

# The financing structure of the International Meuse Commission

Jean-Noël PANSERA, Secretariat of the International Meuse Commission



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# Presentation of the Meuse basin

- 35 000 km<sup>2</sup>
- 905 km
- about 9 Millions inhabitants
- 5 countries / 8 delegations (3 Regions for Belgium)
- Main water uses: drinking water, agriculture, inland navigation...



## Legal basis - IMC

→ **International Meuse Agreement - Ghent 3 Dec. 2002** - International Meuse Commission (FR, BE, NL, LU, DE)

- Sustainable and integrated water management for the international Meuse basin district by reference to the EU Water Framework Directive 2000
- Update of the agreement due to the basin related EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (additional Parties DE and LU)

<http://www.meuse-maas.be/Accords.aspx>

→ (Old) **Charleville-Mézières Agreement 26 Apr. 1994** - International Commission for the Protection of the Meuse against pollution (FR, BE, NL)



Source: L1.nl



Source: ANP

## Legal basis – IMC financing (I)

### **International Meuse Agreement**

Art. 7: Financing of the commission

- (1) Each Party finances its representatives in the Commission.
- (2) The Parties finance all costs of the functioning of the Commission, including the secretariat, based on the following distribution keys.

Germany	14,5 %
Belgium (Kingdom)	0,5 %
Belgium (Brussels region)	4,5 %
Belgium (Flemish region)	5 %
Belgium (Walloon region)	30 %
France	15 %
Luxemburg	0,5 %
Netherlands	30 %

In case of any later accession, leave of a Party or with regard to specific activities, the Commission can decide on a different distribution key.

Contribution key is based on share of the basin and the size of population in this area

Parties	Surface	%	Population	%	% of contribution
France	8.919	26%	671.000	7%	15%
Luxembourg	72	0,2%	51.000	0,5%	0,5%
Wallonia	12.300	35%	2.197.000	23%	30%
Flanders	1.596	5%	440.000	5%	5%
Bruxelles	0	0%	950.000	9,8%	4,5%
Belgium					0,5%
Germany	3.977	11%	1.897.000	20%	14,5%
Netherlands	7.700	22%	3.500.000	36%	30%
	34.664 km <sup>2</sup>		9.706.000 inhabitants		100%



The commission doesn't finance any projects in practical terms. Water management projects are implemented and financed by the countries or regions.

## Legal basis – IMC financing (II)

### Rules of procedure and financial regulations

- Article 5 paragraph 8 of the agreement

“The Commission adopts internal rules of procedure and financing in order to organize its work . . . .”

Such rules have been adopted first on 28 November 2003 and have been updated in the meantime according to the needs, but not with regard to financing yet.

- Article 15 - financial regulations

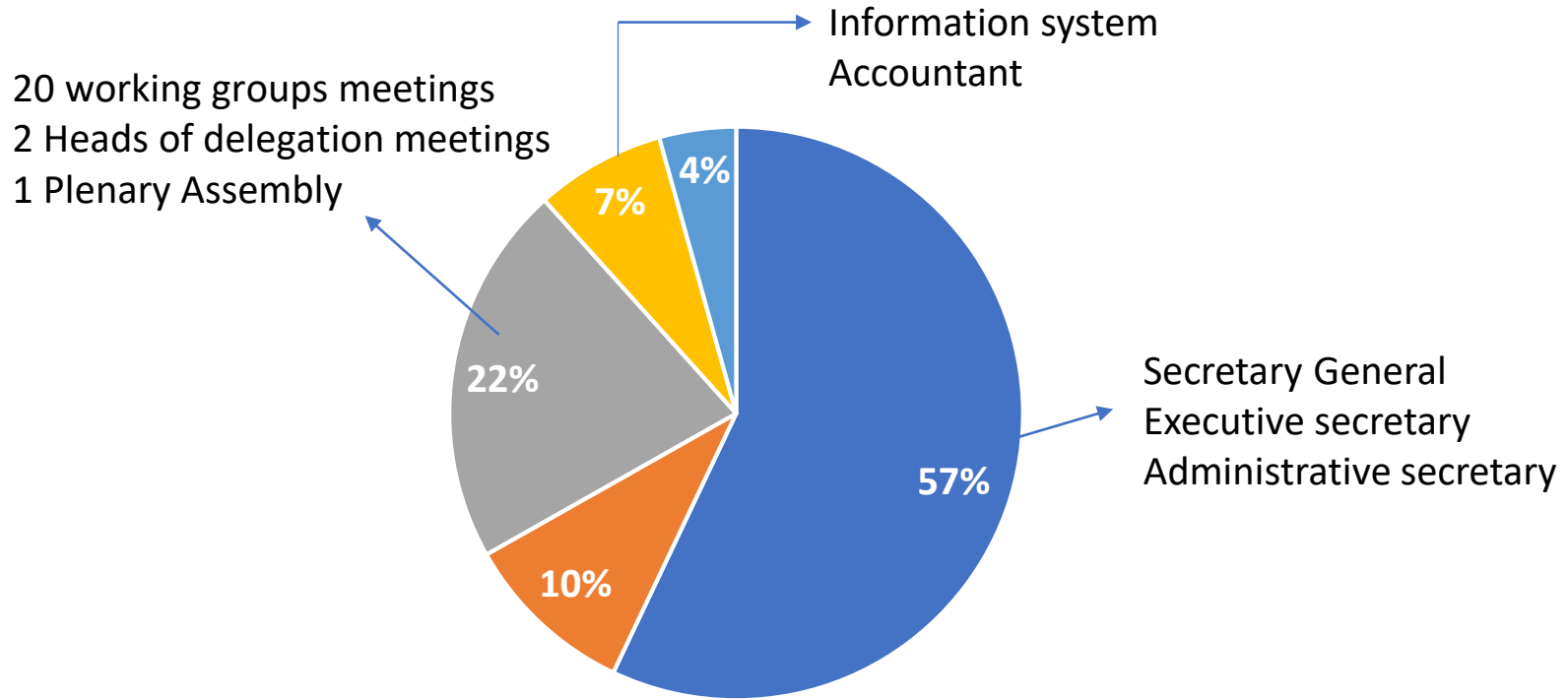
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# Rules of procedure and financial regulations

## Article 15 – Main aspects

- Yearly budget (calendar year) adopted by the Commission in its plenary meeting
- Budget has to present all expected incomes and expenses, budget has to be balanced
- Contributions of the Parties have to be paid until 15 March each year or at least 50 % until 31 January and the rest until 30 June
- Permanent reserve fund to ensure functioning of the Commission, max. 15 % of the overall budget
- President and general secretary are responsible for economical and efficient budgetary management
- 2 auditors check the budgetary management until 15 march of the following year ; nominated by Commission for three years, can be re-nominated
- Written report to the Commission, which on this basis gives discharge to the president

# Budgetary expenditure



- Human resources
- Rental costs
- Meetings organisation
- Office expenses
- Communication



## Challenges of IMC Financing

- Multi-annual expenditure forecast: difficulties to anticipate future expenditures
  - Parties want to have security in financial planning for the coming years
- No increase of the contributions: constant budget despite inflation rates
  - Due to national economic situation some Parties wanted to freeze their contributions, due to equal treatment of all Parties all contributions have not changed since several years

## Lessons learned

- Budget transparency (how has the money been spent) is important
- Communication about the commission's achievements owing to the contributions is useful, also for the visibility of the IMC



**Thank you for your attention!**

