

**Reporting on global SDG indicator 6.5.2**  
**TEMPLATE of the second cycle for reporting**

---

**Content of the template**

The template is divided into four parts:

- Section I - Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2
- Section II - Information on each transboundary basin or group of basins
- Section III - General information on transboundary water management at the national level
- Section IV - Final questions

Country name: BELGIUM

## I. Calculation of Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2

### *Methodology*

1. Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as the proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
2. The step-by-step monitoring methodology for indicator 6.5.2, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN-Water, should be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.<sup>a</sup>
3. The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary basins (river and lake basins and aquifers) that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the area obtained by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both river and lake basins, and aquifers).
4. Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.
5. An “arrangement for water cooperation” is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.
6. For an arrangement to be considered “operational” all the following criteria need to be in place in practice:
  - (a) There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g., a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation (criterion 1);
  - (b) There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level) (criterion 2);
  - (c) Joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan, or an action plan have been agreed upon by the riparian countries (criterion 3);
  - (d) There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information (criterion 4).

### *Calculation of indicator 6.5.2*

7. Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country’s territory and provide the following information for each of them:
  - (a) The country/ies with which the basin is shared;
  - (b) The surface area of the basin (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in square kilometres (km<sup>2</sup>));
  - (c) Whether a map and/or a geographical information system (GIS) shapefile of the basin has been provided;
  - (d) Whether there is an arrangement in force for the basin;
  - (e) The verification of each of the four criteria to assess operability;

---

<sup>a</sup> Available from the UN-Water website: <https://www.sdg6monitoring.org/indicators/target-65/indicators652/> (updated version “2020”).

(f) The surface area of the basin within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria.

8. In case an operational arrangement is in place only for a sub-basin or a portion of a basin, please list this sub-basin just after the transboundary basin it is part of. In case there is an operational arrangement for the whole basin, do not list sub-basins in the table below.

Table 1

**Transboundary river or lake basin (please add rows as needed)**

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/blanks/assessment/assessmentweb\\_full.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/blanks/assessment/assessmentweb_full.pdf)

[http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/assessment/English/ECE\\_Seco](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/assessment/English/ECE_Seco)

[nd\\_Assessment\\_En.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/publications/assessment/English/ECE_Seco)

<http://twap-rivers.org/indicators/>

<i>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</i>	<i>It is a basin or a sub-basin?<sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km<sup>2</sup>) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km<sup>2</sup>) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
<b>MEUSE Basin</b>	Basin	FRA DEU NLD LUX	13,896	no	entirely	YES	YES	YES	YES	13, 896
<b>SCHELDT River Basin district (includes Yser-Ijzer basin)</b>	Basin	FRA NLD	15, 922 includes Yser- Ijzer basin)	no	entirely	YES	YES	YES	YES	15, 922 includes Yser- Ijzer basin)
<b>Yser-Ijzer basin (part of Scheldt River Basin District)</b>	Sub-basin	FRA	1000	no	entirely	YES	YES	YES	YES	1000
<b>(A) Total surface area of transboundary basins/sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational</b>										29,818

<sup>b</sup> List sub-basins after the basin they belong to.

<i>Name of transboundary river or lake basin/sub-basin</i>	<i>It is a basin or a sub-basin? <sup>b</sup></i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km<sup>2</sup>) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the basin/sub-basin (in km<sup>2</sup>) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>	
<b>arrangements within the territory of the country (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>											
<b>(do not double count sub-basins)</b>											
<b>(B) Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>			29,818								
<b>(do not double count sub-basins)</b>											

Belgium shares less than 1% of the Rhine-Moselle basin and that it is therefore not taken into account in SDG 6.5.2 calculation

