

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 General

Taking into account the Belgium state and governance structure, both the federal and the regional authorities (Brussels, Flanders and Wallonia) have responsibilities within their competences in the implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health (PWH).

In Belgium, the competences for majority of the target areas of article 6 of the PWH lie with the regional authorities.

At the regional level, most of the targets and possible measures the Brussels Capital Region, Flanders and Wallonia decided on, originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). Targets in this report relate to the implementation of the 2nd River Basin Management Plans. The next River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) relate the period 2022-2027. The programmes of measures for the 3rd RBMP's have been subject to public consultation during 2021 and are on-line available for the general public during the public consultation process. We assume that the information available in this report gives the Committee sufficient insight in the status of the PWH-implementation in Belgium. Both regional authorities are willing to provide additional information if deemed relevant.

This report made in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health is the first reporting for the Brussels region. The Brussels region contributes to this reporting cycle by giving an overview of activities and initiatives in the different fields covered by the Protocol, and defines specific targets, target dates or baseline conditions where relevant in the Brussels-Capital Region.

COVID-19 pandemic

Relatively to the COVID-19 pandemic, a pertinent action which has been taken to support the joint-efforts to fight the pandemic, is the establishment of a wastewater surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 at the national scale.

This regular surveillance which is led by Sciensano, the Belgian public health institute, and supported by various private and academic partners, has started in September 2020 and is accounting for 45% of the Belgian population. This surveillance is in line with the COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2021/472 of 17 March 2021 on a common approach to establish a systematic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in wastewaters in the EU.

Concretely, the outputs of this surveillance are analyzed, in the weekly epidemiological assessments done by the Risk Assessment Group (RAG). In this RAG-epi, the wastewater results analysis is seen at the light of the whole epidemiological situation given by various indicators (new cases, hospital admissions, etc.), and as a

complementary and valuable indicator of viral trends over time and space. In a second step, this assessment is validated by the Risk Management Group (RMG) which communicates then to the public health authorities.

A public dashboard, as well as weekly covid wastewater surveillance dedicated reports, are freely accessible online on Sciensano website.

The added-values of the wastewater surveillance are first, its cost-efficiency and non-invasive character, giving the global view of the viral circulation in a big population through a unique sample, and secondly, the fact that the results are not dependent of the testing strategy, and therefore less subject to the case-based incidence bias which can result from changes of strategy over time.

Also, in periods of low viral circulation and therefore low clinical testing, the wastewater surveillance also offers the precious advantage to support the information given by the cases, and plays a role of “safety net” in the early-detection of any resurgence of the viral circulation.

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

Brussels Capital Region

No specific targets were set in the Brussels-Capital Region pursuant the Protocol so far.

As it is the case for the 2 other Regions, the Brussels-Capital Region also considers that the objectives of the Protocol Water & Health are closely linked to the objectives required by the legislation at European Union level, especially those established by or under the Water Framework Directive of 2000. Therefore, for most of the topics covered by the Protocol, it was deemed that the EU objectives can be considered as the targets under the Protocol. Nevertheless, regarding the interpretive note “The provisions of the Protocol on Water and Health and their relationship with the European Union law governing water and health”, the Brussels-Capital Region has made some complementary additions, corrections and proposals for the topics of the Protocol that are not directly or fully covered by European law.

In accordance with this EU obligations, a public inquiry on the river basin management plan of the Brussels-Capital Region and the action programs was held twice (in 2011 for the first Plan and in 2016 for the 2nd) to ensure public participation. In relation with water related health aspects and aspects regarding drinking water provision and quality, targets and actions are those of other directives such as directive 98/83/EC and the recast 2020/2184 ‘drinking water’ , directive 91/271 EEC “wastewater treatment” and also Bathwater directive 2006/7/EC.

The recast of the drinking water directive, to be transposed in regional law by the 12th of januari 2023, aims to, inter alia, make the risk-based approach compulsory, take the necessary measures to improve or maintain access to water for all, tackle leakage and includes new provisions for legionella prevention.

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

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

Most of the targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They have been published in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. As the Brussels-Capital Region is concerned, the River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 was adopted and published January 26th 2017. The programmes of measures have been subject to public consultation during 6 months in 2016 and are on-line available for the general public: <https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/eau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau-2016-2021>

The next RBMP is now in the adoption process (ongoing and expected to be adopted by April 2023);

FLANDERS

Most of the targets and possible actions Flanders decided on, originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They have been published in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plans. The River Basin Management Plans 2016-2021 for the Flemish part of Belgium were adopted and published the 8th of december 2015. The programmes of measures have been subject to public consultation and are on-line available for the general public (<http://www.volvanwater.be> and <http://www.integraalwaterbeleid.be/nl/nieuws/definitieve-vlaamse-stroomgebiedbeheerplannen-schelde-en-maas>)

A revision of the targets set in this report would be beneficial once the 3rd River Basin Management Plans are formally adopted for the period 2022-2027 and the new legislation to implement the revised drinking water directive.

WALLONIA

Most of the targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They have been published in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 was adopted and published April 28th, 2016. The programmes of measures are on-line available for the general public: eau.wallonie.be

The next RBMP is now in the adoption process.

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.

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

For Brussels, it's Brussels Environment, as the public service institution in charge of the environment and energy for the Brussels-Capital Region, that has made and coordinated the Brussels contribution to this report.

Due to the distribution of environmental competence in Belgium, the setting of targets was carried out by each Region. Coordination is however in place for the targets included in the water management plans (through a cross-national consultation).

FLANDERS

In Flanders, the Coordination Committee for Integrated Water Management was installed in which all relevant administrations participate. This committee is responsible for the development of the river basis management plans and thus the process of target setting given the overlapping goals.

The Flemish Environment Agency (VMM) took a coordinating role. Next to the VMM, the Health and Care Authority of Flanders participated actively to ensure to the relation between health and environment.

WALLONIA

For Wallonia, the Service Public de Wallonie (SPW) is the competent authorities.

Due to the distribution of environmental competence in Belgium, the setting of targets was carried out by each Region. Coordination is however in place for the targets included in the water management plans (through a cross-national consultation).

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

The programme of measures that meets the Protocol's targets is the one required by the Water Framework Directive and that must be reviewed every 6 years. The Brussels-Capital Region's programme for the period 2016-2021 includes some 120 actions to enhance water quality : surface water, groundwater, drinking water, better sanitation,... This programme of measures has been subject to a cost-effectiveness analysis and a detailed cost per action analysis.

FLANDERS

In Flanders, every year an implementation program for water is established by the Coordination Committee for Integrated Water Management. This program aims for the implementation of the river basis management plans and offers a tool to follow-up this implementation.

WALLONIA

The programme of measures that meets the Protocol's targets is the one required by the Water Framework Directive and that must be reviewed every 6 years.

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?

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

As answered for question nr. 1, given the Protocol shows a great overlap with the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), no specific public participation has been done in the context of the Protocol. However, as required by the WFD, the programme of measures have been subject to public consultation during 6 months in 2016 starting with a regional public information session and consultation with the 19 municipalities of the Region. The public could consult the draft Plan online (<https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/eau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau-2016-2021>) or at their local authority or infopoint of Brussels Environment.

The various opinions and comments received were taken into account in the final version of the Plan. The Government Order of 26 January 2017 approving the plan reflects the way in which this consultation was taken into account. They are on-line available for the general public at the above-mentioned address.

For the next Plan, a new citizen participation's process has been put in place on several major issues of the water management such as the waterprice, the resilient city and the presence of water in an urban landscape like Brussels-Capital Region. This process took place from November 2020 to April 2021, before the adoption of the Plan.

FLANDERS

The protocol shows a great overlap with the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive and the revised Drinking Water Directive. This directive obliges Flanders to draw up river basis management plans including actions and measures to reach the goals. In accordance with the EU obligations, a public inquiry on the river basis management plans (RBMP) and the action programs was held to insure public participation. The response of the public inquiry was analysed and taken into account in establishing the final versions of the documents.

In relation with water related health aspects and aspects regarding drinking water provision and quality, additional targets and actions were formulated. The actions are in essence actions from the authorities with little impact on the public or stakeholders. At this stage, it was decided not to conduct a separate public inquiry.

WALLONIA

Given the Protocol shows a great overlap with the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD), no specific public participation has been done in the context of the Protocol. However, as required by the WFD, the programme of measures have been subject to public consultation during 6 months in 2015. The various opinions and comments received were taken into account in the final version of the Plan.

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

For Brussels, it's Brussels Environment, who is the public service institution in charge of the environment and energy for the Brussels-Capital Region, that has made and coordinated the Brussels contribution to this report. Some information comes from the water operator VIVAQUA in charge of drinking water distribution and sewage network in the Brussels Region.

FLANDERS

The Coordination Committee on Integrated Water Management is the competent authority for water management in the Flemish region. In the CCIWM, administrations and entities that play an important role in water management, are represented. The CCIWM is the responsible body for the preparation of the status report for the EC on the actionprogrammes of the RBMP's. Flanders decided to use the methodology for this EC status report for the reporting under the protocol.

www.integraalwaterbeleid.be

WALLONIA

For Wallonia, the Service Public de Wallonie (SPW) is the competent authority.

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.

As set out in the 1st report of Belgium prepared for the protocol, Belgium is a federal state in which competence on environmental and health policy lay mainly within the different regions. The process of target setting under the protocol is therefore in essence a regional process.

The process of target-setting in Belgium is made at the regional level. Competences in the field of health and environment are indeed mainly regionalized. The role of the national focal point for health for the Protocol W&H was mainly oriented and developed in the way of disseminate information of the Protocol to the regions, and ensure the best possible consultation between the different authorities. In this context, the national focal point for health has made two presentations of the Protocol to the members of the NEHAP (National Environment and Health Action Plan) stressing its objectives, the need of target-setting, and the conditions of reporting. A coordination meeting aimed for regional and national stakeholders was made at the scientific Institute of Public Health (Sciensano). Moreover, the Protocol was presented at the Task-Force Environment & Health regrouping ministries and administrations from the Walloon Region, the French Community, and the German-speaking Community. Several meetings were also held between the focal point health and the focal point environment.

To achieve its objectives, the national focal point for health has ensured a right participation in the different meetings under the Protocol (Working Group, Task Force on surveillance, Workshop on reporting).

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))

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Target I.1: To ensure a high level of the quality of the drinking water supplied.

The standards for drinking water quality from the EU 98/83 were used, as set in the Brussels Government Order of 24 January 2002 concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption.

Target date : on-going. (permanent obligation)

Target I.2: To inform consumers in case of non-conformity to the quality standards, especially for the lead

Any exceeding of a parameter is communicated to the consumers with the necessary recommendations and measures included.

Target date : on-going. (permanent obligation)

Target I.3: To increase analysis of metal parameters

The concentration of metals in drinking water can be influenced by migration from materials used in the public network or in the domestic distribution system.

Target date : on-going (started in 2019)

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 taken for **Target I.1**

- Daily controls and analysis by the water operator
- Control on the monitoring program by the administrative authority

Actions taken for **Target I.2**

- Regulatory duty for the water supplier to inform and to take corrective action if quality standards are exceeded

In 2020, 99,40 % of the drinking water at the tap met the quality requirements in the Brussels region.

VIVAQUA, the only water operator in charge of the production and distribution of the drinking water in the Brussels-Capital Region, must realize **daily controls and analysis** to ensure that the water supplied meets the quality standards.

- For the action on lead installations:

As regards its (public) network, in 2003 VIVAQUA initiated a campaign to replace lead connections in Brussels. During the structural eradication campaign from 2003 to the beginning of 2009, VIVAQUA replaced approximately 6,000 connections per year.

The current replacements are residual cases that had not yet been treated. When the operator finds a lead connection (e.g. during an intervention following a leak in the network, or when a VIVAQUA meter reader passes by) or are informed of it (by the Laboratory, following a water quality control), its eradication is taken care of by the operating teams, and therefore on their budget.

In 2019, 340 waste lead connections were removed.

In 2020, 401 waste lead connections were removed

In 2021, 266 lead waste connections were removed.

Actions taken for **Target I.3**

Since 2019 the parameters lead, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, manganese, zinc, boron and iron have been included in the group A parameters, which means that 20 times more results are available for these parameters. For the parameters lead (2.69 % non compliant), nickel (2.15 % non compliant) and iron (3,23% non compliant) the parametric value was exceeded in 2020.

Lead is the chemical parameter that was exceeded the most. The majority of the lead pipes in the public network have been removed (see above) but 4 out of the 11 confirmed exceedances were due to the public network. The other determined lead violations came from lead in the indoor installations which is the responsibility of the owner of the house/building. Any exceeding of a parameter is communicated to the consumers with the necessary recommendations and measures included.

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

As ensuring a high level of the quality of the drinking water supplied is an on-going target/obligation, it is not relevant to assess progress but the reduction of lead in drinking water is certainly the main challenge in Brussels-Capital Region. The programme of measures of the River basin management plan for Brussels foresees to carry out information campaigns to gradually phase out indoor lead installations. This action has not started yet.

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target I.1 : To ensure a high level of the quality of the drinking water supplied.	- Daily controls and analysis by the water operator	On-going
	- Control on the monitoring program by the administrative authority	On-going
Target I.2: To inform consumers in case of non-conformity to the quality standards, especially for the lead	- Regulatory duty for the water supplier to inform and to take corrective action if quality standards are exceeded	On-going
	- new campaign to phase out indoor lead installations	Not started yet, depending on the results of the risk-assessment (in line with the new obligation under Drinking Water Directive)
Target I.3: To increase analysis of metal parameters	- Information on the migration of metals from network and domestic distribution system	On-going
	- Include metal parameters in the group A parameters frequency	On going

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’. This target of “ensuring a good level of the quality of the drinking water supplied” must be achieved regarding the principle of equity and affordability.

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

N.A

FLANDERS

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 water intended for human consumption in Flanders must comply with the drinking water standards described in the Flemish Decree Integrated Water

Management (18 juni 2003), title 2 contains the legislation concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption. The quality standards include both drinking water produced and distributed by public drinking water companies and drinking water originated from private water sources. The revised Drinking Water Directive (2020) is being transposed into a new Flemish Government Decision, that will incorporate not only quality standards, but also new aspects of access to water and risk-based approach.

The current drinking water quality at the tap in Flanders is high (in 2020, 99,5% met the quality requirements).

Goal I-1: To maintain the current high quality of drinking water at the tap and, if necessary, improve it

Timing: on going

Goal I-2: Increase the availability of reliable data

Timing: 31/12/2024

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).

Goal I-1: Prevent the standards for health-related parameters being exceeded at the tap by raising the awareness of the population to the impact of the installations inside the house on the quality of water at the tap.

Goal I-2: Increase the availability of reliable data:

- An inventory of the quality of drinking water originating from private water sources
- On the basis of the results of the inventory, develop a package of measures to prevent the standards for health-related quality standards being exceeded at the tap insofar as possible.

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

Goal I-1: To maintain the current high quality of drinking water at the tap and, if necessary, improve it		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Prevent the standards for health-related parameters being exceeded at the tap by raising the awareness of the population to the impact of the installations inside the house on the quality of water at the tap	On going	7
Goal I-2: Increase the availability of reliable data		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
An inventory of the quality of drinking water originating from private water sources	On going	7

On the basis of the results of the inventory, develop a package of measures to prevent the standards for health-related quality standards being exceeded at the tap insofar as possible.	On going	5
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4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’. This target of “ensuring a good level of the quality of the drinking water supplied” must be achieved regarding the principle of equity and affordability.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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.

Aware of the importance of ensuring both adequate protection and harmonization of drinking water catchment areas, the regional authorities have been implementing ad hoc regulations since 1990, anticipating the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Daughter Directive on the protection of protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration (2006/118/EC). The latter aims to avoid the introduction of the most dangerous substances into groundwater and to limit the others in order to minimize the consequences, which could endanger human health or water supply, harm living resources and the aquatic ecological system or interfere with other legitimate uses of water.

The quality objectives to be attained at sites defined for the production of water intended for human consumption (surface water and groundwater) are listed in Annex XIV of the regulatory part of the Water Code. Code. The quality standards (threshold values) have been set on the basis of Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution.

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).

The Water Code (articles D.171, D.172 and D.175) stipulates that prevention zones must be defined around water intakes that can be used for drinking in open water.

More precisely, articles R.150 to R.154 provide for four protection levels for these water intakes.

Potable surface water intakes are divided into two categories, A and B, and are covered by the regulations (article R.145 of the Water Code).

Four levels of protection for these water intakes are defined (articles R.146 to R.149 of the Water Code).

The targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’. This target of “ensuring a good level of the quality of the drinking water supplied” must be achieved regarding the principle of equity and affordability.

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

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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 the Brussels Region there is no specific surveillance system for drinking water-related sickness. Major domestic outbreaks of cholera, bacillary dysentery (shigellosis), EHEC (E. coli), viral hepatitis A and typhoid via the water supply have not occurred in the last years/decades.

The legislation applicable for indoor swimming pools is included in part XVII of this report. And as stated in part XV, open air swimming in surface waters is not a possibility yet in the Brussels Region.

However, the risk of legionellosis cannot be excluded as the latest studies show:

The Legionella pneumophila bacterium has not been detected in any of the nurseries analysed by the CRIPI (Cellule Régionale d'Intervention en Pollution Intérieure) between 2006 and 2019. Since April 2009, any case of legionellosis in the Brussels Region must be declared to the Medical Hygiene Inspector within 24 hours. In addition, a network of laboratories and the National Reference Centre for Legionellosis participate in its epidemiological surveillance. An increase in cases has been observed since 2009 in Belgium (possibly due to better availability of the test). The Brussels-Capital Region has the highest incidence rate of the three Regions: 3.0/100,000 inhabitants in 2017 and 4.9/100,000 inhabitants in 2018 (Sciensano, 2019).

In the light of this observation, we propose to set a new target under this Protocol to foreseen a risk assessment of domestic distribution systems in line with the new obligation under Drinking Water Directive.

Target II.1: In relation to Legionella to foreseen a general analysis of the potential risks associated with the domestic distribution system and monitoring with focus on the priority premises

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).
 - Brussels Government Order of 24 January 2002 concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption.
 - daily control and analysis by the water supplier (EHEC and coliforms);
 - Brussels Government Order of 10 October 2002 laying down operating conditions for swimming pools;
 - Concerning 'wet' cooling towers, special conditions for the prevention of legionella are included in the environmental permit; a management and maintenance plan must be drawn up which contains information about the treatment program, checks carried out and frequencies of the analyses.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target II.1 : In relation to Legionella to foreseen a general analysis of the potential risks associated with the domestic distribution system and monitoring with focus on the priority premises.	Only if analysis or monitoring shows that action needs to be taken (regulatory level, control, review of conditions in environmental permits...)	Not started yet

This issue will be dealt with the transposition of the new Drinking water Directive (by 2029 a data set containing information related to the risk assessment of domestic distribution systems (general analysis and monitoring) must be set up).

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.

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

Outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases are rare. The fact that Domestic outbreaks of cholera, bacillary dysentery (shigellosis), EHEC (E. coli), viral hepatitis A and typhoid via the water supply have not occurred in the last years/decades justifies the non-setting of target.

FLANDERS

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 Flanders outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases are rare. There is a surveillance system of drinking water and public recreational water, to prevent water-related diseases. There is no specific surveillance system for water-related sickness. The mandatory infectious disease reporting system includes diseases that are or could be transmitted through water. Major domestic outbreaks of cholera, bacillary dysentery (shigellosis), EHEC (E. coli), viral hepatitis A and typhoid via the water supply have not occurred in the last years or decennium.

During the last period to which this report relates 2 instances of non-virulent cholera were detected in 2 patients. Cause was linked to recreational water activities and both instances were related to different locations.

