

# **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.*

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 both Flanders and Wallonia decided on, originate from the implementation process of the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) for the period 2016-2021 have been formally adopted by the Flemish and Walloon Government and were the basis for the revision of the targets and measures set under the PWH. The programmes of measures for the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP's have been subject to public consultation and are on-line available for the general public. In both regions additional targets have been set with respect to the provision, the access and the affordability of safe drinking water. We assume that the information available in this report gives the Committee a sufficient degree of insight in the status of the PWH-implementation in Flanders, Brussels and Wallonia. All regional authorities are willing to provide additional information if deemed relevant.

Due to constraints in terms of personnel and time, the Wallonia region has provided information on the common indicators listed in part 3 only.

For the Brussels region the current reporting cycle has been the first reporting cycle and thus the Brussels region has not defined specific targets, target dates or baseline conditions. The Brussels region has however contributed to the reporting cycle by giving an overview of activities and initiatives in the different fields covered by the Protocol.

## Part one General aspects

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

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

FLANDERS

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

BRUSSELS

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

As it is the case for the 2 other Region, 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.

In accordance with this EU obligations, a public inquiry on the river basin management plan of the Brussels-capital Region and the action program was held twice (in 2011 for the first Plan and in 2016 for the 2<sup>nd</sup>) 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 "drinking water", directive 91/271 EEC "wastewater treatment" and also directive 2006/7/EC "bathwater".

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

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

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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>)

Other targets and target dates were published in coalition agreement, letters of commitment of different ministers.

BRUSSELS

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 on 26th of January 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>

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.

#### 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 basin 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.

#### BRUSSELS

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. 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).

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

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.

#### 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 basin management plans and offers a tool to follow-up this implementation.

#### BRUSSELS

The program 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 program 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.

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?

#### FLANDERS

The protocol shows a great overlap with the objectives of the EU Water Framework 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.

#### BRUSSELS

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 Brussels-Capitale 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 info point 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: <https://environnement.brussels/thematiques/eau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau/plan-de-gestion-de-leau-2016-2021>

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.

#### 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.intergraalwaterbeleid.be](http://www.intergraalwaterbeleid.be)

#### BRUSSELS

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. Some information comes from the water operator VIVAQUA in charge of drinking water distribution and sewage network in the Brussels Region.

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. 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).

For Brussels, it's the first reporting cycle. Targets, target dates and baseline conditions aren't mentioned. The major actions taken for each target are mentioned.

## Part two

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

#### FLANDERS

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

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

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

The water intended for human consumption in Flanders must comply with the drinking water standards described in the Flemish Government Decree (13 December 2002) with respect to the legislation concerning the quality and supply of water intended for human consumption. The quality standards includes both drinking water produced and distributed by public drinking water companies and drinking water originated from private water sources.

The current drinking water quality at the tap in Flanders is high (in 2007, 99.7% 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: not relevant

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

Timing: not relevant

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.

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

<b>Goal I-1: To maintain the current high quality of drinking water at the tap and, if necessary, improve it</b>		
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
<b>Goal I-2: Increase the availability of reliable data</b>		
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

- 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 Goal 6 ‘Clean Water and Sanitation, and contributes specifically to target 6.1 ‘achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all’ and target 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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

- 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.

- 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:

- 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 Prevention Division of the Agency then tries to trace the cause 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 veteran disease in publicly accessible places.

The Flemish Government has determined the necessary measures concerning the prevention of veteran 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.

- Regulation on enclosed water: see XVII.

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 Goal 6 'Clean Water and Sanitation, and contributes specifically to target 6.1 'achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all' and target 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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

The Flemish Government Decree (13 December 2002) 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.

Additionally, on the first of June 2011 the General Water Sale Regulations came into effect. These regulations determine 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.

**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.

<b>Goal III-1: To increase the availability of data concerning the 'level of protection' of the water originating from private drinking water supplies.</b>
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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	On going	8
<b>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.</b>		
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.	executed	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.	executed	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	On going	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 Goal 6 ‘Clean Water and Sanitation, and contributes specifically to target 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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

1. Please describe the current target and target date. Please provide information on the background (including the baseline/starting point and reference to existing

national and international legislation) and justification for the adoption of the target.

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 Vlare 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 7.5 billion euro; investment costs that must of course be spread out in time. Since this spreading out in time has not yet been fully defined, the objectives are limited until the ones included in the 1st measures for the Scheldt and Meuse river basin management plans.

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.