Table 2  
**Transboundary aquifers (please add rows as needed)**

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer<sup>c</sup> (in km<sup>2</sup>) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer<sup>d</sup> (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km<sup>2</sup>) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
<b>Oligocene sands</b>	NLD	<b>124,815</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>124,815</b>
<b>Oligocene sands</b>	NLD	<b>156,266</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>156,266</b>
<b>Brabant Massif Basement and Chalks</b>	NLD	<b>170,016</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>170,016</b>
<b>Brabant Massif Basement and Chalks</b>	NLD	<b>195,952</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>195,952</b>
<b>Campine Sands</b>	NLD	<b>3468,153</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>3468,153</b>
<b>Campine Sands</b>	NLD	<b>553,581</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>553,581</b>
<b>Campine Sands</b>	NLD	<b>553,581</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>553,581</b>
<b>Pleistocene alluvial deposits</b>	NLD and FRA	<b>1859,890</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>1859,890</b>
<b>Oligocene sands</b>	NLD	<b>623,746</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>623,746</b>

<sup>c</sup> For a transboundary aquifer, the extent is derived from the aquifer system delineation which is commonly done relying on information of the subsurface (notably the extent of geological formations). As a general rule, the delineation of aquifer systems is based on the delineation of the extent of the hydraulically connected water-bearing geological formations. Aquifer systems are three-dimensional objects and the aquifer area taken into account is the projection on the land surface of the system. Ideally, when different aquifer systems not hydraulically connected are vertically superposed, the different relevant projected areas are to be considered separately, unless the different aquifer systems are managed conjunctively.

<sup>d</sup> In the text of the agreement or arrangement or in the practice.

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer<sup>c</sup> (in km<sup>2</sup>) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer<sup>d</sup> (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km<sup>2</sup>) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
<b>Lede-Brussel Sands (mid Eocene)</b>	NLD	<b>1568,491</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>1568,491</b>
<b>Ypresian Sands</b>	NLD	<b>2783,563</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>2783,563</b>
<b>Dunes and Creek Sands (coast)</b>	NLD and FRA	<b>196,751</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>196,751</b>
<b>Dunes and Creek Sands (eastern Flander's polders)</b>	NLD	<b>49,126</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>49,126</b>
<b>Quaternary and Eocene Coastal Sands (brackish)</b>	NLD and FRA	<b>855,104</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>855,104</b>
<b>Quaternary and Oligocene Sands (brackish)</b>	NLD	<b>90,690</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>90,690</b>
<b>Quaternary, Pliocene and Miocene Sands (brackish)</b>	NLD	<b>196,849</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>196,849</b>
<b>Quaternary sediments</b>	NLD	<b>872,572</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>872,572</b>
<b>Campine sands</b>	NLD	<b>558,029</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>558,029</b>
<b>Campine sands</b>	NLD	<b>279,425</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>279,425</b>
<b>Late Paleocene confined Sands (Flanders confined Sands)</b>	FRA	<b>1605,285</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>1605,285</b>
<b>Late Paleocene confined Sands (Flanders confined Sands)</b>	The Netherlands (but no GWB in NLD)	<b>5422,980</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>5422,980</b>

<i>Name of the transboundary aquifer</i>	<i>Countries shared with</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer<sup>c</sup> (in km<sup>2</sup>) within the territory of the country</i>	<i>Map and/ or GIS shapefile provided (yes/no)</i>	<i>Covered by an aquifer specific arrangement (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Covered within an arrangement not specific to the aquifer<sup>d</sup> (entirely, partly, no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 1 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 2 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 3 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Criterion 4 applied (yes/no) (Ref. to questions in sect. II)</i>	<i>Surface area of the aquifer (in km<sup>2</sup>) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country</i>
<b>Scheldt Carboniferous limestones</b>	FRA	<b>66,264</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>66,264</b>
<b>Brabant Massif Basement and Chalks</b>	FRA and NLD (but no GWB in NLD)	<b>6034,144</b>	no	no	entirely	yes	yes	yes	yes	<b>6034,144</b>
<b>(C)</b> <b>Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>										<b>28 285,273</b>
<b>(D)</b> <b>Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km<sup>2</sup>)</b>		<b>28 285,273</b>								



---

**Indicator value for the country**

**Surface waters:**

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes covered by an operational arrangement:

$$A/B \times 100 =$$

$$29,818/29,818 = 100\%$$

**Aquifers:**

Percentage of surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by an operational arrangement:

$$C/D \times 100 =$$

$$28\,285,273/28\,285,273 = 100\%$$

**Sustainable Development Goal indicator 6.5.2:**

Percentage of surface area of transboundary basins covered by an operational arrangement:

$$((A + C)/(B + D)) \times 100 =$$

$$((29,818 + 28,285,273) / (29,818 + 28,285,273)) \times 100 = 100\%$$

**Spatial information**

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e., “transboundary basins”) is available, please consider attaching them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in GIS should be sent.

