WASH in schools been assessed in your country?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

In France, Regional Health Agencies (ARS) conduct the sanitary control on the quality of the water distributed by the public drinking water supply service (ensured by the local authorities or private companies holding public service delegations). In 2017, the sanitary control lead to more than 300,000 water sample abstractions: part of these samples was abstracted from schools.

3. Has the situation of WASH in health-care facilities been assessed in your country?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

In France, the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) conduct the sanitary control on the quality of the water distributed by the public drinking water supply service (ensured by the local authorities or private companies holding public service delegations). In 2017, the sanitary control lead to more than 300,000 water sample abstractions: part of these samples was abstracted from schools.

4. Do approved policies or programmes include actions (please tick all that apply):

- To improve WASH in schools  
 To improve WASH in health-care facilities

5. If yes, please provide reference to main relevant national policy(ies) or programme(s).

## 2. Safe management of drinking-water supply

6. Is there a national policy or regulation in your country, which requires implementation of risk-based management, such as WHO water safety plans (WSPs), in drinking water supply?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

6. If yes, please provide reference to relevant national policy(ies) or regulatory documentation.

Promoting the development of Health Safety Plans for water supply. The Code of public health (CSP) provides for the establishment of a permanent monitoring of water quality, conducted by the person in charge of water production and distribution (PRPDE), based on an identification of dangers presented by the drinking water supply system. This monitoring, complementary to health control managed by Regional Health Agencies (ARS), is not limited to an analytical verification of water quality, but also includes an audit of measures taken for the protection of used resource and of operation of the installations, and the conduction of a health file gathering all information collected for monitoring. PRPDE are also encouraged to implement a quality management system including hazard identification and actions to control them.

Presentation meetings at the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) on the securing actions for the water supply have been organized since 2015. The sharing of experience of ARS Nouvelle-Aquitaine on health security of water intended for human consumption was one of the presentations. A National Task Force with ARS has been established in 2017 to develop guidelines in the framework of the implementation of Water Health Security Management Plans (PGSSE). These actions have allowed the publication of the Information Note to ARS of 9 January 2018. Since then, a specific training was established on this subject by the School for Higher Education in Public Health (EHESP) in relation with the Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity, primarily intended for ARS staff members. Work has also been carried out by associations and professional associations and federations: Scientific and technical associations for water and environment, National federation of local licensing authorities.

Regarding the protection of catchments used to supply drinking water, the achievement indicator can be regularly monitored through data provided by the ARS in the information system of the Ministry in charge of health. At the end of 2018, the number of protected catchments by declaration of public utility and through the establishment of protective perimeters had reached 25,917, that is 78.2% of the catchments (85.3% of flows), against 24,798 on 1 January 2017, which represented 74.6% of catchments (82.9% of flows).

8. In the table below, please provide information on the percentage of the population serviced with drinking-water under a WSP.

*Please indicate the source of data. If data is not available, please put (-).*

<i>Percentage of population</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<b>Total</b>	

### 3. Equitable access to water and sanitation

9. Has the equity of access to safe drinking-water and sanitation been assessed?

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

10. Do national policies or programmes include actions to improve equitable access to water and sanitation (please tick all that apply):

- To reduce geographical disparities
- To ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups
- To keep water and sanitation affordable for all

11. If yes, please provide reference to main relevant national policy(ies) and programme(s).

The situation of access to drinking water in France is subject to parliamentary reports and is submitted to the National Water Committee (CNE) opinion. In addition, the self-assessing tool on equitable access developed in the framework of the Protocol on Water and Health has been used at the level of the Region Ile-de-France (Paris metropolis) and promoted among the Regional Health Agencies (ARS) through an Information Note by the Ministry in charge of health on 16 December 2016. Its use is been considered in several regions, in particular in Overseas regions.

In terms of affordability and social criteria, assistance facilities have long existed, in particular in the frame of the Housing Solidarity Funds (Fonds de solidarité pour le logement (FSL)). Furthermore, pursuant to law “Brottes” published in 2013, authorities have established experimental social pricing of water. This experimentation was the subject of Decrees published in 2014 and 2015 in order to allow some local authorities to establish this experimentation on the territory. In 2019, the experimental social pricing of water concerns local authorities whose total population reaches 11 million inhabitants. Reports on the implementation of this experimentation are submitted at least once a year to the National Water Committee (CNE) and the Advisory committee on prices and quality of public water and sanitation services.

At the territories level, a Governmental Plan for the sustainable management of water and sanitation services in Overseas territories was published in 2016 in order to reinforce the financial capacities of local authorities, with contractual management by the “Progress Contracts”.

In terms of water quality, the population is informed about the outcomes of the water safety control conducted by Regional Health Agencies (ARS) for all distribution areas, regardless of their size or location. This information is made available online for the 35,000 communes.

## Part seven Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_  
[name of the Party, Signatory or other State] in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report: Mr. Yannick PAVAGEAU

National Focal point to Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity

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Name and address of national authority: Ministry responsible for Health and Solidarity,  
Directorate General for Health, 14 avenue Duquesne, F-75007 Paris.

Signature:

Date: 14 May 2019

### **Submission**

1. Parties are required to submit their summary reports to the joint secretariat, using the present template and in accordance with the adopted guidelines on reporting, 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the Meeting of the Parties.

2. Parties are requested to submit, to the two addresses below, an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy by e-mail. Electronic copies should be available in word-processing software.

### **Joint Secretariat to the Protocol on Water and Health**

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