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).

- Legal/regulatory measures in Flanders:

- o Decision of the Flemish Government of 19/06/2009 on initiatives to prevent the spread of harmful effects caused by biotic factors: Clusters of gastroenteritis are required to be reported to the Flemish Agency for Care and Health, as well as cases of EHEC, hepatitis A, shigellosis, typhoid fever, cholera, legionellosis and leptospirosis. The teams infection prevention and environmental health of the Agency then tries

to trace the source of the infection and investigates whether the potential source can also pose a risk to other people. The Agency can take initiatives to prevent the expansion of harmful effects caused by biotic factors. (Decision of the Flemish Government of June 19, 2009 concerning initiatives to prevent the spread of harmful effects caused by biotic factors)

- Decision of the Flemish Government of 9/02/2007 concerning the prevention of Legionnaires' Disease in publicly accessible places. The Flemish Government has determined the necessary measures concerning the prevention of Legionnaires' Disease in publicly accessible places. The decision distinguishes between: measures for collective warm water systems in high and medium risk publicly accessible places; measures for cooling towers; measures for air conditioning systems with humidity treatment; measures for dental units and measures for exhibitions.
- Decision of the Flemish Government of 13/12/2002 concerning the regulations on the quality and supply of water for human consumption. This regulation is based on the European Drinking Water Directive. There is a surveillance system of the drinking water quality to prevent water-related diseases. There are also guidelines about which measures should be taken in case of a potential public health risk.

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

N.A.

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.

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

Outbreaks and incidents of water-related diseases are rare. Domestic outbreaks of cholera, bacillary dysentery, EHEC, viral hepatitis A and paratyphoid have not occurred in the last years or decennium.

WALLONIA

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Due to the urban landscape, the current level of connection to public drinking water supply is estimated to be 100 % of the population.

In 1998, the only water supplier in the Brussels region, VIVAQUA, has set up a social fund for people with payment problems. This fund is managed by the OCMW-CPAS (public centre for social welfare).

Main target III.1 : Provide drinking water at a sustainable price, taking into account the “cost-recovery of water services” principle and encouraging a sustainable water use.

This goal is mentioned in the articles 2 and 6 of the Ordinance of 20 October 2006 establishing a framework for water policy in the Brussels-Capital Region. An independent water price regulator has been in place since 2018 to objectivise the costs to be included in the water price. This authority has set up a pricing methodology that meets a dozen legally established guidelines, including non-discrimination between users, the pursuit of rational, sustainable and economical use of resources, the maintenance of a balanced development of investments by water operators,...

Target date: on-going. (permanent obligation)

Main target III.2: Provide drinking water at a sustainable price taking into account the difficulties of access for the most precarious households. (see challenge in sub-question 3.)

As set out in the Government agreement, it was initially planned to set up a social tariff for this precarious public. With the adoption of a new legal text at the end of 2021, it is now in the form of a so-called "social" financial intervention that this assistance to precarious households will be provided. This social intervention will be provided by the Region through the water operator from January 1st 2022. This new legal text also acts the ban on interrupting the supply of drinking water for households from the same starting date.

Target date : 2022

Main target III.3 : Provide adequate framework and control for self-producers of drinking water.

The number of self-producers of drinking water is very low in the Brussels-Capital Region due to the high rate of public supply but with the announced increase in the price of water and the potential (but not yet proven) risks linked to the supply of drinking water, this is an issue that needs to be taken into account now.

Target date: on-going. (permanent obligation)

Main target III.4 : Improve the offer of public fountains and guarantee the maintenance of these structures

This objective is also included in the governmental agreement.

Target date : 2024

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).

The current water price for households - establishing a progressive tariff and taking into account the number of persons in the household - motivates users towards a sustainable water use.

Since 2020, an independent organism to control the water price will approve any change in the tariffs applied by water supplier and used water sewage and treatment company. This organism must guarantee the good application of the principle of cost recovery for the water services.

Besides, a social fund intervenes in the payment of the water invoice or the reparation of leaks for people with payment problems. The fund is financed by a contribution of 0.03 € for each m³ invoiced.

The way to reach the **second target** is still in discussion but is written down in the Brussels Government agreement 2019-2024. The idea is to provide financial assistance to people in financial difficulty (status linked to health care insurance) to pay their water bill.

As regard to the **third target**, a new regulation adopted in November 2018 (coming into force on the 1st April 2019) provides now an appropriate framework. The self-producer as manager of a groundwater catchment must take preventive measures to avoid contamination of the catchment water. The designation of prevention zones is not always possible but is made compulsory when the catchment provides water for human consumption for more than 50 people or on average more than 10m³ per day. The control of the quality is the responsibility of the owner of the catchment.

For **target III.4**, an analysis of the needs for public fountains has been carried out since the last reporting. This target is then underway through a regional grant for the installation and maintenance of 43 new public fountains (750.000€ for the next 4 years). Besides this regional action, a number of Brussels municipalities have also expressed an interest in a group purchase and installation by the operator VIVAQUA. We mentioned in our last report that a consultation of the municipalities were launched. Resulting to this, 78 new fountains must be place during the next years.

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

The implementation of the cost recovery principle is an ongoing process, continuously being updated in accordance with newly achieved information, knowledge and transparency in the costs associated with the different water services. A new 'water regulator' has been put in place in order to precisely improve this objective of fair and equitable pricing.

The main challenge for the next years will be to guarantee this access for the most vulnerable part of the population. The water precarity is thus a topic on which the Region has to focus on : mechanism of Social Fund must be review, a social tariff should be put in place, the installation of individual water meters will have to be pursued...

The question of the development of public fountains will also be raised. On the basis of an analysis of the current supply, the needs encountered and subject to clarification of the responsibilities of each party, the Region will consider increasing the number of free water access points.

Finally, the question of the security of water supply will be further explored in the context of climate change and following the latest drought episodes in Belgium.

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target III.1 : Provide drinking water at a sustainable price, taking into account the “cost-recovery of water services” principle and encouraging a sustainable water use.	Establishment of new pricing methodology	Pricing methodology : Executed
	Validation of the water price on this basis	Validation of the new tariffs : Executed (tariff period starting on 1 January 2022)
Target III.2 : Provide drinking water at a sustainable price taking into account the difficulties of access for the most precarious households	Social Water Fund	Executed
	Social intervention in the water price	Executed (starting from 1 january 2022)
Target III.3 : Provide adequate framework and control for self-producers of drinking water.	Regulatory framework	Executed
	Control	On going
Target III.4 : Improve the offer of public fountains and guarantee the maintenance of these structures	Analysis of the needs for public fountains	Executed
	Installation of new fountains	On going (rate: 3/10)

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’.

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

FLANDERS

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 Flemish Government Decree, title 2 (18 July 2003) with respect to the legislation concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption contains the right of access to the public drinking water supply. When connection is not possible due to technical or economic aspects, an alternative, safe access to drinking water is provided within the context of protection of public health.

The “General Water Sale Regulations” (Flemish Government Decision of April, 8th, 2011) determines the rights and the obligations of both the drinking water companies and the customer and include a number of public service obligations with a social nature.

The current level of connection to the public drinking water supply is estimated to be more than 98.9% of the population. Citizens who have no access to public water supplies can have their drinking water originating from a private water source analysed free of charge. The Flemish Public Health Agency has set up a special control programme with the Flemish Environment Agency.

A tariff structure and specific oversight by the WaterRegulator has been in effect since 2016 (Flemish Government Decision of February, 5th, 2016). Water pricing is locked into a 6 year period based on a “tariff plan with a detailed tariff path”.

Goal III-1: To increase the availability of data concerning the ‘level of protection’ of water originating from private drinking water supplies.

Timing: N.A.

Goal III-2: Sustainable pricing of drinkable water taking into account the aspects of sustainable water use and sustainable supply from the drinking water infrastructure.

Timing: N.A.

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).

Goal III-1 -: Possible measures:

- Developing a regional supervision of private drinking water supplies, based on a regional control programme

Goal III-2 – actions taken:

- In 2016 a uniform tariff structure has been introduced (in legislation finished 31/12/2015) across Flanders that, taking into account scale effects (for families), stimulates sustainable water consumption. To achieve affordability for everyone, a social correction is provided for the most vulnerable. At the same time, a new tariff regulation method was introduced that fixes drinking water rates for the longer term (= legal certainty), which promotes efficient and responsible sustainable drinking water supply. A method was developed to monitor the affordability of the integrated water invoice, which was applied for the first time in 2018 and led to policy advice. The method will be applied regularly to keep track of affordability

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

Goal III-1: To increase the availability of data concerning the ‘level of protection’ of the water originating from private drinking water supplies.

Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Developing of regional supervision of private drinking water supplies, based on a regional control programme – evaluation of the level of progress	Ongoing	8
Goal III-2: Sustainable pricing of drinkable water taking into account the aspects of sustainable water use and sustainable supply from the drinking water infrastructure.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Within the overall cost recovery percentage of 100% it must be ensured that every consumer / user sector makes a reasonable contribution separately to the costs that this sector causes. First of all, there must be transparency concerning the costs of production and distribution of drinkable water. The interpretation of the social, ecological and economic corrections must also be represented in a transparent manner, evaluated and further given shape.	Ongoing	10
In 2016 a uniform tariff structure has been introduced (in legislation finished 31/12/2015) across Flanders that, taking into account scale effects (for families), stimulates sustainable water consumption. To achieve affordability for everyone, a social correction is provided for the most vulnerable. At the same time, a new tariff regulation method was introduced that fixes drinking water rates for the longer term (= legal certainty), which promotes efficient and responsible sustainable drinking water supply.	Ongoing	10
A method was developed to monitor the affordability of the integrated water invoice, which was applied for the first time in 2018 and led to policy advice. The method will be applied regularly to keep track of affordability	Ongoing	8
Change the current water price policy so that the price of water is an instrument that motivates users towards sustainable water use and so that the user makes a reasonable contribution to the private and environmental and resource costs of drinking water production and distribution.	On going	9

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 percentage of the population connected to the public water supply system has been relatively stable for many years and is close to 100%. The small remaining percentage is supplied by private water catchments, subject to permits.

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).

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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.

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

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Main target IV.1: Ensure a treatment of waste water in compliance with regulations with the highest possible collection rate.

The targets on sanitation are set for more than 25 years in the Brussels-Capital Region with the transposition of Directive 91/271/EEC (Order of the Brussels Government of 23 march 1994). The entire territory of the Brussels-Capital Region is a sensitive area that must be equipped with an urban waste water collection system that meets the requirements of Annex I.A. to this Order (tertiary treatment of nitrogen and phosphorus). By derogation to this, individual systems or other appropriate systems ensuring an identical level of environmental protection may be used. In practice, this kind of individual systems are quite marginal as we estimate that the collection rate is more than 98%.

The target date was 31 march 1998.

Main target IV.2: Clarify the framework for waste water treatment when collecting in the public sanitation network is not possible

Target date : 2022

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).

Starting from nowhere, the major challenge of the Brussels-Capital Region was the construction of 2 regional wastewater treatment plants that became operational in 2000 and 2007 and the collectors to carry the wastewater to these

stations. Together, they can treat the wastewater of 1,460,000 inhabitants-equivalents.

The Program of measures foresees the improvement of the treatment in dry weather conditions (priority action nr. 1.5).

The clarification of the legal framework on individual sanitation systems was also necessary to ensure the achievement of the target. A first step has been taken by means of a modification of the Ordinance of 20 October 2006 establishing a framework for the water policy and the list of installations subject to environmental permits, but this still involves drawing up a map determining the zones that will remain under autonomous sanitation in the territory of the Brussels-Capital Region.

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

The progress made is immense, when we know that before 2000 all of the Region's wastewater flowed into the Senne River. This is no longer acceptable nowadays. The length and complexity of the construction projects caused a lot of delays, it was only in 2012 and 2014 that the last collectors were finalized.

The Brussels-South wastewater treatment plant has also undergone a major modernization to improve its water treatment.

Actions :

- Construction, exploitation of wastewater treatment plants (UWWTP) : finished
- improvement of the treatment by the UWWTP in dry weather : on-going
- Clarify the legal framework for individual sanitation systems : on-going (a map must now be edited and published)

As a challenge, we can mention the better possible improvement on the cost-recovery on sanitation services in Brussels-Capital region. After a first step in 2009, an update was made in 2015 and from now on, an independent water price control body will have to guarantee the proper application of this principle.

Regarding the second target in this topic, a better consideration of the sanitation regime of each area of the territory (collective or autonomous) and the constraint of connection to the sewer network must be reinforced and controlled in practice. The legal framework is now adapted and progress should be made on a case-by-case basis.

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target IV.1 : Ensure a treatment of waste water in compliance with regulations with the highest possible collection rate.	Operation of the two regional treatment plants in compliance with the provisions on urban waste water treatment	On going (rate : 8/10)
	Better possible improvement on the cost-recovery on sanitation	On going (rate : 8/10)

	services in Brussels-Capital region	
Target IV.2: Clarify the framework for waste water treatment when collecting in the public sanitation network is not possible	Adaptation of the legislation Drawing up a map of the sanitation regime covering the entire territory of the Brussels-Capital Region and approval by the Government	Executed On going (rate : 7/10)

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’.

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

N.A.

FLANDERS

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 the area of waste water sanitation Flanders must at least comply with the objectives of the European directive of 21 May 1991 concerning the treatment of urban waste water (91/271/EEC).

The objectives of the European Urban Waste Water Directive have been incorporated in Flemish legislation of Vlarem II (in particular in Article 2.3.6.2 and Article 2.3.6.3, Article 4.2.5.4.1-4.2.5.4.2 and 5.3.1.1-5.3.1.4).

The whole of Flanders has been defined as a sensitive area. On the basis of the European directive, the following requirements must consequently be complied to:

- The Flemish region has to ensure that all agglomerations with a size between 2.000 and 10.000 p.e. are provided with a collecting system for urban waste water that is connected to treatment plants with secondary treatment (by 31 December 2005).
- The Flemish region has to ensure that all agglomerations with a p.e. of more than 10.000 are provided with a collecting system for urban waste water connecting to treatment plants with tertiary treatment (by 31 December 1998).

The Flemish region has identified 92 agglomerations with a p.e. between 2.000 and 10.000 and 112 with a p.e. of more than 10.000.

On top of these European obligations, during the implementation of this European legislation in the Flemish legislation in Vlare II it was specified that all of the remaining urban waste water that is produced, before discharging, should undergo at least a primary treatment (via at least a septic tank). This obligation was immediately applicable on the implementation of Vlare II (since 1 June 1995). With this legislation, 100% of the population is provided with access to waste water sanitation.

Moreover, for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive the Flemish Government has decided to further optimise in the future the existing individual treatment by means of septic tanks with the intention of reducing the waste water emissions in the watercourses as a contribution towards achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive. To that end, zoning plans have been drawn up for all of the Flemish municipalities. In these plans it is decided for each house in the rural area as to which treatment in the future is preferred (connection to the collective treatment or individual sanitation by an individual treatment installation with a higher purification output instead of the existing septic tanks). The total cost is estimated at 10 billion euro, of which 4.5 billion euro needed for further connection of rural area for the objectives for the Water Framework Directive; investment costs that must of course be spread out in time. This spreading out in time has been related to the goals of the draft river basin management plans (2022-2027), not yet been approved. An update will be provided as soon as the RMBP's are officially adopted.

The Water Framework Directive and the Integrated Water Policy Decree also give priority to cost recovery by the water services. The water services that were delimited in Flanders are: public (drinking) water production and distribution, public collection and sanitation of waste water, self-sufficiency concerning water production and self-sufficiency concerning the purification of waste water. On the basis of an economic analysis, measures must be introduced to implement the cost recovery principle on the one hand and to promote sustainable water use on the other hand. The implementation of the cost recovery principle is an ongoing process, continuously being updated in accordance with newly achieved information, knowledge and transparency in the costs associated with the different water services.

Goal IV-1: Expansion of the collective sanitation systems in the central area delineated in the zoning plans, particularly complete compliance with the European Urban Waste Water Directive concerning the expansion of the collective sanitation systems in all agglomerations larger than 2.000 p.e..

Timing: was 2012, goal was reached

Goal IV-2: Expansion of the collective sanitation systems in the rural area delineated in the zoning plans as an optimization of the existing primary treatment of urban waste water by septic tanks (phase 1) by means of the approved regional investment programmes (OP 2006 – 2009) and municipal investment programmes (GIP 2005 - 2008). This corresponds with an estimated increase in the collective level of sanitation to $\pm 83\%$.

Timing: 2012-2015, goal was reached

Goal IV-3: Planning of the further expansions of the collective sanitation and individual systems in the rural area delineated in the zoning plans as an optimization of the existing primary treatment of urban waste water by septic tanks (phase 2-3).

Timing: 2015, goal was reached

Goal IV-4: Sustainable pricing of waste water purification with attention to the principle 'the polluter pays'.

Timing: 31/12/2015

In 2016 a uniform tariff structure (pricing of drinkwaterproduction and distribution plus pricing of waste water purification) has been introduced (in legislation finished 31/12/2015) across Flanders that, taking into account scale effects (for families), stimulates sustainable water consumption and with attention to the principle 'the polluter pays'. To achieve affordability for everyone, a social correction is provided for the most vulnerable. At the same time, a new tariff regulation method was introduced that fixes drinking water rates for the longer term (= legal certainty), which promotes efficient and responsible sustainable drinking water supply. A method was developed to monitor the affordability of the integrated water invoice, which was applied for the first time in 2018 and led to policy advice. The method will be applied regularly to keep track of affordability

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).

Goal IV-1 - Possible measures:

Continue to implement the current policy.

Goal IV-2 - Possible measures:

Implement the regional and municipality investment programmes. Level of sanitation achieved. Further investment programmes for optimization are commissioned.

Goal IV-3 - Possible measures:

Execute plans for the whole region with a priority ranking of the future investments (based on ecological and economical criteria). These plans are revised every 6 years within the River Basin Management plans.

Goal IV-4 - Possible measures:

Change the current water price policy so that the user makes a reasonable contribution to the private and environmental and resource costs of the public collection and purification of waste water.

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

Goal IV-1: Expansion of the collective sanitation systems in the central area delineated in the zoning plans, particularly complete compliance with the European Urban Waste Water Directive concerning the expansion of the collective sanitation systems in all agglomerations larger than 2.000 p.e..		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Continue to implement the current policy.	Finished	10
Goal IV-2: Expansion of the collective sanitation systems in the rural area delineated in the zoning plans as an optimization of the existing primary treatment of urban waste water by septic tanks (phase 1) by means of the approved regional investment programmes (OP 2006 – 2009) and municipal investment programmes (GIP 2005 - 2008). This corresponds with an estimated increase in the collective level of sanitation to ± 83%.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Implement the regional and municipality investment programmes.	Finished	10
Goal IV-3: Planning of the further expansions of the collective sanitation and individual systems in the rural area delineated in the zoning plans as an optimization of the existing primary treatment of urban waste water by septic tanks (phase 2-3).		

Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Execute plans for the whole region with a priority ranking of the future investments (based on ecological and economical criteria).	Finished	10
Goal IV-4: Sustainable pricing of waste water purification with attention to the principle ‘the polluter pays’.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Change the current water price policy so that the user makes a reasonable contribution to the private and environmental and resource costs of the public collection and purification of waste water.	On going	9
In 2016 a uniform tariff structure (pricing of drinkwaterproduction and distribution plus pricing of waste water purification) has been introduced (in legislation finished 31/12/2015) across Flanders that, taking into account scale effects (for families), stimulates sustainable water consumption and with attention to the principable ‘the polluter pays’. To achieve affordability for everyone, a social correction is provided for the most vulnerable.	Finished	10
Change the current water price policy so that the price of water is an instrument that motivates users towards sustainable water use and so that the user makes a reasonable contribution to the private and environmental and resource costs of drinking water production and distribution and with attention to the principable ‘the polluter pays’.,	On Going	9

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 objective is reached with 100% access to 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).