**Additional information**

If the respondent has comments that clarify assumptions or interpretations made for the calculation, or the level of certainty of the spatial information, please write them here:

---

Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., rivers, lakes or groundwater), whether bilateral or multilateral?

Yes /No

*If yes, list the bilateral and multilateral agreements or arrangements (listing for each of the countries concerned):* Treaties of Ghent for Meuse and Scheldt (3/12/2002)

## II. Questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin, or group of basins (river, lake or aquifer)

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin (river or lake basin, or aquifer), sub-basin, part of a basin or a group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement where conditions are similar.<sup>1</sup> In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins or parts thereof, for example, where you have agreements<sup>2</sup> or arrangements on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares transboundary waters, or even prepare a joint report. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section III and not repeated here.

Please reproduce this whole section with its questions for each transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

**Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:**

**MEUSE River Basin**

List of the riparian States: Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxemburg

**In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:**

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |
| Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Confined aquifer connected to surface water                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |                          |
| Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water   |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other   |                          | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please describe: [fill in]

Unknown

**Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:** 40,40 %

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

---

<sup>1</sup> In principle, section II should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

<sup>2</sup> In section II, "agreement" covers all kinds of treaties, conventions and agreements ensuring cooperation in the field of transboundary waters. Section II can also be completed for other types of arrangements, such as memorandums of understanding.

---

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

*Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s)*

International Meuse Agreement (Ghent Agreement 3/12/2002)

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement or arrangement

*If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation:*

[fill in]

**If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.**

**Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.**

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?  
(Please list): Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxemburg

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

Campine sands

**Quaternary sediments**

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

- 
- A single water use or sector
  - Several water uses or sectors

*If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*

**Water uses or sectors**

- Industry
- Agriculture
- Transport (e.g., navigation)
- Households
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types
- Fisheries
- Tourism
- Nature protection
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

**Procedural and institutional issues**

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

**Topics of cooperation**

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

- 
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
  - Common early warning and alarm procedures
  - Exchange of experience between riparian States
  - Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure
- Development of shared infrastructure
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes
- Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes
- Lack of financial resources
- Insufficient human capacity
- Insufficient technical capacity
- Tense diplomatic relations
- Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement
- No significant difficulties
- Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?

The main achievement of IMC has been improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of the Meuse and its basin. This has been achieved through both measures to reduce pollution and river restoration measures e.g. through improving the ecological connectivity. Also, the flood management has substantially improved. Next to this, improvements include the exchange of data and information between the parties, including a warning and alarm system, and a certain level of alignment of measures and plans in the riparian countries. Key to this success has been close cooperation at technical level and the subsequent building of trust as well as mutual understanding among the countries along the river and in the basin.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*):

[http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/ACCORDS/accord-gand\\_f.pdf](http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/ACCORDS/accord-gand_f.pdf)

---

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

*If no, why not? (please explain):* [fill in]

**Where there is a joint body or mechanism**

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism *(please tick one)*?

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? *(Please list)*:

Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Luxemburg

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? *(please list)*: [fill in]

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other *(please describe)*: [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features *(please tick the ones applicable)*?