Additionally to the abovementioned measures, in the period 2013-2016 several different measures were taken in Flanders and studies were finalised:

- Implementation of a financing levy in order to approximate the real cost of the waste water sanitation better than before;
- Studies concerning the cost allocation of the public waste water sanitation;
- Implementation of a new tariff structure since January 1st 2016, including the uniformisation of social corrections;
- The Flemish government has decided to approve the new tariff regulation concerning drinking water – the tariff regulation was implemented starting January 1st 2017;

The actions that will be taken within the framework of the second generation of the river basin management plans aim at reaching the following goals:

**Goal IV-I:** further development of sanitation infrastructure

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal IV-2:** further development of the cost recovery principle

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

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:**

- Further development of sanitation infrastructure (both collective and individual sanitation) and the further expansion of sanitation infrastructure at both the municipal and above-municipal level
- Further optimisation of sanitation infrastructure and increasing the efficiency of sanitation infrastructure

**Goal IV-2 - Possible measures:**

- Cost recovery of the public collection and sanitation of waste water at the above municipal level based on new insights regarding the allocation of costs: This measure contains actions regarding the present instruments on waterservices, namely the cost allocation regarding the above-municipal contribution to pollution costs. Other actions concern studies and the development of new insights.
- Cost recovery of the public collection and sanitation of waste water at the municipal level based on new insights regarding the allocation of costs: This measure contains actions regarding the present instruments on waterservices, namely the cost allocation regarding the municipal contributions to pollution costs. Other actions concern the development of generic instruments aiming at cost-efficiency and sustainability.
- Overarching measures regarding cost recovery valid for several/all water services: The evaluation of social, economical and ecological corrections contributes to the coordination of cost allocation to the newly developed insights hereto related. Included is research on the establishment of new instruments.

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

<b>Goal IV-1: further development of sanitation infrastructure</b>		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Further development of sanitation infrastructure (both collective and individual sanitation) and the further expansion of sanitation infrastructure at both the municipal and above-municipal level	On going	

Further optimisation of sanitation infrastructure and increasing the efficiency of sanitation infrastructure	On going	
<b>Goal IV-2: further development of the cost recovery principle</b>		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Cost recovery of the public collection and sanitation of waste water at the above municipal level based on new insights regarding the allocation of costs: This measure contains actions regarding the present instruments on waterservices, namely the cost allocation regarding the above-municipal contribution to pollution costs. Other actions concern studies and the development of new insights	On going	
Cost recovery of the public collection and sanitation of waste water at the municipal level based on new insights regarding the allocation of costs: This measure contains actions regarding the present instruments on waterservices, namely the cost allocation regarding the municipal contributions to pollution costs. Other actions concern the development of generic instruments aiming at cost-efficiency and sustainability.	On going	
Overarching measures regarding cost recovery valid for several/all water services: The evaluation of social, economical and ecological corrections contributes to the coordination of cost allocation to the newly developed insights hereto related. Included is research on the establishment of new instruments	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 SDG Target 6.2 ‘By 2030, 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 6.B ‘Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management’

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

N.A.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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.

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

<b>Goal V-1: To include in the legislation aspects concerning the performance level of drinking water supplies (long term)</b>		
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

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 SDG targets 6.1 *By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all* and 6.2 *By 2030, 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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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 in 2017 to 97%, 91%, 95%, 83% 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.

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

3. 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 SDG target **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 global

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

N.A.

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

*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.

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.

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

**Timing:** On going

- 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.

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

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

- 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 SDG Target **6.1** *By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all* and **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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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.

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

- 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 SDG Target **6.2** *By 2030, 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.

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

*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.

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

**Timing:** On going

- 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 IX -1 - Possible measures:**

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

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

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

- 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 target SDG 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))**

*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:** 31/12/2027

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 X-1- possible measure**

The design, construction and maintenance of collecting systems

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

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

This target contributes to target SDG 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))**

*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 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

The actions that will be taken within the framework of the second generation of the river basin management plans regarding Goals XI-I are determined within the following group of measures:

- Reduction of pollution of surface water by reducing pollution caused by industrial point-sources: The pollution by industrial point sources will be reduced on a generic through among others the a revised approach towards the gestion of effluent water, an adaptation of permit standards, and others.
- Reduction of pollution of surface water by reducing pollution caused by industrial point-sources – measures specifically aimed at dangerous substances: This measure contains actions aiming at reducing the pollution by industrial point sources through the revision of environmental quality-norms, the execution of a reduction programme regarding the effluent of dangerous substances, and others. Only generic actions are included under this measure.