/

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.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Within the meaning of the Ordinance of 20 October 2006, legal entities involved in the water cycle must, among other things, comply with the principle of quality of service, defined as the guarantee of high levels of health and safety protection through the imposition of quality standards and monitoring of operators' performance.

Main target V.1: Keeping a high level of performance in water supply including continuity of the service, sufficient quantity, good management of the assets.

Target date : on-going (permanent obligation)

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).

Action 1 : Ensure the maintenance of the drinking water distribution system (priority action 4.1 of the program of measures in the Brussels Water management plan 2016-2021)

The legislation concerning drinking water does not make any statements concerning the performance level of the public drinking water supplies. Aspects of the drinking water quality are covered by the legislation since the ultimate aim is to supply clean and healthy water at any time and at a reasonable price. This supply would have to comply with the needs of the households, industry, etc.

Aspects concerning the performance of drinking water supplies (continuity of the supply, sufficient quantity, supply in emergency situations, etc.) are now defined by the water regulator, Brugel. The list of KPI's that apply to the water supplier in Brussels can be consulted on <https://www.brugel.brussels/themes/eau-17/methodologie-tarifaire-2022-2026-446> (by clicking on "Les KPIs")

Action 2: Establishment of tariff methodologies that seek a high level of performance from water operators

The tariffs answer to a methodology which has been drawn up in accordance with several guidelines, amongst which “tariffs encourage water operators to improve performance and carry out the research and development necessary for their activities, taking into account in particular their investment plans as approved by the Government and criteria for efficient use of water resources;”

Action 3: Yearly description of the quality of the service delivered by the water operators

Water operators are required to provide an annual report describing the quality of their service during the previous calendar year.

This report shall contain at least the following data :

- (1) the number, frequency and average duration of interruptions in water supply and sanitation;
- (2) the nature of the failures and the list of emergency interventions;
- (3) the time taken to process claims and manage emergency calls;
- (4) connection and repair times.

Action 4: New management and investments program launched by the watersupplier VIVAQUA

Action 5: Improving the legal protection of groundwater in catchment protection areas to reduce the costs of water purification

An order of the Brussels Government of 2002 has been updated in 2017 to reinforce the legal protection (‘finished’) but there are still actions to be taken within the framework of this order..(‘on-going’ and ‘not started’)

Action 6: The recast of the drinking water directive (2020/2184) makes an assessment of water leakage levels and of the potential for improvements in water leakage reduction mandatory.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target V.1: Keeping a high level of performance in water supply including continuity of the service, sufficient quantity, good management of the assets.	Action 1: Ensure the maintenance of the drinking water distribution system	On going (rate : 7/10)
	Action 2: Establishment of tariff methodologies that seek a high level of performance from water operators	Executed
	Action 3: Yearly description of the quality of the service delivered by the water operators	On going
		On going

	Action 4: New management and investments program launched by the watersupplier	On going
	Action 5: Improving the legal protection of groundwater in catchment protection areas to reduce the costs of water purification	(rate : 5/10) Pending
	Action 6: assessment of water leakage levels	By January 2026

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’ and goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’.

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

FLANDERS

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 current legislation concerning drinking water does not make any statements concerning the performance level of the public drinking water supplies. Aspects of the drinking water quality are covered by the legislation since the ultimate aim is to supply clean and healthy water at any time and for a reasonable price. This supply would have to comply with the needs of the households, industry, etc.

Aspects concerning the performance of drinking water supplies (continuity of the supply, sufficient quantity, supply in emergency situations, etc.) must be incorporated in the current legislation. The public drinking water companies are obliged to use benchmark concepts to measure the different levels of performance of the various drinking water processes.

Operators are obliged to draw up improvement plans at each of the executed process benchmarks and report on the implementation of these plans.

As of 2021 the public drinking water companies that are active in the Flemish Region have been designated as essential service providers by the National Committee for the

Security of the Delivery and Distribution of Drinking Water. The designation is necessary under the implementation of the national law of 7 april 2019 on the adoption of a framework on security of the network- and informationsystems of public interest to protect public safety. This national law transposed the European directive 2016/1148 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the Union (NIS directive).

The public drinking water companies make use of what can be characterized as “critical infrastructure” to provide the service of the distribution and delivery of drinking water. A formal designation of that critical infrastructure is an option under the national law of 1 july 2011 concerning the security and protection of critical infrastructure. The national law transposes the Council Directive 2008/114/EC of 8 December 2008 on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection. As of yet there has been no formal designation of drinking water infrastructure as critical.

Goal V-1: The further mapping and increasing of the levels of performance of collective systems for water supply without endangering the sustainability and affordability of drinking water.

Timing: goal will be updated as soon as regional legislation to implement revised drinking water directive is adopted.

Goal V-2: Ensure that the drinking water companies active in the Flemish region have adequate levels of protection to continue their service, delivery of clean and healthy 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).

Goal V-1 - Possible measures:

- Making an inventory of processes concerning collective systems for drinking water supplies (most important deficiencies, continuity of the supply, etc.)
- Feasibility study concerning the implementation of criteria concerning the performance level in the current legislation. Provision will be made for aspects such as continuity of the supply, obligatory minimum supply in emergency situations (e.g. x litres/person/day for x hours), dependence of energy supply, etc.

Goal V-2 – possible measures:

- Follow up on implementation of a security policy by the drinking water companies to ensure a continued supply of clean and healthy drinking water through review of the self-audits and periodic external audits.
- Assess if a designation of drinking water companies’ infrastructure as critical infrastructure can ensure a higher level of safety and preparedness within the sector

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

Goal V-1: To include in the legislation aspects concerning the performance level of drinking water supplies (long term)
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Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Making an inventory of processes concerning collective systems for drinking water supplies (most important deficiencies, continuity of the supply, etc.)	On going	8
Feasibility study concerning the further implementation of criteria concerning the performance level in the current legislation. Provision will be made for aspects such as continuity of the supply, obligatory minimum supply in emergency situations (e.g. x litres/person/day for x hours), dependence of energy supply, etc.	On going	8
Goal V-2: Ensure implementation of a high level of security for network and information systems of drinking water companies and assess the need for a designation of parts of the drinking water companies infrastructure as critical		
Follow up on implementation of a security policy by the drinking water companies to ensure a continued supply of clean and healthy drinking water through review of the self-audits and periodic external audits.	Ongoing	2
Assess if a designation of drinking water companies' infrastructure as critical infrastructure can ensure a higher level of safety and preparedness within the sector	Ongoing	Not started

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under:

- This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.
- NIS directive and directive on the identification and designation of European critical infrastructures and the assessment of the need to improve their protection

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 objective is reached with 100% access to 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).

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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.
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5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.
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VI. Levels of performance of collective systems and other systems for sanitation (art. 6, para. 2 (e))

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Main target VI.1: Keeping a high level of performance of the collective system for sanitation (collect and treatment by the 2 regional waste water treatment plants) including continuity of the service, conformity with the discharges standards,...)

Target date : on-going (permanent obligation)

Sub-target: Clarify the framework for individual treatment plants

Target date : 2023

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).

The Brussels-Capital Region must comply with Directive 91/271/EEC and the requirements established in its Annex I (A).

As it is the case for water supply, KPI are set for the quality of the urban wastewater sewage network. They can be consulted for both Brussels' wateroperators following the next link:
<https://www.brugel.brussels/themes/eau-17/methodologie-tarifaire-2022-2026-446>.

The 2 urban wastewater treatment plants must comply not only with the requirements of annex 1.B of Directive 91/271/EEC (BOD, COD, SS, Nt, Pt) but also with the discharge standards in their environmental permit.

Action 1: Improvement of the treatment in dry weather conditions (priority action nr. 1.5 of the program of measures in the Brussels management plan 2016-2021)

In order to equip the UWWTP 'Brussels South' with a more extensive treatment of nitrogen and phosphorus, major works were started in 2014 to adapt the installations. The works were planned in three phases. The first phase

was completed in the summer of 2016. During this phase, a new primary sedimentation plant was put into operation and new infrastructure has been built for the biological and rainstorm street. The 2nd phase consisted of the construction of the biological basins and the membrane filter zone (finished in March 2019). During the last phase 2019-2020, the sludge treatment plant will be modernised (annual report of the SBGE-BMWB, 2016).

Action 2: Strengthening the monitoring of sewage treatment plant effluents

Action 3: Establishment of tariff methodologies that seek a high level of performance from water operators

The tariffs answer to a methodology which has been drawn up in accordance with several guidelines, amongst which “tariffs encourage water operators to improve performance and carry out the research and development necessary for their activities, taking into account in particular their investment plans as approved by the Government and criteria for efficient use of water resources;”

Action 4: Yearly description of the quality of the service delivered by the water operators

Water operators are required to provide an annual report describing the quality of their service during the previous calendar year.

This report shall contain at least the following data :

- (1) the number, frequency and average duration of interruptions in water supply and sanitation;
- (2) the nature of the failures and the list of emergency interventions;
- (3) the time taken to process claims and manage emergency calls;
- (4) connection and repair times.

Action 5: (for the sub-target) : Review the legal framework to identify cases where individual treatment is required.

- Modification of an Order to make all individual wastewater treatment plants a classified installation (from the 1st population-equivalent) : finished (april 2019)
- Adaptation of the Water framework Ordinance to clarify the sanitation regime and to map the self-sustaining sanitation areas : finished
- As set for Target IV.2, this Action requires the drawing up of a map of the sanitation regime covering the entire territory of the Brussels-Capital Region and its approval by the Government.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target VI.1: Keeping a high level of performance in water supply including continuity of the service, sufficient quantity, good management of the assets.	Action 1: Improvement of the treatment in dry weather conditions	Executed (concerning UWWTP Brussels-south)
	Action 2: Strengthening the monitoring of sewage treatment plant effluents	On going (rate: 6/10)

	Action 3: Establishment of tariff methodologies that seek a high level of performance from water operators	Executed
	Action 4: Yearly description of the quality of the service delivered by the water operators	On going
	Action 5: Review the legal framework to identify cases where individual treatment is required	On going (rate : 7/10) See also Target IV.2 hereabove

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’ and goal nr. 6.3 ‘by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.

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

FLANDERS

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.

Flanders must at least comply to the European directive concerning the treatment of urban waste water (91/271/EC). In the Flemish environmental legislation (Vlarem II), on top of the discharge standards for each installation, the objective of 75% nitrogen and phosphorus disposal in the whole of Flanders was also implemented.

In 2003, by means of a change to Vlarem, the improvement of the output of the waste water treatment plants was already partly realized. Due to the increase in stringency for all parameters, removal rates were also introduced in addition to concentration standards, nutrient standards were applied for WWTP < 10,000 IE and > 2,000 IE, and an average daily concentration for Nt (total nitrogen) was introduced.

Introducing these disposal percentages has ensured that the operation of the Flemish WWTP became more targeted on removing the pollutant load. Dilution and other negative impact factors had negative consequences on the observance of the WWTP standardization for the first time.

The average WWTP treatment outputs BOD (biochemical oxygen demand), COD (chemical oxygen demand), SS (suspended solids), Nt (total nitrogen) and Pt (total phosphorus) for Flanders amounted to 97%, 88%, 95%, 77% and 84% in 2008, respectively. Mainly for BOD, COD, SS and Pt the optimum has possibly been reached.

Goal V-1: Conformance of the discharges by treatment plants with the discharge standards in the permit.

Timing: Immediate

Goal V-2: Conformance of the discharges of individual treatment installations with the Vlarem discharge standards.

Timing: Immediate

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).

N.A.

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

Goal V-1: Conformance of the discharges by treatment plants with the discharge standards in the permit	On going
Goal V-2: Conformance of the discharges of individual treatment installations with the Vlarem discharge standards.	On going

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’ and goal nr. 6.3 ‘by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 objective is reached with 100% access to 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).

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

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

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

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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 areas protection is a requirement since 2002 through the establishment of protection perimeters for the Brussels catchment areas.

The Brussels Order of 24 January 2002 concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption states that analyses must be carried out with regard to the quality of the drinking water, which is done within the framework of the legally required control by laboratories recognized by a control authority.

The adoption of the European Directive 2015/1787 of 6 October 2015 amending annexes II and III to Directive 98/83 provides a qualitative approach to water distribution based on risk management, but safety management plans are not imposed. They are voluntary for the moment.

The recast of the drinking water directive 2020/2184 makes the risk-based approach compulsory, risk assessment and risk management of the catchment areas for abstraction points and for each supply system that includes the abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution to the point of supply must be carried out by the water supplier.

Main Target VII.1: Making risk-based approach that covers the whole supply chain from the catchment area, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution of water mandatory

Target date : Directive to be transposed by January 2023

Sub-targets:

- Implement a risk-based approach to water safety
- Implement the legal protection in protection areas of catchments for drinking 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).

Action 1 : Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)

With the new directive 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), and specifically its articles 7, 8 and 9 on Risk-based approach to water safety, Risk assessment and risk management of the catchment areas for abstraction points and for each supply system, this target VII.1 should be fulfilled. Article 8 specifies the risk-assessment and risk management of the supply system should be carried out by the water supplier.

Action 2: Implementation of the Order establishing catchment protection zones

In 2017 the Order of 2002 concerning the protection zones of the catchment area was updated. The activities in these zones are better regulated, for example storage tanks of more than 5 000 litres of hydrocarbons should be subjected to more frequently leakage tests. Since 01/01/2016 any use of pesticides is forbidden in the protection zones of the catchment areas. A better control and campaigns of information should be done to ensure the respect of the legal disposals.

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

Action 2 above-mentioned is on-going but the main action/challenge to reach this target will be the further implementation of risk reduction and risk management in drinking water production through the establishment of “Water safety plans” through the transposition of the recast of the “Drinking water directive” (action 1)

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target VII.1: Making risk-based approach that covers the whole supply chain from the catchment area, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution of water mandatory	Action 1 : Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)	On going (rate: 6/10)
	Action 2: Implementation of the Order establishing catchment protection zones	On going (rate: 6/10)

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’

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

FLANDERS

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 conformity with the legislation, public drinking water companies must produce and distribute drinking water in a sustainable manner, using the best techniques available.

The Flemish Government Decree of 13 December 2002 states that analyses must be carried out with regard to the quality of the drinking water, which is done within the framework of the legally required control by laboratories recognized by a regional control agency.

Most water supplies must be certified (ISO, etc.)

Both, the competent governments / authority and the public water companies recognize the importance of a risk estimation and risk management approach for the

future drinking water supply. Therefore the public water companies have been legally obliged to fulfil specific demands regarding the development of risk assessments and risk management approaches.

The public drinking water companies have drafted WSP's for all of their delivery areas.

Goal VII-1: Full implementation of risk reduction and risk management in drinking water production through the establishment of Water Safety Plans

Timing: goal will be updated as soon as regional legislation to implement revised drinking water directive is adopted.

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).

GOAL VII-1 - Possible measures:

Full implementation of the 'Water Safety Plan' concept for all public drinking water applications / zones.

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

Goal VII-1: implementation of risk reduction and risk management in drinking water production		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Full implementation of the 'Water Safety Plan' concept for all public drinking water applications / zones.	Executed	8

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all'

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol are derived from the Drinking Water Directive

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).

Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)

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

Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast): on going

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all'

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

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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 Brussels-Capital Region doesn't have a Code of Good practices as it is the case in Flanders but we follow the requirements of Annex 1 (Part A) of Directive 91/271/EEC : The design, construction and maintenance of collecting systems shall be undertaken in accordance with the best technical knowledge not entailing excessive costs, notably regarding:

- Volume and characteristics of urban waste water,
- Prevention of leaks,
- Limitation of pollution of receiving waters due to storm water overflows.

The latter aspect is a key action of the programme of measures for the quality of the surface waterbodies. (see point X hereafter)

Target VIII.1: Considering what is mentioned above, a specific target that would be set under the Protocol is to be part of a process of continuous improvement of the sewerage network and purification by the UWWTP.

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).

Action 1 : Maximize the treatment efficiency of the UWWTP: on-going (permanent obligation of improvement)

In accordance with the investments plan of the water operator, the UWWTP of Brussels South has been upgraded to include membrane filtration, which goes beyond the requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC

A study must still be carried out to assess the possibility of improvement of the treatment not entailing excessive costs for UWWTP Brussels North.

Action 2: Set up a dynamic management of the sewerage network

It can be considered as a good practice to put in place a new way of management of the sewerage network through a more intensive use of its existing storage capacity in the sewage and anticipatory regulation of flows in the various networks. This management would have benefits both in terms of reducing flooding and overflows from storm overflows and in terms of better wastewater treatment (less by-pass). In order to implement Action 2, two controlled sluices have been installed: one directly on a CSO weir and one at the entrance of a major stormbasin. Those devices are necessary to implement later the dynamic management of the sewerage network.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target VIII.1: <i>Be part of a process of continuous improvement of the sewerage network and purification by the UWWTP</i>	Action 1 : Maximize the treatment efficiency of the UWWTP	On going (rate: 5/10)
	Action 2: Set up a dynamic management of the sewerage network	On going (rate: 3/10)

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.2 ‘achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’

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

N.A.

FLANDERS

For each target set in this area:

- 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 Flemish Region has to be compliant with the European Directive concerning Urban Waste Water Treatment (91/271/EC). Collecting systems should satisfy to the requirements of Annex 1A:

Collecting systems shall take into account waste water treatment requirements.

The design, construction and maintenance of collecting systems shall be undertaken in accordance with the best technical knowledge not entailing excessive costs, notably regarding:

- Volume and characteristics of urban waste water,
- Prevention of leaks,
- Limitation of pollution of receiving waters due to storm water overflows.

Since July 1996 a “Code of good practice for the construction of collecting systems” is applicable for the Flemish Region. This code subscribes in detail the technical requirements for collecting systems.

Goal VIII-1: The target is an 100% application of this “Code of good practice for the construction of collecting systems”.

Timing: since July 1996

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).

Goal VIII-1 - Possible measures:

Continue to implement the current policy.

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

Goal VIII-1: The target is an 100% application of this “Code of good practice for the construction of collecting systems”.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
continue to implement the current policy.	On going	

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measures:

- 0020_12 Wastewater collection improvements
- 0040_02 Sewer connection improvement
- 0070_02 Implementation of a follow-up and improvement service for improvement of the individual sanitation.

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

- 0020_12 Wastewater collection improvements: on going
- 0040_02 Sewer connection improvement: on going
- 0070_02 Implementation of a follow-up and improvement service for improvement of the individual sanitation: on going

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all'

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Target IX.1: Eliminate direct discharges of pollutants into surface waters

The target is the one established in the Gouvernement Act of 23 march 1994 transposing the Directive 91/271/EEC : 100% treatments of urban waste water.

The Region is close to this objective but there are still areas that are not sewered collectively, which must therefore be treated individually or cases where the area is equipped with sewers but these are not connected yet to a water treatment plant.

The knowledge of the Brussels-capital Region on this bottlenecks is improving and gradually technical solutions are being put in place to prevent waste water from flowing into our rivers.

The program of measures of the Brussels Water Management plan includes actions such as:

- Treat roads and rails water runoff prior to discharge into the environment;
- Manage Domestic Discharges Not Connectable to Collective Sewage Treatment Plants
- Eliminate unconnected domestic discharges through an effective connection to the wastewater collection system;
- Inform and accompany individuals in their connection to the sewerage system

Target date : 2027. The next 2022-2027 River basin Management plan for Brussels pursues this measures

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).