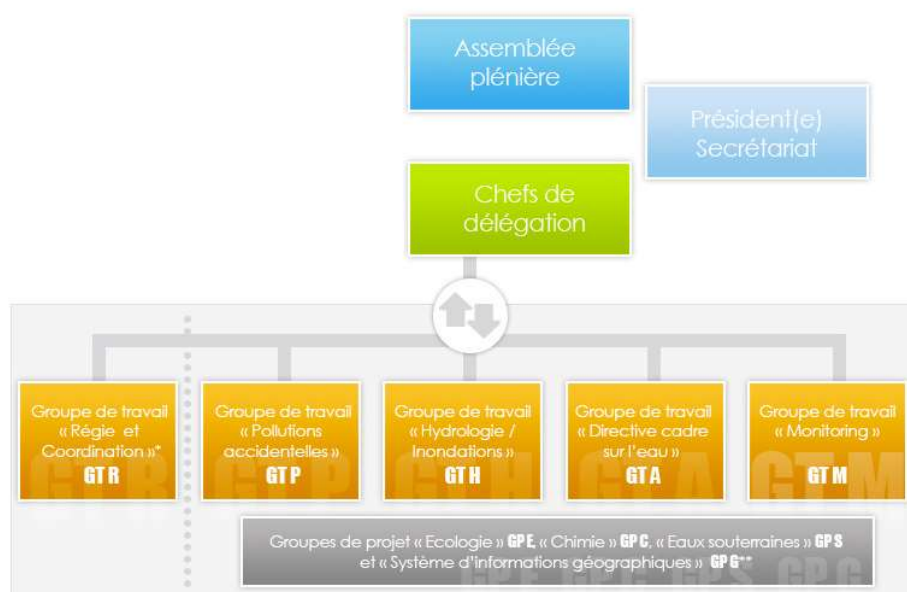
A secretariat

*If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe):*

It's a joint secretariat

A subsidiary body or bodies

*Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):*



Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?<sup>3</sup>

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Setting emission limits   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Elaboration of joint water quality objectives   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Management and prevention of flood or drought risks                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveillance and early warning of water related disease                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Water allocation and/or flow regulation   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Policy development  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Control of implementation   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Exchange of experience between riparian States  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Settling of differences and conflicts   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Consultations on planned measures   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

<sup>3</sup> This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- 
- Exchange of information on best available technology
  - Participation in transboundary EIA
  - Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
  - Management of shared infrastructure
  - Addressing hydromorphological alterations
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Joint communication strategy
  - Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
  - Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
  - Capacity-building
  - Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

- Governance issues   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Lack of resources   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

- More than once per year
- Once per year
- Less than once per year



---

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism?  
see 2.f) above

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

*If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?* [fill in] all coastal states are also riparian states.

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide further details:* [fill in]

Internationally coordinated Meuse river basin management plan 2015 :

[http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/Rapport-faitier-dec-2015/Rapport\\_faitier\\_Maqua\\_15\\_1rev11\\_f\\_.pdf?ext=.pdf](http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/Rapport-faitier-dec-2015/Rapport_faitier_Maqua_15_1rev11_f_.pdf?ext=.pdf)

Internationally coordinated Meuse river flood risk management plan 2015 :

[http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/DI/PGRI%20-%20d%C3%A9c%202015/pr-PGRI\\_Minond\\_15\\_4rev2\\_f\\_.pdf?ext=.pdf](http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/DI/PGRI%20-%20d%C3%A9c%202015/pr-PGRI_Minond_15_4rev2_f_.pdf?ext=.pdf)

Masterplan Fish 2011 :

[http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/EspacePublic-Documents/Publications/2011/Rapport\\_Masterplan\\_octobre2011\\_f.pdf](http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/EspacePublic-Documents/Publications/2011/Rapport_Masterplan_octobre2011_f.pdf)

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

Other measures (*please describe*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

---

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies):

Meetings of joint bodies, Working groups, informal exchange if required

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)

Water abstractions

Climatological information

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide the web address:* [fill in]

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*):

Better overview on the whole basin, comparability, improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' issues and problems.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

- (a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations

*Please describe:* Stations, methods and parameters according to EU legislation

Joint and agreed methodologies

*Please describe:* Stations, methods and parameters according to EU legislation

Joint sampling

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common monitoring network

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

*Please describe:* see above

- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any:

The long-term cooperation yields long time series of chemical and biological parameters, that enable joint trend analyses and joint conclusions on the trends.