Timing: 31/12/2021

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; 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.
- 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.

<b>Goal XI-1: The further reduction of the industrial pollutant load originating from surface water dischargers.</b>		
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	8
attention to crisis management and calamity policy;	On going	8
armonization on decisions and main points within the framework of the expansion and operation of waste water purification installations (WWTI);	On going	7
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.	On going	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 target SDG 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))**

*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.

5. 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.

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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.

3. 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.

Irrigation with effluent of waste water purification installations as a rule does not occur in Flanders. However, during the severe drought Flanders experienced in the summer of 2018 such irrigation has taken place. In order to provide this practice with an appropriate framework, a.o. regarding the quality of the wastewater used for irrigation and in preparation for the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse, a policy initiative has been established by the Flemish government administration. This initiative has not yet resulted in specific targets and/or timing.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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

**Timing:** Ongoing

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

**Timing:** Ongoing

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

**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 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 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 zones 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.

<b>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</b>		
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
<b>Goal XIV-2: Protection of water bodies intended for the production of drinking water and striving towards a reduction in the level of purification</b>		
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
<b>Goal XIV-3: The active adjustment of the management of the quality of surface water by means of additional scientific substantiation.</b>		
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	On going	5

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.	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 SDG targets 6.1 *By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all* and 6.2 *By 2030, 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))**

*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). Some are weekly, others are bi-weekly. There are procedures for action and the communication of poor results and with the presence of cyanobacteria.

In 2018 all bathing water are at least the quality class “acceptable”.

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:** 2015

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 target is reached.

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

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.

This scope is not relevant for Flanders since shellfish production is not permitted in Flanders.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

All **public swimming pools** are subject to permit and are covered by the Vlareem 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 Vlareem legislation. The institutions mentioned include covered all public open air circulation pools and hot whirlpools. This means that all of these public pools must comply with the applicable sector conditions in Vlareem II for design and management. The sector conditions for pools 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 and safe storage of dangerous products. The monitoring of compliance with the Vlareem regulation is the responsibility of the Flemish Agency for Care and Health, Department Prevention. This implies a risk-based surveillance of the monthly analysis of the pool water and regularly an on-site inspection for their compliance with the codes of good practice.

**Swimming en water recreation in ponds, lakes and watercourses** is regulated in Section 32.8.2 of the Vlareem legislation. The appropriate conditions are based on the European Bathing Water Directive of 04/03/2006, introduced on 24 March 2006 and afterwards incorporated into the Vlareem legislation. The Flemish Agency for Care and Health, Department Prevention and the Flemish Environment Agency sample and analyse all public swimming and recreation ponds in Flanders and all coastal waters at the guard areas. There are procedures for action and communication in case of poor water quality and for the presence of cyanobacteria available.

The **prevention of Legionella** growth in collective warm water systems with the possibility of aerosol formation and a potential risk for Legionella infection, as showers and hot whirlpools, is regulated by the specific Legionella legislation of 09/02/2007. This legislation fits within the framework of the Flemish prevention decree and has been in operation since 04/05/2007. Public swimming pools 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 the Flemish Agency for Care and Health, Department Prevention.

Next to these measures of primary prevention, the Decision of the Flemish Government of June 19, 2009 concerning initiatives to prevent the spread of harmful effects caused by biotic factors makes notification of certain water related diseases notifiable, which is a measure of secondary prevention for early detection of cases and clusters and consequent action to prevent spread and new infections from the same source.

**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:**

- Impose legal conditions for the water treatment of natural swimming pools within the VLAREM legislation. The publication of the modified legislation for natural swimming pools is expected in 2019.

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

<b>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</b>		
Actions	Status	implementation rate (1 - 10)
Impose legal conditions for the water treatment of natural swimming pools within the VLAREM legislation.	On going	8

- 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.

- 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 (l))**

*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.

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:** 31/12/2021

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

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

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 actions that will be taken within the framework of the second generation of the river basin management plans regarding Goal XVIII-I are determined within the following groups of measures:

- Improving soil quality by sustainable sanitation of sediment: the actions regarding this measure are waterbody-specific and are related to specific projects aiming at sanitization of sediment.

The actions that will be taken within the framework of the second generation of the river basin management plans regarding Goal XVIII-II are determined within the following groups of measures:

- Reduction of the pollution of groundwater by point sources: this action contains waterbody-specific actions regarding the sanitation and control of pollution by point-sources.