Action 1: Better knowledge on location where discharges of untreated water occur

Action 2: Implement the new legal framework to constrain private connection to sewers;

Action 3 : Tightening control of wastewater discharges;

Action 4: Carrying out connection works to the collection network connection by the operator in charge of the sewerage network and better monitoring of their implementation.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
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Target IX.1: Eliminate direct discharges of pollutants into surface waters	Action 1 : Better knowledge on location where discharges of untreated water occur	On going (rate: 8/10)
	Action 2 : Implementation of the new legal framework to constrain private connection to sewers	On going (rate: 5/10)
	Action 3 : Tightening control of wastewater discharges	On going (rate: 5/10)
	Action 4: Carrying out connection works to the collection network connection by the operator in charge of the sewerage network and better monitoring of their implementation.	On going (rate: 7/10)

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

FLANDERS

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 agglomerations with more than 2.000 p.e. where the connection of some waste water collecting systems with treatment plants has not yet been realized, or where some treatment plants are still under construction, in most cases use is made of the existing septic tanks in anticipation of the actual connection to a treatment plant. Because keeping the septic tanks in operation until the time of connection in the central area of the zoning plans is not specifically required in Flemish legislation, there is no legislative guarantee that the waste water concerned will be treated before discharge. For the rural area this is specifically required in the legislation.

Goal IX-1: 100% treatments of urban waste water according to the UWWTD (agglomerations with more than 2000 p.e.)

Timing: 2012

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).

Continue to implement the policy (implement the UWWT directive as soon as possible).

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

Goal IX-1: 100% treatments of urban waste water		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
continue to implement the policy (implement the UWWT directive as soon as possible).	Finished	10

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measures:

- 0010_12 Collective sewerage works

- 0020_12 Wastewater collection improvements
 - 0040_02 Sewer connection improvement
 - 0060_02 Compliance of dwellings in the individual sanitation zone
 - 0070_02 Implementation of a follow-up and improvement service for improvement of the individual sanitation.
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
- 0010_12 Collective sewerage works: ON GOING
 - 0020_12 Wastewater collection improvements: ON GOING
 - 0040_02 Sewer connection improvement: ON GOING
 - 0060_02 Compliance of dwellings in the individual sanitation zone: ON GOING
 - 0070_02 Implementation of a follow-up and improvement service for improvement of the individual sanitation: ON GOING
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.
- N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

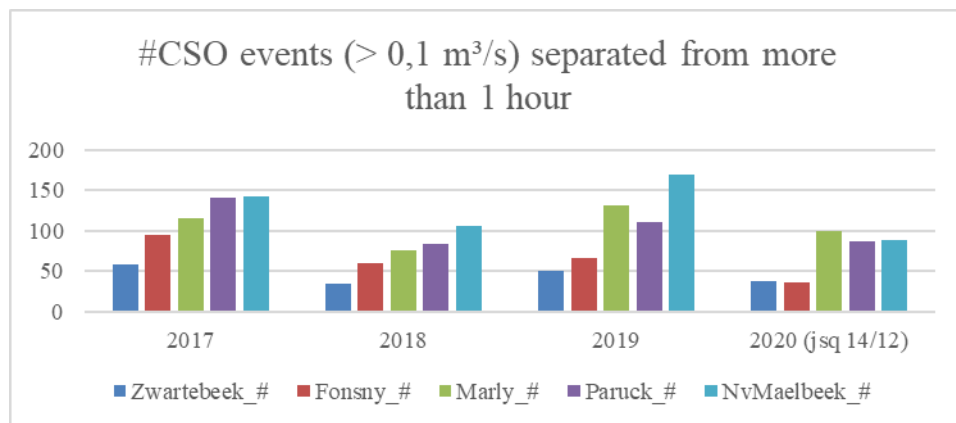
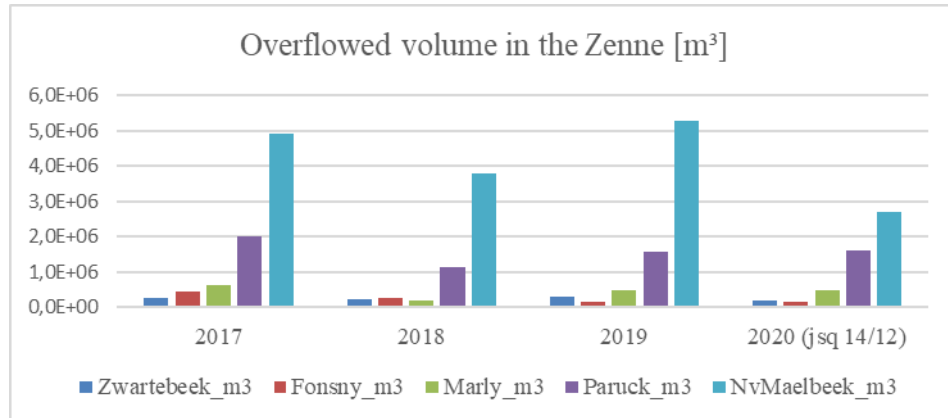
1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

Main target X.1: Reducing the number of m³ discharged in rivers through the storm overflows.

This objective is general but is not the subject of a quantified obligation in the legislation.

The Brussels-Capital Region hasn't set any target to reduce the occurrence of discharges of untreated wastewater in its legislation. Before setting targets, improvement of our knowledge about this infrastructure was necessary. Brussels Environment conducted a inventory in 2009 of the main combine sewer overflows (CSO's) in the Brussels Region based on data from SBGE and VIVAQUA. As a result, 108 have been identified in the Region. The 42 main ones were selected for a quantification of the charges issued in the

emissions inventory. Discharge gauges have been installed on the 5 major CSO's to assess the frequency of the significant CSO events and the annual overflowed volume in the Zenne. The frequency is too high as well as the volumes discharged, therefore actions are taken to optimise their functioning. The New Maelbeek's CSO has been optimised in mid-2020, the CSO Paruck has been partially optimised in 2018 and will be fully optimized in 2022.



Target date to reduce the pollution loads : 2027

- 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).

Action 1: Optimising the functioning of storm overflow weirs

The program of measures of the Brussels Water Management plan includes an important action on 'Reducing the pollution loads emitted to the Senne (and other rivers) by the storm overflows by optimising their design and use'. (priority actions nr. 1.3 -1.26 and 1.33)

Although these storm overflows cannot simply be removed as they play an important role in flood mitigation for the sewerage system, their operation can be optimised so that the storage capacity of the sewerage system is fully utilised and consequently the overflows are only activated when there is a real need. In this way, their operating frequency is reduced as much as possible. In the same way, the weirs can be equipped with floating material barriers to retain these elements in the sewer and send them to the treatment plant rather than to the surface waters of the Region (the Senne, the Canal or the Woluwe).

Action 2: Set up a dynamic management of the sewerage network

As set up in Target VIII.1 hereabove, a new way of management in the sewerage network will have positive consequences in terms of reducing the number of spills into the natural environment. This requires the implementation of remote control of mobile valves strategically placed in the sewer network as well as hydraulic forecasting tools.

Action 3 : Implement integrated rainwater management

Another action (strategy) included in the Water management plan of the Brussels Capital region tackles the cause of the problem, that of excess rainwater in the sewerage network, by implementing, in the catchment areas, integrated rainwater management ("GIEP" in French), which valorises and retains rainwater on the receiving plots instead of returning it to the sewerage system.

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

The Brussels-Capital Region launched study and improvement works on the use of stormwater overflows aiming at the reduction of their frequency of activation.

The works on their adaptation are now on-going.

Brussels Environment and water operators have launched the first projects to limit these discharges through stormwater overflows. European funding from the LIFE project has also been obtained for the implementation of certain actions. One of the actions of the transregional LIFE Belini project aims - among other things - in Brussels to adjust and equip the 3 most important stormwater overflows: the New Maelbeek, the Paruck and the Molenbeek in order to limit their spills.

The development studies have already been carried out on the Paruck and the New Maelbeek thanks to the joint action of the wateroperators Hydria (former SBGE, for telemetry network), Vivaqua (clean-up and works) and Brussels Environment (studies and submission of the Life Belini project). The developments in New Maelbeek have been completed since June 2020. The weir of the CSO has been set to a higher level to reduce the frequency of overflows. At the same time, important dredging works needed to be carried out in the main sewer so that the risk of flooding could be compensated. A device against floating material has also been implemented to keep them on the sewerage side of the CSO.

The operation of the Paruck has already been partially reviewed in 2018, making it possible to reduce the operating time of the spillway. In march 2022, a controlled sluice has been installed on the CSO Paruck, which allows to increase the level of the CSO weir (hence reducing the frequency of overflows) whitout increasing the risk of flooding upstream the CSO. Its conception also helps to keep the floating material on the sewerage side of the CSO, for the Zenne. A study will start in 2022 to find solution to keep the floating materials from going to the Chanel.

The study of the Molenbeek spillway began in June 2020 with the installation of flow sensors. In 2022, the study on its optimisation will start, based on the previous flow monitoring campaign.

A controlled sluice has been installed at the intrance of the storm basin Belliard (17.000m³), with the purpose of using this storm basin in the frame of the

dynamic management. This will help to reduce the number of overflow events at the CSO New Maelbeek. Yet, studies are still on-going to find the optimal rules for piloting this controlled sluice.

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target X.1: Reducing the number of m ³ discharged in rivers through the storm overflows	Action 1 : Optimising the functioning of storm overflow weirs	On going (rate: 5/10)
	Action 2 : Set up a dynamic management of the sewerage network	On going (rate: 3/10)
	Action 3 : Implement integrated rainwater management	On going (rate: 3/10)
	Action 4: Carrying out connection works to the collection network connection by the operator in charge of the sewerage network and better monitoring of their implementation.	On going (rate: 7/10)

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

FLANDERS

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 Flemish Region has to be compliant with the European Directive concerning Urban Waste Water Treatment (91/271/EC). Collecting systems should satisfy to the requirements of Annex 1A:

Collecting systems shall take into account waste water treatment requirements.

The design, construction and maintenance of collecting systems shall be undertaken in accordance with

the best technical knowledge not entailing excessive costs, notably regarding:

- Volume and characteristics of urban waste water,
- Prevention of leaks,
- Limitation of pollution of receiving waters due to storm water overflows.

Since July 1996 a “Code of good practice for the construction of collecting systems” is applicable for the

Flemish Region. This code subscribes in detail the technical requirements for collecting systems in order to

prevent the pollution of receiving waters due to storm water overflows and the limitations on frequency of

overflow / year.

Goal X-1: The reduction of discharges of untreated waste water via sewer overflows.

Timing: 31/12/2024

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).

N.A.

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

Goal X-1: The reduction of discharges of untreated waste water via sewer overflows.	
The design, construction and maintenance of collecting systems	On going

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 ‘by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measures:

- 0080_12 Wastewater management during rainy weather - improving knowledge
- 0090_02 Preservation and restoration of ditches

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

- 0080_12 Wastewater management during rainy weather - improving knowledge: ON GOING
- 0090_02 Preservation and restoration of ditches: ON GOING

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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 quality of discharged wastewater from the collective treatment plants is already been treated in part VI. The quality of industrial wastewater rejected by companies is treated here. In the Brussels Region, classified installations are regulated by environmental permit legislation. The environmental permit

integrates all the required environmental authorizations into a single permit. Any company that discharges industrial wastewater is obliged to have an environmental permit which includes discharge conditions.

The legislation divides the facilities and activities into three classes according to the importance of their impact on people and the environment.

In addition, the WFD 2000/60/EC requires the program of measures to include measures related to the implementation of other Directives, including:

- the Directive 2010/75 / EU 'IED' industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control - recasting of the IPPC Directive);
- Council Directive 91/271 / EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste water treatment (ERU).

Main target XI.1: Better control discharges for industries

Target date : on-going

Sub-target : reinforce the discharges standards

Sub-target date : 2023

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).

- The program of measures of the Brussels Water Management plan includes action to reach the target:

- Update the legal framework to reinforce the protection of the watercourses (priority action nr. 1.8);
- Understand and quantify the waste water through the environmental permits; (priority action nr. 1.1)
- Ensure a control on the respect of the standards to discharge in surface waters and sewers (priority action nr. 1.12)

- Transposition of the Directive 2010/75: Order of the Government of the Brussels-Capital of 21/11/2013 on the integrated prevention and reduction of pollution from industrial emissions.

In the Brussels-Capital Region almost no company discharges into surface water as almost all wastewater is collectively collected and treated in one of the two UWWTP of Brussels Region.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target XI.1: Better control discharges for industries	Action 1 : Update the legal framework (the discharge' conditions)	Not started yet
	Action 2 : Understand and quantify the waste water through the environmental permits	On going (rate: 5/10)

	Action 3 : Control on the respect of the standards to discharge in surface waters and sewers	On going (rate: 5/10)
	Action 4: Transposition and implementation of the Directive on integrated prevention and reduction of pollution from industrial emissions*	Executed And On going (rate: 7/10)

*Concerning this last action 4, the "IED" Directive specifies that permit conditions must be defined on the basis of best available techniques, identified, re-examined and, where appropriate, updated at European level. The IED Directive also specifies the planning, scheduling and reporting conditions to be observed when carrying out environmental inspections

The inspection division of Brussels Environment is responsible for monitoring compliance with the environmental permits of IED companies (ex-IPPC companies). 12 companies are registered as IED companies (according to annex 1 of the directive) in the Brussels Region.

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

FLANDERS

For each target set in this area:

- 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 quality of waste water discharges from waste water treatment plants depends on the optimization of the sanitation infrastructure and the treatment efficiency of UWWTPs. These aspects have already been described in Section 3.5.

An environmental permit is an excellent instrument for tackling pollution from industrial point sources.

The environmental permit assumes an integrated approach. This determines, among other things, the conditions under which a company can discharge in water. Furthermore, the measures that a company must take to prevent pollution and to purify the source as much as possible can be specified. The principle of prevention and the end-of-pipe measures are coordinated in this way. Depending on the nature and the

importance of the associated environmental impact, all installations that have been classified as with impact on people and the environment are divided into three classes. For all classified installations (also

non-IPPC companies) either the permit requirement applies (class 1 and 2 installations) or the reporting requirement (class 3).

Goal XI-1: The further reduction of the industrial pollutant load originating from surface water dischargers.

Timing: ongoing

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).

Goal XI-1 - Possible measures:

General and sector discharge standards form the general framework for determining industrial discharging conditions. When determining the authorized discharging conditions the following main points are used:

- tightening up to the Best Available Techniques (BAT) and revision of sector standards;
- harmonisation of the authorized, paid and discharged freight / load;
- attention to crisis management and calamity policy;
- harmonisation on decisions and main points within the framework of the expansion and operation of waste water purification installations (WWTI);
- every discharge of dangerous substances is authorized in accordance with the rules of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the daughter Directive on Priority substances 2008/105/EC.

When a ‘dangerous substance’ is found in the waste water, its cause, and how it can be avoided and within which period are investigated. Process measures such as closed systems and substitution are preferred to end-of-pipe treatment. The substitution policy will undoubtedly also be developed further within the context of the implementation of REACH. Discharge concentrations must be set in such a way the impact on the quality of the surface water is acceptable.

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

Goal XI-1: The further reduction of the industrial pollutant load originating from surface water dischargers.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
tightening up to the Best Available Techniques (BAT) and revision of sector standards; when it's necessary to reach EQS and to avoid deterioration more stringent ELV (emission limit values) then BAT can be set in the permits.	On going	8
harmonisation of the authorized, paid and discharged freight / load;	On going	7
attention to crisis management and calamity policy;	On going	7
armonization on decisions and main points within the framework of the expansion and operation of waste water purification installations (WWTI);	On going	6
every discharge of dangerous substances is authorized in accordance with the rules of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the daughter Directive on	On going	7

<p>Priority substances 2008/105/EC. When a ‘dangerous substance’ is found in the waste water, its cause, and how it can be avoided and within which period are investigated. Process measures such as closed systems and substitution are preferred to end-of-pipe treatment. The substitution policy will undoubtedly also be developed further within the context of the implementation of REACH. Discharge concentrations must be set in such a way the impact on the quality of the surface water is acceptable.</p>		
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4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 ‘by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measures:

- 0010_12 Collective sewage treatment plant
- 0020_12 Improvement of wastewater collection
- 0040_02 Improvement of the connection to the sewer
- 0050_02 Follow-up of the installations E-PRTR
- 0060_02 Compliance of houses in individual sanitation zones
- 0070_02 Implementation of a monitoring and improvement service for individual sanitation

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

- 0010_12 Collective sewage treatment plant: on going
- 0020_12 Improvement of wastewater collection: on going
- 0040_02 Improvement of the connection to the sewer: on going
- 0050_02 Follow-up of the installations E-PRTR: on going

- 0060_02 Compliance of houses in individual sanitation zones: on going
 - 0070_02 Implementation of a monitoring and improvement service for individual sanitation: on going
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.
- N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.
- N.A.
- No target set for the Brussels-Capital Region. The operators of the UWWTP are required to ensure that the sludge is valorised.
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).
- During the last phase of upgrading the UWWTP Brussels South (2019-2020), the sludge treatment plant has been modernised to reduce now the amount of sludge to be disposed of by 30% and produce green electricity through cogeneration.
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.
- N.A.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- N.A.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.
- A regulatory framework exists for reuse in agriculture (Act of 15 July 1993) but not applicable on the Brussels's territory where agriculture is marginal. Valorisation is made outside the Region (construction sector..) after production of biogas on site.

FLANDERS

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.

N.A.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

Drained and dried sewage sludge is frequently used as secondary fuel in coal-stoked electricity power stations and cement ovens. Part of the sewage sludge does not qualify for reuse as fuel. This sewage sludge goes to an incinerator. The heat that is released, serves once again as an energy source (energy recuperation). After combustion approximately 1/3rd of the sewage sludge remains as flue ashes, this is then used in the asphalt industry.

No direct agricultural reuse is allowed in the Flemish Region. In this light no specific targets were set at this point.

WALLONIA

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.

N.A.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

N.A.

No target set for the Brussels-Capital Region as regard to irrigation purposes considering the low level of agricultural needs in Brussels, but the Region is setting up the framework for water reuse in accordance with the European regulation 2020/741 (more suited for industrial purposes).

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

Agriculture is marginal in the Brussels Region: the total area of agricultural land is 268 hectares, or 1.6 per cent of the territory.

The Brussels Capital region will make application of the above-mentioned European regulation on minimum requirements for quality of water reuse but especially for industrial purposes. The Brussels-Capital region is keen to provide further explanation on this point to the Executive Secretariat if it considers it useful.

FLANDERS

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 the adoption of regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse a framework on minimal quality requirements has gone into force and will have to be implemented as of June 2023 when wastewater from an urban waste water treatment plant is reused for agricultural irrigation. The Regulation is clear on the quality requirements regarding bacteriological quality. The chemical quality requirements are supposed to be assessed as part of the risk based approach and risk assessment.

To implement the regulation regional legislation will be required to provide a procedural framework.

Flanders will assess the policy options in implementing the regulation. The regulation is limited to waste water that is sourced from urban waste water treatment plants and used for agricultural irrigation. Further policy options to explore in the coming months and years are the use of other sources of waste water (such as industrial wastewater) for agricultural irrigation and use of both those waste water sources for irrigation of public green spaces (parks, sports infrastructure, trees and other ornamental plantings,...)

Goal XIII-1: Implementation of regulation 2020/741 in regional legislation and assess policy options to expand on the scope of the regulation in Flanders

Timing:

- implementation of regulation 2020/741 – 23/06/2023
- assess and possibly adopt regional legislation on reuse of water for irrigation purposes not related to agricultural use and the reuse of other sources of waste water for irrigation for agricultural use – 31/12/2023

Possible measures:

- Adoption of implementing legislation – legal base in Decree
 - Adoption of implementing legislation – Flemish Government Decision
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).