---

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied:*

See River Basin Management Plan, link under 4. above

Report on the homogenous monitoring network (main stream) 2014 – 2016 :

[http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/Rapports-RMH/Rapport%20triennal%202014-2016%20RMH/Rapport-triennal-2014-2016\\_Mmonitor\\_18\\_2DEF\\_f.pdf?ext=.pdf](http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/Rapports-RMH/Rapport%20triennal%202014-2016%20RMH/Rapport-triennal-2014-2016_Mmonitor_18_2DEF_f.pdf?ext=.pdf)

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

*If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?*

Based on quality objectives that the EU Water Framework Directive and its daughter directives set for priority substances and priority hazardous substances and for groundwater

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

*If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts

Joint climate change adaptation strategy

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

---

*If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?: [fill in]*

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide a brief summary: [fill in]*

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, how? (please tick all applicable)*

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism

Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body

Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body

*If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism: [fill in]*

Intergovernmental organizations

Private sectors organizations or associations

Water user groups or associations

Academic or research institutions

Other non-governmental organizations

General public

Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans<sup>4</sup>

Public involvement

Other (please specify): [fill in]

---

<sup>4</sup> Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

---

**Name of the transboundary basin,-sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins:**

**SCHELDT River Basin**

List of the riparian States: The Netherlands, Belgium, France

**In the case of an aquifer, what is the nature of the aquifer and its relation with the river or lake basin:**

- Unconfined aquifer connected to a river or lake
- Unconfined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Confined aquifer connected to surface water
- Confined aquifer with no or limited relation with surface water
- Other
- Please describe: [fill in]
- Unknown

**Percentage of your country's territory within the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins: 43,40 %**

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

Agreement or arrangement developed, but not in force for all riparians

*Please insert the name of the agreement(s) or arrangement(s) [fill in]*

International Scheldt Agreement (Ghent Agreement 3/12/2002)

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement or arrangement

*If there is no agreement or arrangement or it is not in force, please explain briefly why not and provide information on any plans to address the situation:*

[fill in]

**If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body or mechanism for the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement or arrangement, but a joint body or mechanism then go to question 3.**

**Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins.**

2. (a) Does this agreement or arrangement specify the area subject to cooperation?

Yes /No

If yes, does it cover the entire basin or group of basins and all riparian States?

Yes /No

---

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Or, if the agreement or arrangement relates to a sub-basin, does it cover the entire sub-basin?

Yes /No

Additional explanations? [fill in]

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?  
(Please list): The Netherlands, Belgium, France.

(b) If the agreement or arrangement relates to a river or lake basin or sub-basin, does it also cover aquifers?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the aquifers covered by the agreement or arrangement: [fill in]

**Oligocene sands**

**Brabant Massif Basement and Chalks**

**Pleistocene alluvial deposits**

**Oligocene sands**

**Lede-Brussel Sands (mid Eocene)**

**Ypresian Sands Dunes and Creek Sands (coast)**

**Dunes and Creek Sands (eastern Flander's polders)**

**Quaternary and Eocene Coastal Sands (brackish)**

**Quaternary and Oligocene Sands (brackish)**

**Quaternary, Pliocene and Miocene Sands (brackish)**

**Late Paleocene confined Sands (Flanders confined Sands)**

**Scheldt Carboniferous limestones**

**Brabant Massif Basement and Chalks**

(c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

*If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*

**Water uses or sectors**

Industry

Agriculture

Transport (e.g., navigation)

Households

Energy: hydropower and other energy types

- 
- Fisheries
  - Tourism
  - Nature protection
  - Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement?

**Procedural and institutional issues**

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance

**Topics of cooperation**

- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Human health
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation

**Monitoring and exchange**

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

**Joint planning and management**

- Development of joint regulations on specific topics
- Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure



---

Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any?

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with national laws, policies and programmes

Aligning implementation of agreement or arrangement with regional laws, policies and programmes

Lack of financial resources

Insufficient human capacity

Insufficient technical capacity

Tense diplomatic relations

Non-participation of certain riparian countries in the agreement

No significant difficulties

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success? [fill in]

The main achievement of IEC has been improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of the Scheldt and its basin. This has been achieved through both measures to reduce pollution and river restoration measures e.g. through improving the ecological connectivity. Also, the flood management has substantially improved. Next to this, improvements include the exchange of data and information between the parties, including a warning and alarm system, and a certain level of alignment of measures and plans in the riparian countries. Key to this success has been close cooperation at technical level and the subsequent building of trust as well as mutual understanding among the countries along the river and in the basin.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): [fill in]

<https://www.isc-cie.org/fr/bibliotheque/accord-de-lescaut-gand-le-3-decembre-2002/>

3. Is your country a member of any joint body or mechanism for this agreement or arrangement?

Yes /No

*If no, why not? (please explain):* [fill in]

**Where there is a joint body or mechanism**

(a) If there is a joint body or mechanism, which kind of joint body or mechanism (*please tick one*)?