#### **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 Vlare 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.

<b>Goal XVIII-1 : Improvement of the quality of watercourse sediments</b>		
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	
<b>Goal XVIII-2: reduction of point pollution in the soil and the groundwater</b>		
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	

- 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

- 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))**

*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 actions that will be taken within the framework of the second generation of the river basin management plans regarding Goal XVIII-I are determined within the following groups of measures:

### **Objectives for groundwater bodies**

**Goal XIX-1:** Reduction of the pollution of groundwater by point sources.

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

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

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal XIX-3 :** Reduction of other diffuse sources of pollution

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

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

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal XIX-5:** Cross-border groundwater quality management

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

#### **Objectives for surface water bodies**

**Goal XIX-5: :** Reduce the pollution originating from industrial point sources

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal XIX-6:** Reduction of pollution from calamities

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal XIX-7:** reduction of pollution from agricultural sources

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

**Goal XIX-8:** Reduction of other diffuse sources of pollution

**Timing:** 31/12/2021

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**

- Sanitation and control of point source pollution

#### **Goal XIX-2 – possible measures**

- Designate vulnerable zones
- Expanding the scope of the legal prohibitions regarding the use pesticides
- Prioritizing research on pesticides and the use of pesticides
- Evaluating and updating policy measures

#### **Goal XIX-3 : possible measures**

- Development of monitoring network, mapping framework and measurement methodology

- Research the relation between surfacewater and groundwater, and groundwater and ecosystem
- Research on the influence of climate change on salinization and sea levels
- Definition of target 2027 regarding groundwaterbodies and their quality
- Perform status and trend assessment of groundwater bodies

**Goal XIX-4: possible measures**

- A number of studies regarding groundwater analysis and policy substantiation

**Goal XIX-5: possible measures**

- A number of initiatives regarding the development of cross-border policy for Flanders and it's neighbouring countries/regions

**Goal XIX-6: possible measures**

- Imposing measures to prevent calamities and contain it's consequences, focusing on agriculture

**Goal XIX-7: possible measures**

- A number of initiatives to prevent pollution through excess nutrients from agricultural sources

**Goal XIX-8: possible measures**

- Area-specific initiatives and projects aiming to reduce pollution through a.o. rinse water.

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

Actions	Status	Implementation rate (1-10)
<b>Goal XIX-1 – possible measures</b>		
Sanitation and control of point source pollution	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-2 – possible measures</b>		
Designate vulnerable zones	On going	
Expanding the scope of the legal prohibitions regarding the use pesticides	On going	
Prioritizing research on pesticides and the use of pesticides	On going	

Evaluating and updating policy measures	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-3 : Reduction of other diffuse sources of pollution</b>		
Development of monitoring network, mapping framework and measurement methodology	On going	
Research the relation between surfacewater and groundwater, and groundwater and ecosystem	On going	
Research on the influence of climate change on salinization and sea levels	On going	
Definition of target 2027 regarding groundwaterbodies and their quality	On going	
Perform status and trend assessment of groundwater bodies	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-4: Active adjustment of the management of quality of the groundwater by means of additional scientific substantiation</b>		
A number of studies regarding groundwater analysis and policy substantiation	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-5: Cross-border groundwater quality management</b>		
A number of initiatives regarding the development of cross-border policy for Flanders and it's neighbouring countries/regions	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-6: Reduction of pollution from calamities</b>		
Imposing measures to prevent calamities and contain it's consequences, focusing on agriculture	On going	

<b>Goal XIX-7:</b> reduction of pollution through excess nutrients from agricultural sources		
A number of initiatives to prevent pollution through excess nutrients from agricultural sources	On going	
<b>Goal XIX-8:</b> Reduction of other diffuse sources of pollution		
Area-specific initiatives and projects aiming to reduce pollution through a.o. rinse water.	On going	

- 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 SDG target **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.

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

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

- 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.

- 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.

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

- 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.

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

N.A.