A legal base in the Flemish Decree Integrated Water Management (18 juni 2003) has been drafted and is in the final stages of formal adoption. Adoption and publication of this decree is expected to be finalized summer 2022.

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

Goal XIII-1: Implementation of regulation 2020/741 in regional legislation and assess policy options to expand on the scope of the regulation in Flanders		
Actions	Status	implementation rate
Adoption of implementing legislation – legal base in Decree	Started	8
Adoption of implementing legislation – Flemish Government Decision	Started	3

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.4 “By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity”

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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.

Irrigation is very little used in the Walloon Region, and none with wastewater

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Target XIV.1 : Designation of specific areas for bodies of ground water used as a source of drinking water

According to a disposal in the legal framework for the water policy in Brussels, the Government shall ensure the necessary protection of the water bodies identified or the production of water intended for human consumption in order to prevent deterioration in their quality and to reduce the degree of purification treatment required for the drinking water production (article 36, § 3 of Ordinance of 20 October 2006) . This action is only applicable for

groundwaters because no surface waters are used as sources of drinking water in Brussels.

This may be possible by the designation of specific areas (drinking water protection zones), stricter environmental standards and restrictions on the use function apply. In the drinking water protection zones, various activities with a risk to affect the quality of the groundwater, are prohibited in the zones or are more strictly regulated. The legal framework exists in Brussels-Capital region : Order of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region of 19 September 2002 delimiting the protection zones for groundwater catchments in the Bois de la Cambre and the Drève de Lorraine in the Soignes forest.

Brussels-Capital Region imports more than 97% of the water intended for human consumption from Wallonia. Only a little 3% of the water consumed in Brussels comes from ressources situated in its groundwater but this aspect of raw water quality is important when we know that the waterbody used for abstraction (Brusselian's Sand (Br05)) is subject to many pressures and was assessed in 2016-2018 in a poor chemical status in terms of nitrates. The parameters total pesticides, specific pesticides (atrazine desisopropyl, 2,6 dichlorobenzamide (BAM)) and tetrachloroethylene were causing exceedances of the standards based on the analysis of data from the chemical status monitoring programme covering the period from 2010 to the end of 2012 but it is not the case anymore (general downward trend). A new monitoring campaign must be carried out to see if this observation is still valid or if the actions put in place are improving the situation.

Target XIV.2: see also Target VII.1: Making risk-based approach that covers the whole supply chain from the catchment area, abstraction, treatment, storage and distribution of water obliged

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).

Target XIV.1 : As stated under 1, drinking water protection zones exist and activities within these zones are strictly regulated. A review of the conditions and permitted installations in these zones have been done in February 2017.

The program of measures of the Brussels Water Management plan includes several actions to ensure a good quality management of groundwater bodies:

AP 1.49: Réduire les concentrations en nitrates d'origine non agricole en assurant la rénovation du réseau d'égouttage

AP 1.50: Réduire les concentrations en nitrates d'origine non agricole dans la masse d'eau en étendant le réseau d'égouttage ou en prévoyant des mesures alternatives lorsque l'extension n'est technique et/ou économiquement pas réalisable

AP 1.51 : Eliminer les puits perdus existants

AP 1.52: Réduire les apports de pesticides dans la masse d'eau

AP 1.53: Interdire les rejets directs dans la masse d'eau souterraine

AP 1.54: Réduire les rejets indirects dans la masse d'eau souterraine

AP 1.55: Prévenir et gérer les pollutions accidentelles dans la masse d'eau et en priorité dans les zones de protection des captages destinés à la consommation humaine.

AP 1.56: Limiter l'impact des sols pollués sur la qualité de la masse d'eau souterraine

AP 1.61: Assurer un contrôle adéquat des eaux souterraines en zone de protection des captages d'eau destinée à la consommation humaine

The revised RBMP for 2022-2027 pursues these measures by focusing them more on the parameters that cause the degradation of each groundwater body

Target XIV.2: Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)

With the new directive 2020/2184 and specifically its article 8 on Risk assessment and risk management of the catchment areas for abstraction points, this target XIV.2 should be fulfilled. The first data set containing information related to risk assessment and risk management of the catchment areas for abstraction points must be set up by 12 July 2027.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target XIV.1: Designation of specific areas for bodies of ground water used as a source of drinking water	Action 1 : Adapting the legal framework to allow this protection	Executed
	Action 2 : Revise the conditions in environmental permits to require better protection	On going (rate: 6/10)
	Action 3 : Communicate more and control the protection as a necessity to respect groundwaters	On going (rate: 3/10)
Target XIV.2: Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)	Action 1 : Ensure the timely transposition of the Drinking Water Directive (recast)	On going (rate: 6/10)
	Data set-up for risk assessment and risk management for catchment areas for abstraction points	At the latest by July of 2027

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and

hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations’.

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

N.A.

FLANDERS

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.

Groundwater objectives

Within discrete / specific areas, drinking water protection zones, stricter environmental standards and restrictions on the use function apply. In the drinking water protection zones a distinction is made between the water extraction areas and the protection zones. Various activities with a risk to affect the quality of the groundwater, are prohibited in the zones or are more strictly regulated.

Goal XVI-1: Development and efficient application of (legal) requirements for the protection of bodies of ground water used as a source of drinking water.

Timing: goal will be updated as soon as regional legislation to implement revised drinking water directive and new river basin management plans and are adopted.

Surface water objectives

The Water Framework Directive obliges Member States to ensure the protection of waterbodies intended for the production of drinking water and to strive for a reduction in the level of purification.

Goal XVI-2: Protection of water bodies intended for the production of drinking water and striving towards a reduction in the level of purification

Timing: goal will be updated as soon as regional legislation to implement revised drinking water directive and new river basin management plans and are adopted.

Goal XVI-3: The active adjustment of the management of the quality of surface water by means of additional scientific substantiation.

Timing: goal will be updated as soon as regional legislation to implement revised drinking water directive and new river basin management plans and are adopted.

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).

Goal XIV-1 - Possible measures:

- Restrictions determined by decree apply within the specific drinking water protection zones, which consist of water extraction areas and protection zones. The restrictions are described in the Environmental Permit decree, the Groundwater decree, the Manure decree and their implementation decrees. The measure applies especially for the above waterbodies on which the drinking water protection zones have been delineated. With respect to a stricter groundwater permit policy, the measures apply to all groundwater bodies on which drinking water protection zones have been delineated.

- Imposing additional measures in drinking water protection zone for groundwater with special attention for maintenance
- Drawing up a code of good practice for preventive measures to prevent contamination by preventing crop protection agents within the drinking water protection zones

Goal XIV-2 - Possible measures:

- A staged plan specifically concerning drinking water extraction is provided to achieve a reduction of the purification level required.
- Within delineated protected drinking water areas, a stricter policy must be implemented if this appears necessary to arrive at a good situation. Thus, in parallel with increasing awareness and communication, a stricter and curative enforcement policy must be pursued within these areas;
- Imposing preventive measures against contamination by pesticides within protected areas; base the measures on existing guidelines such as these from the Topps project

Goal XIV-3 - Possible measures:

- In the protected surface water for drinking water supply areas stricter standards apply as incorporated in Appendix 2.3.2 of Vlarem II. For pesticides there is only a total standard for 3 active substances in the current legislation. Moreover new pesticides are continually being developed. Since the drinking water companies follow the precautionary principle and will continue to follow it, it is not recommended to limit the standardization to a few outdated substances. All pesticides must be covered by a standard. For a number of other chemical substances there is a drinking water standard, but no environmental quality standard as yet.
- A risk analysis is carried out for each surface water extraction area. In this risk analysis, for each drinking water extraction area an indication is given of which parameters are or could be problem points. For example which pesticides or dangerous substances in surface water (can) occur and at which concentration. An evaluation of current and future surface water extraction areas is done at the same time. This measure must result in an adjustment of Appendix 2.3.2 of Vlarem II, an update of the list of surface water extraction areas and area-specific actions.
- In addition, for the quality control of the drinking water a number of generic measures are proposed such as the arrangement of an information exchange between the drinking water sector, the government and manufacturers of crop protection and related agents.

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

Goal XIV-1: Development and efficient application of (legal) requirements for the protection of bodies of ground water used as a source of drinking water		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)

Restrictions determined by decree apply within the specific drinking water protection zones, which consist of water extraction areas and protection zones. The restrictions are described in the Environmental Permit decree, the Groundwater decree, the Manure decree and their implementation decrees. The measure applies especially for the above waterbodies on which the drinking water protection zones have been delineated. With respect to a stricter groundwater permit policy, the measures apply to all groundwater bodies on which drinking water protection zones have been delineated.	On going	6
Imposing additional measures in drinking water protection zone for groundwater with special attention for maintenance	On going	7
Drawing up a code of good practice for preventive measures to prevent contamination by preventing crop protection agents within the drinking water protection zones	Code is available	10
Goal XIV-2: Protection of water bodies intended for the production of drinking water and striving towards a reduction in the level of purification		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
A staged plan specifically concerning drinking water extraction is provided to achieve a reduction of the purification level required.	On going	5
Within delineated protected drinking water areas, a stricter policy must be implemented if this appears necessary to arrive at a good situation. Thus, in parallel with increasing awareness and communication, a stricter and curative enforcement policy must be pursued within these areas;	ongoing	5
Imposing preventive measures against contamination by pesticides within protected areas;	On going	7
Goal XIV-3: The active adjustment of the management of the quality of surface water by means of additional scientific substantiation.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
In the protected surface water for drinking water supply areas stricter standards apply as incorporated in Appendix 2.3.2 of Vlarem II. An update of these standards is however imminent. For pesticides there is only a total standard for 3 active substances in the current legislation. Moreover new pesticides are continually being developed. Since the drinking water companies follow the precautionary principle and will continue to follow it, it is not recommended to limit the standardization to a few outdated substances. All pesticides must be covered by a standard. For a number of other chemical substances there is a drinking water standard, but no environmental quality standard as yet.	On going	5
A risk analysis is carried out for each surface water extraction area. In this risk analysis, for each drinking water extraction area an indication is given of which parameters are or could be problem points. For example which pesticides or dangerous substances in surface water (can) occur and at which concentration. An evaluation of current and future surface water extraction areas is done at the same time. This measure must result in an adjustment of Appendix 2.3.2 of Vlarem II, an update of the list of surface water extraction areas and area-specific actions.	On going	7
In addition, for the quality control of the drinking water a number of generic measures are proposed such as the arrangement of an information exchange between the drinking water sector, the government and manufacturers of crop protection and related agents.	on going	5

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measure:

- 0245_02 Mise en œuvre et évaluation des mesures du Plan de Gestion Durable de l'Azote
- 0369_12 Mise en œuvre du programme wallon de réduction des pesticides
- 0680_12 Finalisation et mise en œuvre du Schéma Régional des Ressources en Eau

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

On going

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

This target contributes to fulfilling the targets defined under SDG 6 « Clean Water and Sanitation ». It contributes especially to goal nr. 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and goal nr. 6.2 'achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations'.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

No target on this topic were set in 2019.

However, since then, the Agreement text of the Government 2019-2024 foresees that it will support permanent or temporary outdoor swimming pool projects.

The Brussels Environment Agency with the support of an association is setting up the legal and technical framework to allow natural bathing in a pond, possibly replicable later on in other places.

New target XV.1 : Allowing natural bathing in natural surface waters

The legal framework is set by the transposition in 2009 of the Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 concerning the management of bathing water quality (Order of the Brussels Government of 23 April 2009). A specific framework will be adopted for the natural bathing the Brussels-Capital Region expects to create. The EU Bathing quality standards will apply.

Target date : summer 2024

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).

Action 1: Leading a legal assessment to authorise this type of bathing in ponds, focusing on the responsibility of the pond manager
Action 2: Carry out a test phase to assess the technical and practical feasibility of swimming in a pond.

Action 2: Create a specific pond to allow open-air and natural bathing all year long, carry out monitoring and quality assessments

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target XV.1: Allowing natural bathing in natural surface waters	Action 1 : Leading a legal assessment to authorise this type of bathing in ponds, focusing on the responsibility of the pond manager	Executed (the assessment has been carried out but still needs to be refined on certain issues)
	Action 2 : Create a specific pond to allow open-air and natural bathing all year long, carry out monitoring and quality assessments	On-going : study phase

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

N.A.

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

The Brussels Region has not yet officially designated any bathing areas to date. The pond to be developed for bathing purposes will not fall within the scope of the Directive 2006/7/EC, but the standards will be met.

FLANDERS

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 management of the waterbodies of bathing water is done in accordance with the decision made by the Flemish Government (05/05/2007) which is based on the European Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC). Bodies of bathing water are divided into four different classes on the basis of microbiological parameters. This division is done on the basis of the measurement data for the bathing season and the three preceding years. The Flemish government, Public Health Supervision and the Flemish Environment Agency, sample all bathing and recreational ponds in the Flemish Region during the summer season (and all coastal waters in monitored beach areas). . There are procedures for action and the communication of poor results and with the presence of cyanobacteria.

In 2021 all bathing water are at least the quality class “acceptable”. Around 90% of them are even in the class Excellent.

More information can be found on <https://www.vmm.be/water/zwemwater/evaluatie-zwemwater>

Goal XV-1: All bodies of bathing water must at least belong to the quality class “acceptable”.

Timing: ongoing

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).

Goal XV-1 - Possible measures:

- The bathing water profiles are updated according to the provisions of the directive.
- By means of these profiles, realistic and proportional measures are being proposed to ensure that the number of bodies of bathing water classified as “good” or “excellent” will be increased by 2015.

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

Goal XI-1: The further reduction of the industrial pollutant load originating from surface water dischargers.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Bathing water profiles are updated according to the provisions of the directive.	On Going	10
By means of these profiles, realistic and proportional measures are being proposed to ensure that the number of bodies of bathing water classified as “good” or “excellent” will be increased by 2015.	On Going	8

Flemish Environment Agency is responsible for the updates to the bathing water profiles. They are updated according to the provisions in the directive. The updated profiles are published online and a summary is available at the bathing site itself.

The number of excellent and good bathing waters has increased over the years.

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

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

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measure:

- 0530_12 Amélioration de la qualité des eaux de baignade

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

On going process

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Not applicable in Brussels-Capital Region.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A. No such aquaculture or production on the Brussels region's territory.

FLANDERS

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 Flanders (Belgium) only one water body has been designated that can be used for the production of shellfish. This is the Spuikom in Oostende. This happened in implementation of the shellfish directive. The designation was done a first time in 1987, and then again in December 1998. Quality objectives are included in this directive that Flanders has adopted in Vlarem II – Appendix 2.3.5.

The Water Framework Directive stipulates that the Shellfish water directive will be withdrawn on 22 December 2013. As long as the Vlarem II is not changed the provisions of the directive remain in force in Flanders.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

This scope is not relevant for Flanders since the quality objectives imposed by Europe are strictly observed and there are no indications that they must be reconsidered or made stricter. Currently shellfish production is not permitted in Flanders.

WALLONIA

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.

N.A.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Main target: Ensure a good quality of enclosed water to prevent health risk and allow swimming in good conditions.

Target date : on-going (permanent obligation) but updating the regulation is foreseen to be finished by the end of 2022.

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).

All baths are subject to permit and are covered by the Brussels legislation (Order of the Government of 10 October 2002 setting operating conditions for swimming pools). All types of baths with the exception of baths attached to private houses that are not open to public are in the scope. This Order includes regulations for safety, supervision and first aid, water quality and water treatment, sanitation, periodic and continuous monitoring and checks.

The baths that are subject to permit include all institutions mentioned in Section 14 of the list of classified establishments. The permit specifies, in addition to the legislation, conditions for safe storage of dangerous products.

At least once a year, a control of the presence of Legionella Pneumophylla (enumeration) is carried out by an approved laboratory at the shower facilities.

To meet this objective, the Brussels-Capital Region will revise the above-mentioned regulation on swimming pools. The main objective is to update it and to impose best practices on pool operators as a result of developments in knowledge and techniques.

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target XVII.1: Ensure a good quality of enclosed water to prevent health risk and allow swimming in good conditions.	Action 1 : Adapting the legal framework to allow this management	On going (6/10)

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

FLANDERS

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.

All baths are subject to permit and are covered by the Vlarem legislation. The baths that are subject to permit include all institutions mentioned in Section 32.8.1, including baths attached to or belonging to private clubs, camping sites, schools and suchlike and with the exception of institutions attached to private houses that are not open to the public, either free of charge, or for some direct or indirect payment. Hotels and sauna complexes are also covered by the Vlarem legislation. The institutions mentioned include covered circulation baths, open air circulation baths, hot whirlpools, hot tubs, paddling pools and therapy baths. This means that all of these public baths and spas must comply with the applicable sector conditions in Vlarem II for the management of such institutions. The sector conditions for baths are based on scientifically substantiated and practically evaluated codes of good practice. They include regulations for safety, supervision and first aid, water quality and water treatment, safe storage of dangerous products and hygiene regulations. These Vlarem conditions are sufficient to guarantee healthy and safe swimming and recreation in Flemish swimming pools. The monitoring of compliance with the Vlarem conditions is done systematically by the Public Health Supervision department of the Flemish government. This monitoring implies that monthly water quality results are monitored and that regular checks are made on site.

The prevention of Legionella growth in collective warm water systems, such as shower water and hotwhirlpools, where there is also risk of aerosol formation and potential infection risks exist, is regulated by specific Legionella legislation of 09/02/2007, which fits within the framework of the Flemish prevention decree and has been in operation since 04/05/2007. Public bathing and spas are classified as low-risk institutions. This means that they must draw up and comply with a risk analysis and a Legionella management plan. The supervision is done by the Public Health Supervision department.

In Section 32.8.2 of the Vlarem, water recreation in ponds, lakes and watercourses is regulated. The appropriate conditions are based on the European Bathing Water Directive of 04/03/2006, introduced on 24 March 2006 and later incorporated into Vlarem. The Flemish government, Public Health Supervision and the Flemish Environment Agency, sample all swimming and recreation ponds in the country in summer (and all coastal waters in the monitored areas). Some are weekly, others are biweekly. There are procedures for action and the communication of bad results and for the presence of cyanobacteria.

Goal XVII-1: limiting the health risk of new forms of water recreation (including natural swimming pools, water playgrounds, ...) that are not covered by the existing legislation

Timing: ongoing

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).

Goal XVII-1 - Possible measures:

- The on-demand distribution of the ‘Handbook of codes of good practice for playgrounds’, in which a code of good practice has been included specifically for the operation of water playgrounds (the Health and Care Authority)
- In 2019 the website <https://kwaliteitzwemwater.be/nl> was up-dated. Every citizen can check the water quality of pools, bathing waters an recreation ponds on-line on a short time and longtime basis.
- In 2020 the Flemish government organized a syposium on the dangers of cyanobacteria in recreational waters.

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

Goal XVII-1: limiting the health risk of new forms of water recreation (including natural swimming pools, water playgrounds, ...) that are not covered by the existing legislation		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Distribution of the ‘Handbook of codes of good practice for playgrounds’, in which a code of good practice has been included specifically for the operation of water playgrounds (the Health and Care Authority)	On going	8
Impose conditions, as a good practice, for the treatment of water with a natural, ecological filter in natural swimming pools practice, for the treatment of water with a natural, ecological filter in natural swimming pools	Realised	10

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

Due to legal evolutions the abovenmentioned goals have become irrelevant. Legal conditions for the treatment of water used for bathing have been included in the VLAREM-framework.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measure:

- 0530_12 Amélioration de la qualité des eaux de baignade

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

On going process

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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.