Plenipotentiaries

---

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

Expert group meeting or meeting of national focal points

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(b) Does the joint body or mechanism cover the entire transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are members of the joint body or mechanism? (*Please list*):

The Netherlands, Belgium, France

(d) Are there any riparian States that are not members of the joint body or mechanism? (*please list*): [fill in]

(e) If not all riparian States are members of the joint body or mechanism how does the joint body or mechanism cooperate with them?

No cooperation

They have observer status

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

(f) Does the joint body or mechanism have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

*If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe):* [fill in]

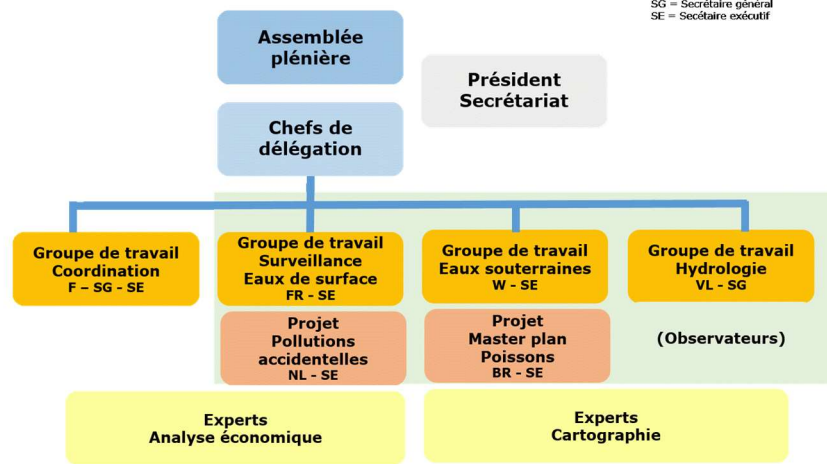
It's a joint secretariat

A subsidiary body or bodies

*Please list (e.g., working groups on specific topics):*



## Organigramme CIE: 2016



Other features (*please list*): [fill in]

(g) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body or mechanism?<sup>5</sup>

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Setting emission limits   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Elaboration of joint water quality objectives   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Management and prevention of flood or drought risks                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Surveillance and early warning of water related disease                                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Water allocation and/or flow regulation   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Policy development  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Control of implementation   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Exchange of experience between riparian States  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Settling of differences and conflicts   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

<sup>5</sup> This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- 
- Consultations on planned measures
  - Exchange of information on best available technology
  - Participation in transboundary EIA
  - Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
  - Management of shared infrastructure
  - Addressing hydromorphological alterations
  - Climate change adaptation
  - Joint communication strategy
  - Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
  - Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
  - Capacity-building
  - Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

(h) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the operation of the joint body or mechanism, if any?

- Governance issues   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Unexpected planning delays   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Lack of resources   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures   
*Please describe, if true:* [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts   
*Please describe, if any:* [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

(i) Does the joint body or mechanism, or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet?

- More than once per year
- Once per year
- Less than once per year

---

(j) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body or mechanism?  
see 2.f) above

(k) Did the joint body or mechanism ever invite a non-riparian coastal State to cooperate?

Yes /No

*If yes, please give details. If no, why not, e.g. are the relevant coastal States also riparian States and therefore already members of the joint body or mechanism?* [fill in] All coastal states are also riparian states

4. Have joint objectives, a common strategy, a joint or coordinated management plan or action plan been agreed for the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide further details:*

Internationally coordinated Scheldt river basin management plan 2015:

<https://www.isc-cie.org/fr/bibliotheque/partie-faitiere-du-2d-plan-de-gestion-du-dhi-escaut/>

Internationally coordinated Scheldt river flood risk management plan 2015:

<https://www.isc-cie.org/fr/bibliotheque/partie-faitiere-du-plan-de-gestion-des-risques-dinondation-du-dhi-escaut-2014/>

Masterplan fish 2015 :

<https://www.isc-cie.org/fr/bibliotheque/masterplan-poisson/>

5. How is the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basins or group of basins protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use?