Target XVIII.1: Manage, protect and remediate polluted soils

In 2004, the first Ordinance on the management, the protection and remediation of soil in the Brussels-Capital Region has become a legal obligation. The Ordinance aims to prevent the appearance of soil pollution, to identify potential sources of pollution, to organize soil surveys and to determine the methods of remediation and management of polluted soils.

This ordinance has already been amended twice: 2009 and 2017. Brussels Capital Region is currently drafting a new ordinance to include all the damage suffered by soils (and not only pollution) such as compaction, sealing, depletion of organic matter, nutrients and biodiversity, erosion,...

Target date : insofar as the implementation of this legal framework depends on real estate transfers/transactions, start-up/transfer/termination of activities with soil risks, accidents etc. this target is permanent.

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).

Action 1 : Provide an appropriate legal framework for polluted soils

In 2019, an overall strategy to improve the management and protection of soils has been developed. The aim is to protect and improve soil properties by actively combating threats (erosion, pollution, compaction, loss of organic

matter and biodiversity). Thanks to this new approach, soils can be considered as a complete entity providing services to the environment and to our society.

Different Orders have been published in order to :

- * provide a standard content of soil certificates (and to set out the terms and conditions for requesting, issuing and paying for the soil certificates.) (2017)
- * establish the list of risk activities likely to cause soil pollution (2015).
- * set out the intervention standards which are pollutant concentrations of soil and groundwater above which the risks to human health and / or the environment are considered to be not insignificant and a pollution treatment is required, and sanitation standards that represent concentrations of soil and groundwater pollutants under which risks to human health and the environment are considered to be zero, and which allow the soil to fill all functions (2018).
- * provide for the granting, under certain conditions, of subsidies for soil studies and orphan pollution treatment works. (2018)
- * public treatment programme to study and treat orphan soil pollution on private or public sites in order to facilitate the implementation of economic projects and real estate transactions (2021).
- * Cooperation agreement between the 3 regions and the federal government to create sectoral clean-up funds for pollution caused by petrol stations (2004) and oil tanks (2021).

Action 2 : Financing of works for the remediation and management of contaminated soils

Under certain conditions, a subsidy can be granted for an exploratory soil investigation, a detailed investigation, a risk investigation, a remediation proposal (limited) or a risk management proposal, a final assessment and remediation or risk management works.

Action 3 : Public treatment to rehabilitate certain sites

The Region wants to provide a sustainable financial instrument to initiate studies and treatment of soil pollution. Public treatment will give the possibility, in certain cases and under certain conditions, to take the place of the obligation holders. Only orphan pollution will be subject to public treatment.

The Government has drawn up a list of sites to be studied and treated each year (2020).

Action 4 : Sectoral funds for petrol stations and fuel oil tanks

Creation of sectoral funds to study and remediate pollution caused by petrol stations (2004) and fuel oil tanks (2022).

Creation of sectoral funds to study and remediate pollution caused by petrol stations (2004) and fuel oil tanks (2022). All orphan and non-orphan pollution will be studied and treated by these two funds.

Action 5 : Dredging of the rivers and preventing groundwater pollution from polluted soils

Historical works in different phases : since winter 2014 to summer 2016. Intervention still needed in a small portion of the culverted river.

For surface water, the program of measures of the Water Management Plan for Brussels includes a specific action to remove polluted sediments in the Senne river:

AP 1.10: Réaliser le curage de la Senne pour enlever les polluants (PCB, diphénylethers bromés, phosphore) contenus dans les boues «historiques»

For groundwaters, this program includes:

AP 1.60: Prévenir l'impact des sols pollués sur la qualité de la masse d'eau souterraine

Identifier et cartographier les sols pollués pouvant avoir une incidence sur la qualité de la masse d'eau souterraine

Evaluer les risques de transfert de pollution vers la masse d'eau souterraine lors de l'étude de risque

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

Target	Action	Status of implementation
Target XVIII.1: Manage, protect and remediate polluted soils	Action 1 : Provide an appropriate legal framework for polluted soils	Executed
	Action 2 : Financing of works for the remediation and management of contaminated soils	On going
	Action 3: Public treatment to rehabilitate certain sites Action 4: Creation of sectoral funds to study and remediate pollution caused by petrol stations (2004) and fuel oil tanks (2022).	On going On going (rate: 9/10 for rivers / 6/10 for groundwaters)
	Action 5 : Dredging of the rivers and preventing groundwater pollution from polluted soils	

As a challenge, the prevention through environmental permits' conditions can be mentioned.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

FLANDERS

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 this scope we distinguish between polluted watercourse sediments that have a negative effect on the quality of the surface water and relevant contaminated point sources that have a negative effect on the quality of the groundwater.

The legislative framework for the dredging of watercourse sediments can be found in the soil ordinance and Vlarebo .

For the dredging of polluted watercourse sediments there is a strategy for making it possible to deal with the historical liability of polluted watercourse sediments. This specific regulation within the soil ordinance aims only at polluted watercourses for which a treatment is necessary for ecological reasons. Reorganizing watercourse sediments means within the specific regulation of the soil ordinance: removing a disruption in the watercourse sediment for ecological reasons. This can happen by means of direct or indirect measures including dredging (removing), neutralizing, addressing, immobilizing or isolating polluted watercourse sediments until the remediation of the water system has been completed.

Goal XVIII-1 : Improvement of the quality of watercourse sediments

Timing: n.a.

Goal XVIII-2: reduction of point pollution in the soil and the groundwater

Timing: Ongoing

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).

Goal XVIII-1 - Possible measures:

The treatment of polluted watercourse sediments is regulated in the decree of 27 October 2006 concerning soil remediation and soil protection and consists of the following steps:

- The creation of a list that must be specified by the Flemish government at a Flemish level of watercourse sediments that must be investigated as a priority
- The investigation of the watercourse sediments which were indicated in the list approved by the Flemish government as a priority for the investigation of the watercourse sediment using the standard watercourse sediment investigation procedure
- Taking into account the results of the watercourse sediment investigation, creating a list that must be specified by the Flemish government at a Flemish level as a priority of watercourse sediments to be remediated
- Remediation of watercourse sediments mentioned on the abovementioned list that must be specified by the Flemish government

Goal XVIII-2 - Possible measures:

- The drawing up of remediation and management plans for the further spread by preventing leaching of the pollution of the point sources in Flanders into the groundwater.
- The prevention of the further spread of heavy metals from zinc ash by the disposal of zinc ash in the Kempen
- The development of a modified permit policy for (parts of) bodies of groundwater in a poor chemical condition for the prevention of the further leaching of point pollution
- The reduction of point discharges of pesticides by a correct refitting, and a correct needle awareness process
- The development and implementation of a code good practice concerning the careful installation of pump wells and sampling wells (also belongs to target f)
- The changing of the permit conditions of Vlarem II, among other things for incorporating sector conditions for discharges into groundwater and for heat pumps.

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

Goal XVIII-1 : Improvement of the quality of watercourse sediments		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
The creation of a list that must be specified by the Flemish government at a Flemish level of watercourse sediments that must be investigated as a priority	Ongoing	
The investigation of the watercourse sediments which were indicated in the list approved by the Flemish government as a priority for the investigation of the watercourse sediment using the standard watercourse sediment investigation procedure	Ongoing	
Taking into account the results of the watercourse sediment investigation, creating a list that must be specified by the Flemish government at a Flemish level as a priority of watercourse sediments to be remediated	Ongoing	
Remediation of watercourse sediments mentioned on the abovementioned list that must be specified by the Flemish government	Ongoing	
Goal XVIII-2: reduction of point pollution in the soil and the groundwater		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
The drawing up of remediation and management plans for the further spread by preventing leaching of the pollution of the point sources in Flanders into the groundwater.	Ongoing	
The prevention of the further spread of heavy metals from zinc ash by the disposal of zinc ash in the Kempen	Ongoing	
The development of a modified permit policy for (parts of) bodies of groundwater in a poor chemical condition for the prevention of the further leaching of point pollution	Ongoing	
The reduction of point discharges of pesticides by a correct refitting, and a correct needle awareness process	Ongoing	
The changing of the permit conditions of Vlarem II, among other things for incorporating sector conditions for discharges into groundwater and for heat pumps.	Ongoing	

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

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).

The River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 included the following measure:

- 0400_12 Connaissance des liens entre la qualité des eaux polluées et les sites pollués

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

On going

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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 targets are those required by the Water Framework Directive concerning the management of water resources. The Brussels-Capital Region is therefore under the obligation to achieve the environmental objectives imposed by this directive for surface waterbodies, groundwater bodies and protected areas.

Main target XIX: Reaching the good status for groundwater and surface water bodies

Target date : December 2021 (+ time-extension up to 2027) and even beyond with the next Water management Plan (RBMP) for Brussels.

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).

The requirements of the Water Framework Directive must be met by the program of measures of the River basin management Plan (as already mentioned above).

For Brussels-Capital Region, this program is divided in 8 main lines of action ('axes'), all of which relate directly or indirectly to water management. The first is to improve the quality of surface and groundwater, including that intended to be captured for use for human consumption. In this first axe, we find measures such as the actions mentioned in sections IX and X here above to avoid wastewater discharges in watercourses or the reduction of diffuse pollution of the groundwater by pesticides. A link is done with the regional plan for reduction of pesticides. The reduction of the pollution of groundwater by reducing excessive leaching of nutrients into the soil and the groundwater is also part of this axis.

The second pillar is also of great importance. It aims to preserve water resources in terms of quantity: reconnection of the hydrographic network, groundwater management (piezometric and catchment monitoring).

The third pillar is economic to ensure compliance with the principles of 'cost recovery for waterservices' and 'polluter pays'.

The 4th encourages rational water management and consumption behaviours.

The 5th includes measures to prevent and manage flood risks (according to the directive 2007/60/EC).

The 6th axis is also important and should be linked to the Water and Health Protocol insofar as it aims to strengthen the place of water in the urban environment, with all the benefits that this implies (environmental, well-being,...)

The 7th and 8th axes are further away from the objectives of the Protocol in that they aim, on the one hand, at the production of renewable energy from water (geothermal, riothermal), and on the other hand, at strengthening coordination at the level of the international hydrographic district of the Scheldt that the Brussels Capital Region shares with France, Wallonia, Flanders and the Netherlands.

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

As we take a look at the status of the water quality in 2004 and the one reflected in the last monitoring reports, we can assess a significant progress in enhancing the quality of waters (see also Part Three, point V of this report).

However, the Brussels-Capital Region has to pursue its actions to improve the quality of its rivers and of the groundwater as a resource.

Among these actions, we can mention:

- AP 1.2 : Diminuer la mise sous pression du réseau d'égouttage par temps de pluie
- AP 1.3 : Diminuer les charges polluantes émises vers la Senne [et dans les autres rivières] par les déversoirs en optimisant leur conception et leur utilisation
- AP 1.5 : Augmenter le rendement épuratoire des stations d'épuration par temps sec
- AP 1.6 : Identifier les rejets et sources de polluants
- AP 1.9 : Traiter les eaux de ruissellement des voiries et des voies ferrées avant rejet
- AP 1.10 : Réaliser le curage de la Senne pour enlever les polluants contenus dans les boues historiques (PCB, diphénylèthers bromés, phosphore)
- AP 1.11 : Informer et sensibiliser les entreprises concernant leurs obligations légales en matière de rejets d'eaux usées
- AP 1.12 : Assurer un contrôle réglementaire sur le respect des normes de rejet en eaux de surface et en égout
- AP 1.14 : Gérer les rejets domestiques non raccordables aux stations d'épuration collectives (STEPi)
- AP 1.15 : Supprimer les rejets domestiques non raccordés par le biais d'un raccordement effectif au réseau de collecte des eaux usées
- AP 1.16 : Informer et accompagner les particuliers dans leur raccordement à l'égout
- AP 1.17 : Améliorer la qualité des affluents de la Senne
- AP 1.19 : Remettre la Senne à ciel ouvert
- AP 1.20 : Améliorer la qualité des berges de la Senne [et des autres rivières]
- AP 1.21 : Garantir la libre circulation des poissons dans les rivières
- AP 1.22 : Aménager des zones propices au développement de la faune et de la flore aquatiques
- AP 1.23 : Définir et assurer un débit et une hauteur d'eau minimaux pour la Senne
- AP 1.26 : Diminuer les charges polluantes émises vers la Woluwe par les déversoirs en optimisant leur conception et leur utilisation
- AP 1.34 : Assurer la propreté du Canal par élimination des déchets solides
- AP 1.36 : Diminuer les quantités de sédiments dans le Canal et contrôler la qualité des sédiments
- AP 1.39 : Créer des petites zones "de littoral" qui pourraient être favorables aux macrophytes et aux macro-invertébrés
- AP 1.49 : Réduire les concentrations de nitrates d'origine non agricole dans les masses d'eau souterraine en assurant la rénovation du réseau d'égouttage
- AP 1.50 : Réduire les concentrations de nitrates d'origine non agricole dans les masses d'eau souterraine en étendant le réseau d'égouttage ou en prévoyant des mesures alternatives lorsque l'extension n'est techniquement et/ou économiquement pas réalisable
- AP 1.51 : Éliminer les puits perdus existants
- AP 1.52 : Réduire les apports de pesticides dans les masses d'eau souterraine
- AP 1.53 : Interdire les rejets directs dans les masses d'eau souterraine
- AP 1.54 : Réduire les rejets indirects dans les masses d'eau souterraine
- AP 1.55 : Prévenir et gérer les pollutions accidentelles dans les masses d'eau souterraine et en priorité dans les zones de protection de captage d'eau destinée à la consommation humaine
- AP 1.56 : Limiter l'impact des sols pollués sur la qualité des masses d'eau souterraine (assainir les sols pollués)
- AP 1.61 : Assurer un contrôle adéquat des eaux souterraines en zone de protection des captages d'eau destinée à la consommation humaine
- AP 1.62 : Assurer la protection des zones vulnérables aux nitrates d'origine agricole
- AP 1.63 : Assurer une protection et une gestion des masses d'eau situées dans les sites Natura 2000, les réserves naturelles et les réserves forestières en adéquation avec les objectifs de conservation des sites : protection des espèces aquatiques et restauration des milieux humides
- AP 1.64 : Veiller à la protection des zones sensibles à l'égard des nutriments

AP 1.65 : Veiller à la protection des zones sensibles à risques accrus et des zones tampons à l'égard des pesticides

Most of them are on-going and will be repeated and enhanced in the next River basin Management Plan (final approval expected for April 2023).

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

FLANDERS

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.

Objectives for groundwater bodies

Goal XIX-1: Reduction of the pollution of groundwater by reducing excessive leaching of nutrients into the soil and the groundwater.

Timing: n.a.

Goal XIX-2 : Reduction of diffuse pollution of the groundwater by pesticides

Timing: Ongoing

Goal XIX-3 : Reduce the spread of silting

Timing: Ongoing

Goal XIX-4: Active adjustment of the management of quality of the groundwater by means of additional scientific substantiation

Timing: Ongoing

Objectives for surface water bodies

Goal XIX-5: Reduce the pollution originating from the agricultural sector

Timing: Ongoing

Goal XIX-6: Reduction of pollution from other sources

Timing: Ongoing

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).

Goal XIX-1 - Possible measures:

- The application of the Manure decree and this action programme associated with this concerning the protection of bodies of groundwater (this measure is an implementation of the European Nitrate directive (91/676/76/EEC)).
- Stimulating the agricultural sector to use the recommendations of the Flemish agriculture investment fund (VLIF) investment support to farmers and horticulturists for investments that contribute to the (source-specific) reduction of the pollution of the surface water and groundwater with nutrients (already in progress)
- The implementation of the Plan for Sustainable Rural Development (2007-2013): reduction of fertilisers in ornamental horticulture.
- The implementation of the Plan for Sustainable Rural Development (2007-2013): hectare support biological agriculture
- Fertilization according to a fertilization recommendation for the protection of the bodies of groundwater (PROVISIONAL)

Goal XIX-2 - Possible measures:

- The application of the Federal Pesticides Reduction Plan for the protection of bodies of groundwater
- Stimulating the agriculture sector to use the recommendations of the Flemish agriculture investment fund: pesticides
- Informing and making the sectors aware concerning pesticide use (campaign 'Doing without is healthier' (zonder is gezonder), pesticide reduction decree)
- Detail actions stimulating industry and the population to stimulate a reduction in the use of pesticides
- Approval system for pesticides (91/414/EC)
- Formulate proposals for the prohibition on the use of persistent pesticides and decomposition products to the federal government for extending the prohibition of the range of products (PROVISIONAL)
- Development of an inter-municipality cooperation agreement around open communication concerning pesticides and pesticide use between producers, users and other interested parties (drinking water companies, nature associations, etc.) (PROVISIONAL)

Goal XIX-3 - Possible measures:

- The implementation of an adapted permit policy for bodies of groundwater in a bad condition preventing further silting of these bodies of groundwater
- Further development and implementation of an adapted permit policy for bodies of groundwater with a risk of silting by preventing the expansion of silted areas on the basis of the harmonisation of the supply and demand of groundwater and additional scientific substantiation (PROVISIONAL)

Goal XIX-4 - Possible measures:

- Study of the geochemical processes of the system by means of geophysical measurements, study into redox-sensitive conversion processes, age determination of the groundwater and determining (good) reference levels
- Study into the origin and change in the concentration course in space and time of various polluting parameters in very high bodies of groundwater with a bad condition
- Study into the decrease in quality as a result of drainage in very high bodies of groundwater in a quantitatively base situation within the Sokkel system and the Bruland cretaceous system (silting, sulphate spread, etc.)
- Arranging priority risk areas for nitrate washing without derogation application and the expansion and monitoring of the derogation measurement network
- Study into the sedimentary parts in the Coastal and Polder system by installing a new silting measurement network for a precise delineation of the silted bodies of groundwater to coordinate the permit policy in and around these areas
- Developing an appraisal method and a trend analysis for the silting problems in the Coastal and Polder system and the Sokkel system
- Determining the origin of the arsenic, nickel, lead and cadmium in the bodies of groundwater that are in a bad chemical situation concerning heavy metal
- Carry out geostatic analyses to get an overall picture for each body of groundwater of the spatial distribution of the groundwater quality
- Further harmonisation with other standardising legislation (environmental quality standards for surface water, soil remediation standards, ...) and substantiation of the background level obtained, environmental quality standards and threshold values on the basis of scientific knowledge and the monitoring results
- Optimization of the implementation of risk evaluation for historically polluted sites by the revision of the Vlier-Humaan model
- Development and/or optimization of remediation methods for soil and groundwater pollution caused by point sources
- Determination of the optimum between various types of cultivation and the types and quantities of pesticides to use
- Further investigation of what the fertilization standard must be to translate the bad chemical situation concerning nutrients and translate the results into measures
- Adapt the agricultural activities to the natural boundary conditions (physical and chemical environmental conditions) of the environment on the basis of scientific substantiation (e.g. on sandy ground no agriculture but grassland/pasture)
- Adapt the pesticide use to the natural boundary conditions of the environment on the basis of scientific substantiation (washing and retention capacity)

Goal XIX-5 - Possible measures:

- Agriculture plays an important role in the eutrophication of the environment by the emission of N and P nutrients. With the implementation of the new manure decree, MAP5 (decree concerning the protection of water against nitrate pollution from agrarian sources) in execution of the European nitrate directive an attempt has been made to resolve these problems. The manure decree contains, among others things, new fertilizer excretion standards, new fertilization standards and a new regulation on the processing and sale of manure. Moreover the

implementation decree of the manure decree stipulates stricter rules for the sufficient treatment of the drainage originating from the greenhouse horticulture sector.