Regulation of urbanization, deforestation, and sand and gravel extraction.

Environmental flow norms, including consideration of levels and seasonality

Water quality protection, e.g. nitrates, pesticides, faecal coliforms, heavy metals

Water-related species and habitats protection

Other measures (*please describe*): [fill in]

6. (a) Does your country regularly exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

(b) If yes, how often:

More than once per year

Once per year

Less than once per year

---

(c) Please describe how information is exchanged (e.g. in connection with meetings of joint bodies):

Meetings of joint bodies, Working groups, informal exchange if required

(d) If yes, on what subjects are information and data exchanged?

Environmental conditions

Research activities and application of best available techniques

Emission monitoring data

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Flows or water levels (including groundwater levels)

Water abstractions

Climatological information

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

Other subjects (*please list*): [fill in]

Other comments, e.g. spatial coverage of data and information exchange: [fill in]

(e) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

(f) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide the web address:* [fill in]

(g) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable?

Frequency of exchanges

Timing of exchanges

Comparability of data and information

Limited spatial coverage

Inadequate resources (technical and/or financial)

Other (*please describe*): [fill in]

Additional comments: [fill in]

(h) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins? (*please describe*):

Better overview on the whole basin, comparability, improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' issues and problems.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

- (a) If yes, what does the joint monitoring cover?

	<i>Hydrological</i>	<i>Ecological</i>	<i>Chemical</i>
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in part of the basin please describe [fill in]	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transboundary aquifer(s) (connected or unconnected)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquifer(s) in the territory of one riparian hydraulically connected to a transboundary river or lake	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- (b) If joint monitoring is carried out, how is this done?

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations

*Please describe:* Stations, methods and parameters according to EU legislation

Joint and agreed methodologies

*Please describe:* Stations, methods and parameters according to EU legislation

Joint sampling

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common monitoring network

*Please describe:* [fill in]

Common agreed parameters

*Please describe:* [fill in] see above

- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any:

The long-term cooperation yields long time series of chemical and biological parameters, that enable joint trend analyses and joint conclusions on the trends.

---

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: [fill in]

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment, and assessment methodology applied:*

See River Basin Management Plan, link under 4. above

Report on the homogenous monitoring network (main stream) 2014 – 2016 :

<https://www.isc-cie.org/fr/bibliotheque/rapport-triennal-2014-2016/>

9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?

Yes /No

*If yes, what standards have been applied, e.g. international or regional standards (please specify which), or have national standards of the riparian States been applied?*

Based on quality objectives that the EU Water Framework Directive and its daughter directives set for priority substances and priority hazardous substances and for groundwater

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint early warning or alarm system for accidental water pollution

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

*If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events and climate change?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts

Joint climate change adaptation strategy

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

Other (*please list*): [fill in]

No measures

*If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]



---

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation?

Yes /No

*If yes, please provide a brief summary:* [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins?

Yes /No

*If yes, how? (please tick all applicable)*

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body or mechanism

Stakeholders have an advisory role in the joint body

Stakeholders have a decision-making role in the joint body

*If yes, please specify the stakeholders for the joint body or mechanism:*  
[fill in]

Intergovernmental organizations

Private sectors organizations or associations

Water user groups or associations

Academic or research institutions

Other non-governmental organizations

General public

Other (please specify): [fill in]

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans<sup>6</sup>

Public involvement

Other (please specify): [fill in]

---

<sup>6</sup> Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

**Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, sub-basin, part of a basin or group of basins. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements or arrangements, if any.**

### III. Water management at the national level

In this section, you are requested to provide general information on water management at the national level as it relates to transboundary waters. Information on specific transboundary basins, sub-basins, part of basins and groups of basins, should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country's national legislation, policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes /No

*If yes, please briefly describe the main national laws, policies, action plans and strategies [fill in]*

*Full overview is provided on (in Dutch) <https://www.vmm.be/water/wetgeving> + BAT/BREF on [emis.vito.be](https://emis.vito.be)*