- The further information and increasing awareness of the agriculture sector concerning nutrient use remain necessary. Encouraging environment-friendly agriculture methods is done among other things by distributing “codes of good agricultural practices” (including the use of nutrients, agrarian nature conservation, waste products,...).
- The Flemish agriculture investment fund (VLIF) subsidizes investments in sustainable agriculture methods. The support is among others granted for investments that are aimed at improving the environment.
- Drawing up erosion suppression plans for all of the most erosion-sensitive areas and the implementation at the current tempo of erosion suppression work in the highest priority problem areas will reduce the soil erosion and/or sediment feed into the watercourse. Here too raising the awareness and stimulating municipalities and farmers continue to be necessary.
- The use of pesticides was already reduced in the course of time thanks to the introduction of integrated and biological prevention, mechanical weed prevention, and restriction of use by stricter waste controls, an improved range of pesticides, lower legal doses, more resistant plant varieties, more precise spray installations, etc. The impact on the environment was also reduced by taking most toxic substances out of use. Also by means of an awareness campaign the Flemish government has tried to stimulate a more environmentally aware approach to pesticides. The code of good agriculture practice – pesticides focuses attention on points such as the safe handling of pesticides, the use of environmentally-friendly spray equipment, drift reduction, the responsible processing of spray waste and empty packaging, plot treatment, which can make spraying superfluous, etc. however further efforts remain necessary. The use of drift reducing capsules together with the construction of buffer areas ensures that less pesticide is blown away and gets into the watercourse.
- As additional measures, measures that act directly on the components of the soil balance are preferred.
- Prevention of washing off the land by a correct arrangement of the land and proper land maintenance
- Prevention of point discharges of pesticides throughout the whole spraying process
- Prevention of unused pesticide through the installation of a flush water tank
- Increasing the milk production of milk cattle per ha of roughage by 5000 l/ha by using high productivity milk cows
- Striving for a lower nitrogen excretion for pigs by adjusting the composition of the animal feed using a multi-phase system
- Striving for a lower phosphorous excretion for pigs by adjusting the composition of the animal feed using a multi-phase system
- Fertilization according to a fertilization recommendation
- Carrying out additional erosion prevention actions
- Sowing 6 m wide grass buffer strips between land and watercourses (category 1 to 4)
- Optimizing sowing of winter green cover

- Drift-reducing measures for pesticides by keeping to 1m buffer zones by creating grass edge or catch crops
- Stimulating IPM

Goal XIX- 6 - Possible measures:

- On December 21, 2001 the Flemish parliament approved the decree concerning the reduction of the use of pesticides by public services in the Flemish district. Since 2004, in principle, public authorities may no longer use pesticides, unless they thoroughly justify this in a reduction plan.
 - In addition to the reduction in use by public authorities, the public authorities can investigate how to stimulate their citizens to use less pesticide. The campaign ‘doing without is healthier’ (zonder isgezonder) stimulates individuals (and in the first place citizens) to use less pesticide.
 - Moreover, the discharging of substances that are damaging to the environment via domestic waste water must be strictly limited. Small dangerous waste (paint, pesticides, waste oil, antifreeze, all kinds of chemicals) must be brought to collection points and must not be disposed of down the drain. Making the population aware of the use of environmentally-friendly products (e.g. cleaning products, paints, ...) is currently done by information points such as the ‘water desk’.
 - Finally, in Europe within the context of the harmonisation of the internal market, restrictions on use and marketing have been introduced for approximately 50 substances (Directive 76/769/EC and additions). There is also a European prohibition in force on the production and use of 16 persistent substances (Regulation 850/2004/EC). The restrictions on use and marketing are mainly focused on the production and use of industrial chemicals. But these substances are also used in shipping, road transport, by non-professionals and the public at large in, for example, detergents and paints. A restriction on use and/or marketing tackles the distribution of a dangerous substance directly at the source, so that this instrument can have a relatively large impact on water quality.
3. Please assess the progress achieved from the baseline towards meeting the target as well as any challenges encountered.

Goal XVIII-2: Reduction of the pollution of groundwater by reducing excessive leaching of nutrients into the soil and the groundwater.		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
The application of the Manure decree and this action programme associated with this concerning the protection of bodies of groundwater (this measure is an implementation of the European Nitrate directive (91/676/76/EEC)).	On going	
Stimulating the agricultural sector to use the recommendations of the Flemish agriculture investment fund (VLIF) investment support to farmers and horticulturists for investments that contribute to the (source-specific) reduction of the pollution of the surface water and groundwater with nutrients (already in progress)	On going	
The implementation of the Plan for Sustainable Rural Development (2007-2013): reduction of fertilisers in ornamental horticulture.	On going	
The implementation of the Plan for Sustainable Rural Development (2007-2013): hectare support biological agriculture	On going	
Fertilization according to a fertilization recommendation for the protection of the bodies of groundwater	On going	3
Goal XIX-2 : Reduction of diffuse pollution of the groundwater by pesticides		

Actions Status	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
The application of the Federal Pesticides Reduction Plan for the protection of bodies of groundwater	On going	
Stimulating the agriculture sector to use the recommendations of the Flemish agriculture investment fund: pesticides	On going	
The implementation of the Plan for Sustainable Rural Development (2007-2013): mechanical weed prevention	On going	
Informing and making the sectors aware concerning pesticide use (campaign 'Doing without is healthier' (zonder is gezonder), pesticide reduction decree)	On going	
Detail actions stimulating industry and the population to stimulate a reduction in the use of pesticides	On going	
Approval system for pesticides (91/414/EC)	On going	
Formulate proposals for the prohibition on the use of persistent pesticides and decomposition products to the federal government for extending the prohibition of the range of products (PROVISIONAL)	On going	7
Development of an inter-municipality cooperation agreement around open communication concerning pesticides and pesticide use between producers, users and other interested parties (drinking water companies, nature associations, etc.)	Not Started	2
Goal XIX-3 : Reduce the spread of silting		
Actions Status	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
The implementation of an adapted permit policy for bodies of groundwater in a bad condition preventing further silting of these bodies of groundwater	On going	9
Further development and implementation of an adapted permit policy for bodies of groundwater with a risk of silting by preventing the expansion of silted areas on the basis of the harmonisation of the supply and demand of groundwater and additional scientific substantiation	Not Started	0
Goal XIX-4: Active adjustment of the management of quality of the groundwater by means of additional scientific substantiation		
Actions Status	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
measurements, study into redox-sensitive conversion processes, age determination of the groundwater and determining (good) reference levels	On going	4
Study into the origin and change in the concentration course in space and time of various polluting parameters in very high bodies of groundwater with a bad condition	On going	5
Study into the decrease in quality as a result of drainage in very high bodies of groundwater in a quantitatively base situation within the Sokkel system and the Bruland cretaceous system (silting, sulphate spread, etc.)	On going	6
Arranging priority risk areas for nitrate washing without derogation application and the expansion and monitoring of the derogation measurement network	On going	9
Study into the sedimentary parts in the Coastal and Polder system by installing a new silting measurement network for a precise delineation of the silted bodies of groundwater to coordinate the permit policy in and around these areas	Finished	10
Developing an appraisal method and a trend analysis for the silting problems in the Coastal and Polder system and the Sokkel system	Not Started	0
Determining the origin of the arsenic, nickel, lead and cadmium in the bodies of groundwater that are in a bad chemical situation concerning heavy metal	On going	5

Carry out geostatic analyses to get an overall picture for each body of groundwater of the spatial distribution of the groundwater quality	On going	8
Further harmonisation with other standardising legislation (environmental quality standards for surface water, soil remediation standards, ...) and substantiation of the background level obtained, environmental quality standards and threshold values on the basis of scientific knowledge and the monitoring results	Finished	10
Optimization of the implementation of risk evaluation for historically polluted sites by the revision of the Vlier-Humaan model	Finished	10
Determination of the optimum between various types of cultivation and the types and quantities of pesticides to use	Not started	0
Further investigation of what the fertilization standard must be to translate the bad chemical situation concerning nutrients and translate the results into measures	On going	9
Adapt the agricultural activities to the natural boundary conditions (physical and chemical environmental conditions) of the environment on the basis of scientific substantiation (e.g. on sandy ground no agriculture but grassland/pasture)	Not started	0
Adapt the pesticide use to the natural boundary conditions of the environment on the basis of scientific substantiation (washing and retention capacity)	On going	5
Goal XIX-5: Reduce the pollution originating from the agricultural sector		
Actions Status	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Agriculture plays an important role in the eutrophication of the environment by the emission of N and P nutrients. With the implementation of the new manure decree, MAP3 (decree concerning the protection of water against nitrate pollution from agrarian sources) in execution of the European nitrate directive an attempt has been made to resolve these problems. The manure decree contains, among others things, new fertilizer excretion standards, new fertilization standards and a new regulation on the processing and sale of manure. Moreover the implementation decree of the manure decree stipulates stricter rules for the sufficient treatment of the drainage originating from the greenhouse horticulture sector.		
The further information and increasing awareness of the agriculture sector concerning nutrient use remain necessary. Encouraging environment-friendly agriculture methods is done among other things by distributing "codes of good agricultural practices" (including the use of nutrients, agrarian nature conservation, waste products,...).		
The Flemish agriculture investment fund (VLIF) subsidizes investments in sustainable agriculture methods. The support is among others granted for investments that are aimed at improving the environment.		
The European rural development policy for the period 2007-2013 continues to respond to agriculture and country in a broader context. The European fund for rural development (ELFPO) provides the European co-financing for the programmes that the Member States develop.		
Drawing up erosion suppression plans for all of the most erosionsensitive areas and the implementation at the current tempo of erosion suppression work in the highest priority problem areas will reduce the soil erosion and/or sediment feed into the watercourse. Here too raising the awareness and stimulating municipalities and farmers continue to be necessary.		
The use of pesticides was already reduced in the course of time thanks to the introduction of integrated and biological prevention, mechanical weed prevention, and restriction of use by stricter waste controls, an improved range of pesticides, lower legal doses, more resistant plant	On going	3

varieties, more precise spray installations, etc. The impact on the environment was also reduced by taking most toxic substances out of use. Also by means of an awareness campaign the Flemish government has tried to stimulate a more environmentally aware approach to pesticides. The code of good agriculture practice – pesticides focuses attention on points such as the safe handling of pesticides, the use of environmentally-friendly spray equipment, drift reduction, the responsible processing of spray waste and empty packaging, plot treatment, which can make spraying superfluous, etc. however further efforts remain necessary. The use of drift reducing capsules together with the construction of buffer areas ensures that less pesticide is blown away and gets into the watercourse.		
As additional measures, measures that act directly on the components of the soil balance are preferred.		
Prevention of washing off the land by a correct arrangement of the land and proper land maintenance	On going	2
Prevention of point discharges of pesticides throughout the whole spraying process	On going	3
Prevention of unused pesticide through the installation of a flush water tank	On going	6
Increasing the milk production of milk cattle per ha of roughage by 5000 l/ha by using high productivity milk cows		
Striving for a lower nitrogen excretion for pigs by adjusting the composition of the animal feed using a multi-phase system		
Striving for a lower phosphorous excretion for pigs by adjusting the composition of the animal feed using a multi-phase system		
Fertilization according to a fertilization recommendation	On going	8
Carrying out additional erosion prevention actions	On going	1
Sowing 6 m wide grass buffer strips between land and watercourses (category 1 to 4)	On going	
Optimizing sowing of winter green cover	On going	8
Drift-reducing measures for pesticides by keeping to 1m buffer zones by creating grass edge or catch crops	On going	2
Stimulating IPM	On going	4
Goal XIX-6: Reduction of pollution from other sources		
Actions Status	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
On December 21, 2001 the Flemish parliament approved the decree concerning the reduction of the use of pesticides by public services in the Flemish district. Since 2004, in principle, public authorities may no longer use pesticides, unless they thoroughly justify this in a reduction plan.	On going	
In addition to the reduction in use by public authorities, the public authorities can investigate how to stimulate their citizens to use less pesticide. The campaign ‘doing without is healthier’ (zonder is gezonder) stimulates individuals (and in the first place citizens) to use less pesticide.	On going	
Moreover, the discharging of substances that are damaging to the environment via domestic waste water must be strictly limited. Small dangerous waste (paint, pesticides, waste oil, antifreeze, all kinds of chemicals) must be brought to collection points and must not be disposed of down the drain. Making the population aware of the use of environmentally-friendly products (e.g. cleaning products, paints, ...) is currently done by information points such as the ‘water desk’.	On going	
Finally, in Europe within the context of the harmonisation of the internal market, restrictions on use and marketing have been introduced for approximately 50 substances (Directive 76/769/EC and additions). There is also	On going	

<p>a European prohibition in force on the production and use of 16 persistent substances (Regulation 850/2004/EC). The restrictions on use and marketing are mainly focused on the production and use of industrial chemicals. But these substances are also used in shipping, road transport, by non-professionals and the public at large in, for example, detergents and paints. A restriction on use and/or marketing tackles the distribution of a dangerous substance directly at the source, so that this instrument can have a relatively large impact on water quality.</p>		
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4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 ‘by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally’.

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

N.A.

WALLONIA

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 targets aimed by the Protocol originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive. They are in the programmes of measures for the River Basin Management plan. The River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 is in the adoption process.

Main target: reaching the good status for groundwater and surface water bodies.

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).

The programme is divided in themes :

1. Sanitation
2. Stormwater management
3. Reduction of industrial discharges and limitation of discharges of dangerous substances
4. Agriculture
5. Historical accidental pollution
6. Hydromorphology and preservation of aquatic aquatic environments
7. Recreational activities
8. Enhance the strategic water resources

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

On going

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

The target here contributes to achieve SDG - goal nr. 6.3 'by 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally'.

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

N.A.

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.

N.A.

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).

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

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

N.A.

Part three

Common indicators¹

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).

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

The total population in 2020 was 1,218 million. 100 % of the population is covered by a public water supply.

The water quality data provided in the tables below are based on information obtained from the only public water supplier in the Brussels Region.

FLANDERS

In Flanders, it is estimated that 98.9 % of the populated is connected to the public drinking water supply network. All drinking water supplied through this network is controlled in accordance with de EU 98/83 Drinking water directive.

WALLONIA

In Wallonia, it's estimated that 99,3% of the population (census 1/01/2018) is connected to the public drinking water supply network. That water is controlled in accordance with the EU directive 98/83.

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

According to the drinking water directive, the samples are taken at the point of consumption (kitchen tap).

FLANDERS

According to the drinking water directive, the samples are taken at the point of consumption (kitchen tap).

WALLONIA

Only samples representative of the point of consumption (consumer's taps) are considered in sections 2 and 3. However, for some parameters whose concentration

¹ 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.

can not increase from the treatment plant outlet to the water tap (eg pesticides), the other locations are also considered.

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.²

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

The standards for drinking water quality from the EU 98/83 were used.

FLANDERS

The standards for drinking water quality from the EU 98/83 were used. In Flanders, the standard for nitrite is 0.10 mg/l. In part C – the failing rate for both standards is given.

WALLONIA

The EU standards for drinking water quality from the directive 98/83/EC were used.

Please note that the EU standard for lead decreased from 25 to 10 µg/L in December 2013, what explains the non-compliance “jump” in year 2014.

Pesticides : total (EU standard : 0,5 µg/L) and 25 individual substances and metabolites (EU standard = 0,1 µg/l each);

HAP 4 : sum (Benzo (b) fluoranthene, Benzo (k) fluoranthene, Benzo (g,h,i) perylene and Indéno (1,2,3-cd) pyrene) ; EU standard : 0,1 µg/L for the sum.

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 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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

² 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/.

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
<i>E. coli</i>	Total	0%	0 %	0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0%
	Rural	/	/	/
Additional parameter 1: <i>Enterococci</i>	Total	0,77 %	0,82 %	1,83 %
	Urban	0,77 %	0,82 %	1,83 %
	Rural	/	/	/
Additional parameter 2:	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 3:	Total			
	Urban			
	Rural			

FLANDERS

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
<i>E. coli</i>	Total	1,07 %	0,14 %	0,13 %
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Enterococcen	Total	1,01 %	0,12 %	0,26 %
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

WALLONIA

When possible, data to estimate urban/rural areas are provided between 2 alternative categories according to population supplied in each water supply zones (large WSZ > 5000 inhabitants versus small WSZ).

The recent and negative trend concerning Enterococci is attributed to the will to reduce over-chlorination.

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2014)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
<i>E. coli</i>	Total	3,5%	0,85%	0,77%
	Large WSZ	0,5%	0,23%	0,13%

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2014)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
	Small WSZ	n.a.	n.a.	1,40%
Enterococci:	Total	2,6%	0,85%	1,11%
	Large WSZ	0.6%	0.32%	0.66%
	Small WSZ	n.a.	n.a.	1,55%

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Arsenic	Total	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Rural	/	/	/
Fluoride	Total	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Rural	/	/	/
Lead	Total	0,92 %	10,64 %	2,69 %
	Urban	0,92 %	10,64 %	2,69 %
	Rural	/	/	/

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Nitrate	Total	0 %	0 % (0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Rural	/	/	/
Additional parameter 1: pesticides	Total	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Rural	/	/	/
Additional parameter 2: trihalomethanes	Total	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Urban	0 %	0 %	0 %
	Rural	/	/	/

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Additional parameter 3:	Total	1,18%	0 %	0.17 %
Sodium (Na)	Urban	1,18%	0 %	0,17 %
	Rural	/	/	/

FLANDERS

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Arsenic	Total	0,61 %	0,00 %	0,04%
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fluoride	Total	0,17 %	0,00 %	0,00 %
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Lead	Total	1,71 %	1,64 %	2,00 %
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Nitrate and nitrite	Total	Nitrate: 0,00 % Nitrite: 0,35 % (> 0,10 mg/l-; 0,00 % (> 0,50 mg/l)	Nitrate: 0,02 % Nitrite: 0,10 % (> 0,10 mg/l-; 0,02 % (> 0,50 mg/l)	Nitrate: 0,02 % Nitrite: 0,15 % (> 0,10 mg/l-; 0,03 % (> 0,50 mg/l)
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Additional parameter 1:	Total	2,34 %	2,47 %	3,48 %
Iron	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Additional parameter 2:	Total	0,66 %	0,00 %	0,00 %
Trihalomethanes	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Additional parameter 3:	Total	0,00 %	0,00 %	0,00 %
Pesticides (and metabolites)	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.

WALLONIA

When possible, data to estimate urban/rural areas are provided between 2 alternative categories according to population supplied in each water supply zones (large WSZ > 5000 inhabitants or small WSZ).

* for lead, the worse results in rural areas are an effect of some more aggressive/corrosive water sources that can also enhance lead migration from alloy pipe and fittings containing lead.

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category(2005)</i>	<i>Baseline value</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2014)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
Arsenic	Total	0.61 %	0 %	0 %
Fluoride	Total	0.17 %	0 %	0 %
Lead	Total	3 %	9,8 %	3,61 %
	Large WSZ			1,82 %
	Small WSZ			4,54%*
Nitrate	Total	0.20 %	0.08 %	0,09 %
	Large WSZ			0,11%
	Smal WSZ			0,07%
Additional parameter 1:	Total	0.42 %	0,06 %	0,11%
	Large WSZ		&	²
Pesticides	Small WSZ			0 %
Additional parameter 2:	Total	0.12 %	0 %	0 %
Trihalomethanes				
Additional parameter 3:	Total	0.07 %	0.06%	0,37 %
	Large WSZ			0,67 %
PAHs	Small WSZ			0,15 %

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.

BELGIUM

The data in the table below has been provided for Belgium as a whole by Sciensano (Sciensano is a public institution with legal personality established by the law of 25 February 2018 establishing Sciensano. Sciensano performs public and animal health assignments at 5 levels:

1. federal
2. regional
3. community level
4. European
5. international level

Sciensano is recognized as a research institution by the Belgian Science Policy and can issue a scientific visa.