- (b) Does your country's legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes /No

Polluter pays principle Yes /No

Sustainable development Yes /No

User pays principle Yes /No

*If yes, please briefly describe how these principles are implemented at the national level: [fill in]*

*See above*

- (c) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution? (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes /No

*If yes, for which sectors?*

Industry

Mining

Energy

Municipal

Livestock raising

Aquaculture

Other (please list): [fill in]

*Please briefly describe the licensing or permitting system, indicating whether the system provides for setting emission limits based on best available technology?*

---

*If yes, for which sectors? (please list):* [fill in]

*If not, please explain why not (giving the most important reasons) or provide information if there are plans to introduce a licensing or permitting system:* [fill in]

(d) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled?

Yes /No

*If yes, how? (Please tick the ones applicable):*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monitoring of discharges                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Monitoring of ecological impacts on water            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Conditions on permits                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Inspectorate   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Other means (*please list*): [fill in]

*If your country does not have a discharge monitoring system, please explain why not or provide information if there are plans to introduce a discharge monitoring system:*  
[fill in]

(e) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under “others”:

**Legislative measures**

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Norm for uses of fertilizers                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Norms for uses of manure                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Permitting system                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Bans on or norms for use of pesticides                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Others ( <i>please list</i> ): [fill in]: Green Deals |                                     |

**Economic and financial measures**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Monetary incentives                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Others ( <i>please list</i> ): [fill in]       |                                     |

**Agricultural extension services**

**Technical measures**

*Source control measures*

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Crop rotation                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tillage control                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Winter cover crops                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Others ( <i>please list</i> ): [fill in] |                                     |

*Other measures*

- |                      |                                     |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Buffer/filter strips | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|

---

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others (*please list*): [fill in]

**Other types of measures**

*If yes, please list:* [fill in]

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water resources allocation and use efficiency?

*All of them, and for Flanders a Blue Deal (majeur strategic plan for water allocation and drought risk management measures is recently launched)*

A regulatory system regarding water abstraction

Monitoring and control of abstractions

Water rights are defined

Water allocation priorities are listed

Water-saving technologies

Advanced irrigation techniques

Demand management activities

Other means (*please list*)

(g) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach?

Yes /No

*If yes, please describe how:* [fill in]WFD and other EU legislation implementations

(h) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters?

Yes /No

*If yes, please briefly describe the most important measures:* see old and upcoming RBMPs

2. Do your national laws require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes /No

*If yes, please briefly describe the legislative basis, and any related implementing procedures.* [fill in]EU legislation + Weser arrest

*If not, do other measures provide for transboundary EIA?* [fill in]

#### IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in cooperating on transboundary waters?

Differences between national administrative and legal frameworks

Lack of relevant data and information

Difficulties in data and information exchange

- 
- Sectoral fragmentation at the national level
- Language barrier
- Resource constraints
- Environmental pressures, e.g. extreme events
- Sovereignty concerns
- Please list other challenges and/or provide further details: [fill in]
2. What have been the main achievements in-cooperating on transboundary waters?
- Improved water management
- Enhanced regional integration, i.e. beyond water
- Adoption of cooperative arrangements
- Adoption of joint plans and programmes
- Long-lasting and sustained cooperation
- Financial support for joint activities
- Stronger political will for transboundary water cooperation
- Better knowledge and understanding
- Dispute avoidance
- Stakeholder engagement
- Please list other achievements, keys to achieving success, and/or provide concrete examples: [fill in]
3. Please indicate which institutions were consulted during the completion of the questionnaire
- Joint body or mechanism
- Other riparian or aquifer countries
- National water management authority
- Environment agency/ authority
- Basin authority (national)
- Local or provincial government
- Geological survey (national)
- Non-water specific ministries, e.g. foreign affairs, finance, forestry and energy
- Civil society organizations
- Water user associations
- Private sector
- Other (please list): [fill in]
- Please briefly describe the process by which the questionnaire was completed: [fill in]
4. If you have any other comments please add them here (*insert comments*): [fill in]

---

5. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire (*please insert*): [fill in]

Date: 29/07/2020 (draft submission), 05/02/2021 (final revised submission)

Signature:

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this report.

---