Disease	Incidence rate per 100,000 population (all exposure routes)			Number of outbreaks (confirmed water-borne outbreaks)		
	Baseline 2019	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)		Baseline (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)	
		Current value (2020)	Current value (specify year)		Current value (specify year)	
Shigellosis	3.69	3.11	0.99	-	-	-
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection	1.14	1.08	0.73	-	-	-
Typhoid fever	0.39	0.32	0.15	-	-	-
Viral hepatitis A	1.91	3.24	1.08	-	-	-
Legionellosis	1.96	2.07	1.24	-	-	-
Cryptosporidiosis	7.47	6.31	4.34	-	-	-
Additional disease 1:						
Additional disease 2:						
Additional disease 3:						

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Total		100 %	100 %
Urban		100 %	100 %
Rural		/	/

FLANDERS

<i>Percentage of population with access to drinking water</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005r)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2017)</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Urban	100 %	100 %	100 %
Rural	100 %	100 %	100 %

WALLONIA

<i>Pourcentage de la population ayant accès à l'eau de boisson</i>	<i>Valeur de référence (2005)</i>	<i>Valeur indiquée au cycle précédent (2018)</i>	<i>Valeur la plus récente (2021)</i>
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Urban	100 %	100 %	100 %
Rural	100 %	100 %	100 %

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

As the Brussels-Capital Region is totally urban, we made a distinction between collective (‘centralized’) and individual (‘non-centralized’) sanitation. The collective sanitation covers 98% of the population, the 2% left are not equipped with a sewage network. It is estimated that 99.8% of the pollutant load is collected for treatment in wastewater treatment plants.

<i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2019)</i>	<i>Current value (2022)</i>
Total			
Centralized		98%	98%
non-centralized		2%	2%

FLANDERS AND WALLONIA

<i>Percentage of population with access to sanitation</i>	<i>Baseline value (2005)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2019)</i>	<i>Current value (2021)</i>
Total	100%	100%	100%
Urban	100%	100%	100%
Rural	100%	100%	100%

- 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 water³ falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive⁴ 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*

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (2009)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
High status	0%	0%	0%
Good status	0%	0%	0%
Moderate status	0%	33%	33%
Poor status	66%	33%	33%
Bad status	33%	33%	33%
Total number/volume of water bodies classified			
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

³ Please specify.

⁴ 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.

FLANDERS

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
High status		0%	0%
Good status		0%	0,51%
Moderate status		22,7%	30,77%
Poor status		50,0%	43,08%
Bad status		23,7%	23,08%
Total number/volume of water bodies classified		200	195
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country		195	195

WALLONIA

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (2007)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2013)</i>	<i>Current value (2016)</i>
High status	2 %	4 %	4%
Good status	36 %	39 %	43 %
Moderate status	28 %	23 %	25 %
Poor status	18 %	17 %	15 %
Bad status	15 %	17 %	13 %
Total number/volume of water bodies classified	320	340	340
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country	354	354	352 (*)

(*) In Wallonia, 2 X 2 SWB were merged to 2 SWB for the 2nd River basin management plan, what explains the reduction of total number SWB.

Please note that the methods and standards to evaluate the ecological status have changed in 2011 so that only figures concerning 2013 and 2016 are comparable.

(ii) *Chemical status of surface water bodies*

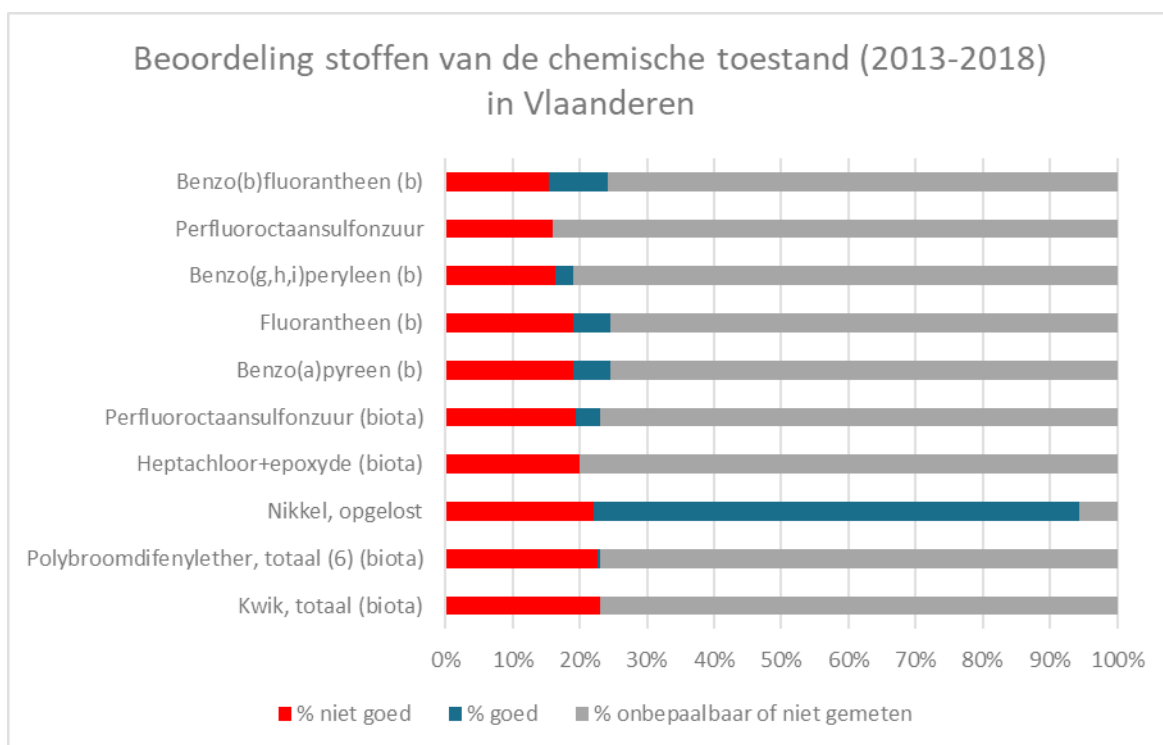
BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2009)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
Good status	0%	0%	0%
Poor status	100%	100%	100%
Total number/volume of water bodies classified	3	3	3
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

FLANDERS

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Good quantitative status		81%	See table below
Good chemical status		21,4%	
Poor quantitative status		19,0%	
Poor chemical status		78,6%	
Total number/volume of water bodies classified			
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

Table below shows the chemical status in Flanders of waterbodies with a focus on the ten substances that have shown the highest threshold exceedance.*



*red represents percentage “bad status”, whereas blue represents percentage “good status”. Grey signifies “unknown”

WALLONIA

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2007)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2011)</i>	<i>Current value (2016)</i>
Good status	58 %	62 %	65 %
Poor status	42 %	38 %	35 %
Total number of water bodies classified	252	259	352

(*) In Wallonia, 2 X 2 SWB were merged to 2 SWB for the 2nd River basin management plan, what explains the reduction of total number SWB

Please note that the standards to evaluate the chemical status have changed in 2011 so that only figures concerning 2011 and 2016 are comparable.

(iii) Status of groundwaters

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2009)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
Good quantitative status	100%	100%	100%
Good chemical status	80%	80%	80%
Poor quantitative status	0%	0%	0%
Poor chemical status	20%	20%	20%
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified	5	5	5
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country			

FLANDERS

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous (2015-data from 2012)</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
Good quantitative status		81,0%	93%
Good chemical status		21,4%	45%
Poor quantitative status		19,0%	7%
Poor chemical status		78,6%	55%
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified		42	42
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country		42	42

WALLONIA

<i>Percentage of groundwaters classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (2008)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2013)</i>	<i>Current value (2017)</i>
Good quantitative status	97%	100%	100%
Good chemical status	74%	61%	59 % (*)
Poor quantitative status	3%	0 %	0 %
Poor chemical status	26%	39 %	41 % (*)
Total number of groundwater bodies classified	29	33	34

(b) For other countries

(i) Status of surface waters

<i>Percentage of surface water falling under class^a</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			
Total number/volume of water bodies classified			
Total number/volume of water bodies in the country			

^a Rename and modify the number of rows to reflect the national classification system.

(ii) *Status of groundwaters*

<i>Percentage of groundwaters falling under class^a</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			
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified			
Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country			

^a 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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

The Brussels-Capital Region does not have updated data for the years following the 2019 reporting that could usefully feed into this report due to an update and shortcomings in the abstraction database. An update of the water exploitation index is therefore not possible. (The data for 2019 are maintained in this report)

However, it should be noted that there is a clear trend towards a reduction in the volumes exploited subject to authorisation for all water bodies and all uses in the Brussels-Capital Region. This generalised decrease can be explained by:

- essentially by an overall reduction in abstractions for drinking water supply of 50% between 1986 (record year) and 2020. This is not a choice of the water producer but a consequence of the evolution of the piezometry of the Bruxellian Sands: the Sonian Wood gallery collects water from the aquifer by gravity flow.

- and, to a lesser extent, by the tertiarisation of the Brussels economy: withdrawals for industrial purposes are constantly decreasing both in number and volume. The decrease also observed for the tertiary sector despite this tertiarisation could indicate that the tertiary sector has less and less recourse to groundwater abstraction as an alternative to drinking water

Figures for the Brussels-Capital Region (value 2019 based on 2010-2017 averages)

<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 (2019)</i>
Agriculture	0,02%	n.a	0,22%
Industry	3,18%	n.a	2,13%
Domestic use ^b	10,18%	n.a	6,40%

^a Please specify whether the figure includes both water abstraction for manufacturing industry and for energy cooling. Yes, both

^b Please specify whether the figure only refers to public water supply systems or also to individual supply systems (e.g., wells). both

Mean annual total renewable freshwater resource in Brussels-Capital Region : 32.106.430m³/year

Infiltration is the feed parameter :

1. *application of Wetspass model (VUB, 2007) for the quantification of the average infiltration (arithmetic) over the period 1833 - 1975.*
2. *Application of an annual coefficient applied to WETSPASS 1833 - 1975 infiltration for the calculation of the annual average infiltration 2010- 2017 and calculation of the arithmetic mean of the annual average infiltrations.*

Addition of groundwater flow for the captive groundwater table of the Landénien calculated using the Hydroland 1.0 hydrogeological model based on 2013 inflow data.

For the baseline value, the period considered was 2000-2005.

FLANDERS

Total (excluding cooling water)

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	8,8%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	37,92%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	33,79%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	4,98%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	14,51%

Public water supply

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	1,89%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	23,35%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	63,34%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	8,51%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	2,91%

Ground water

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	56,05%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	35,69%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	4,58%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	3,67%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	0,01%

Surface water

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	2,1%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	51,69%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	0%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	0,25%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	45,95%

Collected rainfall

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	8,76%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	22,57%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	58,63%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	6,35%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	3,69%

Cooling water

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	0%
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	26,58%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	0%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	0,14%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	73,28%

Other water sources

<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 (2021)</i>
Agriculture	n.a.	n.a.	1,41% %
Industry	n.a.	n.a.	91,03%
Domestic use ^b	n.a.	n.a.	0%
Trade & services	n.a.	n.a.	1,35%
Energy	n.a.	n.a.	6,22%

WALLONIA

<i>Indices d'exploitation de l'eau</i>	<i>Valeur de référence (précisez l'année)</i>	<i>Valeur indiquée au cycle précédent (précisez l'année)</i>	<i>Valeur la plus récente (précisez l'année)</i>
Agriculture			
Industrie ^a			
Domestic use ^b			
All water abstractions (*)		5 %	n.a.

(+) : this indicator is the new EU water exploitation index WEI+ (cooling water returned, leaks from the drinking water network and irrigation water not evaporated are subtracted from the water use) ;

(*) The indicator WEI+ is a territorial and not a sectorial indicator: its not possible to dissociate agriculture (0.1% of abstractions), industry (17.2% of abstractions) and domestic use (82.7% of abstractions) ; energy cooling water not returned is included; public and registered individual supplies are included

Part four

Water-related disease surveillance and response systems

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

FLANDERS

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.

In the event of a serious health threat the water supplier interrupts the supply of drinking water, limits its use or take other measures to protect health. The water supplier decides which measures are necessary and takes the risks into account which can result in the interruption of the supply or the restriction of the use of drinking water for the health. This decision is immediately delivered to the competent Environment entity (i.e., the Division, competent for operational water management, from the Flemish Environment Agency) and the competent entity Public Health (i.e. the Prevention Department of the Care and Health Agency) which is also available at all times to provide advice on these measures on it's own initiative. The water supplier immediately informs customers and consumers about the situation and gives them all necessary advice. A 'C report' is required in the event of a "potentially serious health threat". A potential serious health threat has been described as exceeding the standard for one (or more) microbiological or chemical parameter (s) and / or an event that causes (possibly) the provisions of Article 2.1.2 of Decree Integrated Water Management and / or can no longer be met when an event occurs that (possibly) can lead to large or long-lasting quantity problems with potential impact on health, and the cause of which is not with the customer and where several branches are involved that are (possibly) related to each other. Some events can potentially pose a serious health threat without it that a water sample must first be analyzed for this.

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. → N.A.

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.

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

- In accordance with Article 12 of the Water and Health Protocol, the Brussels-Capital Region has included an international cooperation objective in the legal framework of its water policy. An “International Solidarity Fund” has been set up and is funded by the water supplier's income (€0.005 per m³ distributed). Up to now, seven editions of calls for development aid projects related to the water sector were launched on this basis, financing with a global budget of almost 2,5 millions € some 35 projects aimed at improving access to drinking water and adequate sanitation in developing countries, ensuring a fight against water-related diseases.

The Region wishes, through the co-financing of cooperation projects, to contribute to the achievement of objective nr.6 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, namely "to guarantee access for all to water and sanitation for all and to ensure sustainable management of water resources" by 2030. The main objectives of this 6th objective are to:

- ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water;
- Ensure equitable access for all to adequate sanitation and hygiene services and end open defecation, with particular attention to the needs of women and girls and people in vulnerable situations;
- improve water quality by halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and significantly increasing safe water recycling and reuse worldwide;
- increase the rational use of water resources; and
- support and strengthen the participation of the local population in improving water and sanitation management.

- In accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of the Water & Health Protocol, and as required by the Directive 2000/60/EEC (Water Framework Directive, WFD), a cross-border coordination must be established. A international agreement signed in Ghent in 2002 between France, Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels-Capital Region, Federal authority of Belgium and the Netherlands assigns this coordination in the implementation of the WFD to the International Scheldt Commission. The prevention and fight against water-related diseases are not at the heart of this coordination, but in a more general way, the quality of water resources sought by the Parties to this international agreement indirectly participates in it. (for more details on this point, see the contribution of Flanders)

FLANDERS

The development of public support put forward by articles 9 and 10 of the Protocol is being realized by permanent emphasis on public awareness and campaigns communicating to that end. Amongst others, the Flemish Environment agency, the public drinking water companies, and other partners contribute to that end.

To promote the international cooperation put forward by articles 11-14 of the Protocol Flanders takes a number of initiatives. Related to the consultation and planning of water management in the river basin districts takes place are the international river commissions:

(i) The International Scheldt Commission

The International Scheldt Commission is an intergovernmental body for sustainable management of the Scheldt river district. The purpose of the International Scheldt Commission (ISC) is to promote cooperation between the riparian states and regions of the Scheldt, to achieve a sustainable and integrated water management of the International Scheldt River Basin District.

The International Scheldt Commission was established in 2002 upon the signature of the Scheldt Convention (Treaty of Ghent).

It seeks to achieve this objective by:

- Coordinating the efforts of the individual riparian states and provinces in performing their obligations under the European Water Framework Directive.
- Drawing up a single management plan for the International Scheldt River Basin District, under the Water Framework Directive.
- Conducting debate on precautions and protective measures to be taken against high tides.

(ii) International Meuse Commission

Consultation and planning of the water management in the river basin districts takes place within international river commissions. For the Meuse river basin district this is the International Meuse Commission.

The International Meuse Commission (IMC) was established in 2002 upon the signature of the Meuse Convention (Treaty of Ghent). The purpose of the Convention is to achieve sustainable and integrated water management of the Meuse international river basin district. The Convention was signed by the Walloon Region, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the Flemish Region, the Brussels Capital Region, Belgium and Luxembourg. The Meuse Convention entered into force on 1 December 2006.

The main tasks of the IMC are:

- coordinating the obligations under the European Water Framework Directive,
- coordinating the obligations under the European directive on the assessment and management of flood risks, and
- providing advice and recommendations to the Parties on the prevention and control of calamitous water pollution (warning and alarm system).
- initiating measures to prevent and control calamitous water pollution in line

Additionally and withing the UNECE framework Flanders contributes to The Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention). The Water Convention aims to protect and ensure the quantity, quality and sustainable use of transboundary water resources by facilitating cooperation. It provides an intergovernmental platform for the day-to-day development and advancement of transboundary cooperation.

Initially negotiated as a regional instrument, it turned into a universally available legal framework for transboundary water cooperation, following the entry into force of amendments in February 2013, opening it to all UN Member States. It is expected that countries outside the ECE region will be able to join the Convention as of early 2015.

WALLONIA

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Part six

Thematic part linked to priority areas of work under the Protocol

acce1. 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 (-).

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100%
Basic drinking-water service	100%
Basic hygiene service	Unknown
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100%
Basic drinking-water service	100%
Basic hygiene service	Unknown

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

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

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

FLANDERS

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (2020)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100%
Basic drinking-water service	100%
Basic hygiene service	Unknown
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100%
Basic drinking-water service	100%
Basic hygiene service	Unknown

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

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).

In Flanders the private water suppliers (schools, health-care facilities) is responsible for monitoring quality of the water produced. This is applied by the drinking water legislation in Flanders. (<https://navigator.emis.vito.be/mijn-navigator?woId=32328>)

WALLONIA

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3. Safe management of drinking-water supply

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

1. 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

Not yet for Brussels-Capital Region. Such a water safety plan will be put in place by mid-2027 in line with new obligations under Drinking water directive.

FLANDERS

1. 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

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

Flanders: drinking water legislation: (<https://navigator.emis.vito.be/mijn-navigator?woId=32328>)

3. 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>
Total	100% of locations connected to public drinking water infrastructure

Wallonia

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3. Equitable access to water and sanitation

BRUSSELS CAPITAL REGION

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

YES NO IN PROGRESS

2. 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

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

- Ordinance of the Brussels Parliament of 24 December 2021 inserting social measures into the ordinance establishing a framework for water policy (into force on 1 January 2022)
- « De l'eau pour tous ! Etat des lieux de la précarité hydrique en Belgique - 2019 », Rapport de la Fondation Roi Baudouin, mars 2019
- ÉTUDE QUALITATIVE APPROFONDIE SUR LA RÉALITÉ DE LA PRÉCARITÉ HYDRIQUE EN RÉGION DE BRUXELLES-CAPITALE, SiaPartners, 2022

FLANDERS

1. Has the equity of access to safe drinking-water and sanitation been assessed?
YES X NO IN PROGRESS
2. 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

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

Equitable access and social measures regarding access to water and sanitation are included by a series of legislation, notably the Decree Integrated Water Management, title II and the Decision of the Flemish Government on the General Water Sales Rules.

Implementation of the revised Drinking Water Directive will include further measures on access to drinking water with an added focus on what the directive calls marginalized groups and the obligation to public taps.

WALLONIA

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Part seven Information on the person submitting the report

The following report is submitted on behalf of Belgium in accordance with article 7 of the Protocol on Water and Health.

Name of officer responsible for submitting the national report: Kris Van den Belt, National Focal Point

E-mail: k.vandenbelt@vmm.be

Telephone number: 0032 2 214 21 60

Name and address of national authority: VMM – Flemish Environment Agency (coordination for Belgium) Kon. Albert II laan 20 bus 16, 1000 Brussels

Signature:

Date:

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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