## Part two

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

#### BRUSSELS

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

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

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*The 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.*

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

*In 2017, 99,61 % of the drinking water at the tap met the quality requirements in the Brussels region.*

*Following the publication of directive 2015/1787, the Government Order of 2002 was modified in November 2017. The obligated control program set up by the water supplier can now be based on a risk assessment (parameters/frequencies can be limited or expanded based on the results of the risk assessment).*

*Lead is the parameter that is exceeded the most. The majority of the lead pipes in the public network have been removed. The determined lead violations mainly 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. 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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*In the Brussels Region there is no specific surveillance system for drinking water-related sickness. Domestic outbreaks of cholera, bacillary dysentery (shigellosis), EHEC (E. coli), viral hepatitis A and typhoid via the water supply no longer occur.*

*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.*

*The legislation applicable for indoor swimming pools is included in part XVII.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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).*

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 m<sup>3</sup> invoiced.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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 (100%) must be equipped with an urban waste water collection system that meets the requirements of Annex I.A. to this Order. 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.*

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.*

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

*The progress made is immense, but necessary 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 modernisation to improve its water treatment.

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

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

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

For each target set in this area:

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

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, etc.) are incorporated in an order of the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region (3 December 2015) who defined a list of Key performance indicators (KPI) for water supply as stated (in French) here below:

	Dénomination	Définitions	Unité	Pilote
1.1	Nombre annuel d'interruptions non-programmées de service	Les interruptions non programmées font référence au nombre de fuites et de travaux non prévus	Nombre	VIVAQUA
1.2	Disponibilité de la ressource	Durée moyenne des autorisations de captage	Années	VIVAQUA
1.3	Continuité du service du réseau d'adduction	Capacité de production maximale par rapport au niveau de pointe historique	%	VIVAQUA
1.3bis	Continuité du service du réseau d'adduction	Capacité de débit de fourniture maximal en Région de Bruxelles-Capitale par rapport au niveau de pointe historique	%	VIVAQUA

	Dénomination	Définition	Unité	Pilote
3.1	Consommation électrique dans l'approvisionnement et la distribution d'eau potable en Région Bruxelles-Capitale	Total des consommations haute tension - données disponibles - et basse tension - données obtenues sur base d'une clé de répartition - en approvisionnement et distribution d'eau potable en Région Bruxelles-Capitale. Représente la consommation des installations du réseau de distribution ramenée au m <sup>3</sup> à l'entrée des communes - incluant les consommations non enregistrées	kWh/m <sup>3</sup>	VIVAQUA
3.2	Indice linéaire des volumes non enregistrés	Rapport entre les pertes de distribution (pertes réelles et volumes non facturés) en Région	m <sup>3</sup> /km	[ <sup>1</sup> VIVAQUA] <sup>1</sup>

		Bruxelles-Capitale et les kilomètres de conduites en Région Bruxelles-Capitale		
3.3	Rendement du réseau de distribution	Tel que prévu dans l'EBC Les volumes achetés sont les volumes relevés hebdomadairement par VIVAQUA aux compteurs d'entrée des communes et facturés à [1 VIVAQUA] <sup>1</sup> (période de référence est l'année calendrier). Les volumes facturés sont les volumes effectivement facturés par [1 VIVAQUA] <sup>1</sup> au cours d'un exercice - ils peuvent porter sur des consommations de l'exercice précédent. Cet indicateur s'analyse de manière tendancielle.	%	[1 VIVAQUA] <sup>1</sup>
3.4	Taux annuel de renouvellement des conduites de distribution	Rapport entre les kilomètres de conduites renouvelées et remplacées en Région Bruxelles-Capitale et le total des kilomètres de conduites en Région Bruxelles-Capitale, excluant l'éventuel dédoublement des conduites	%	VIVAQUA
3.5	Taux annuel de renouvellement des branchements	Rapport entre le nombre de branchement renouvelés - un renouvellement étant défini par le remplacement de tout le branchement - en Région Bruxelles-Capitale et le nombre total de branchements en Région Bruxelles-Capitale	%	VIVAQUA
3.6	Taux annuel d'extension du réseau actuel	Rapport entre le nombre de kilomètres d'extension du réseau et le nombre total de kilomètres de conduites	%	VIVAQUA
3.7	Taux du réseau d'adduction en mauvais état	Rapport entre le nombre de kilomètres du réseau d'adduction en mauvais état et le nombre total de kilomètres du réseau d'adduction	%	VIVAQUA
3.8	Taux de réparation du réseau	Rapport entre la longueur du réseau réparé (en km), sur la longueur du réseau en mauvais état (en km)	%	VIVAQUA

*Within the meaning of the Ordonance 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.*

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).

*New management and investments program launched by the water supplier, VIVAQUA*

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

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

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

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

For each target set in this area:

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

*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:*

4.1	Taux de renouvellement des réseaux de collecte des eaux usées	Rapport entre le nombre de kilomètres de réseau renouvelés et le nombre total de kilomètres du réseau, longueur à prendre en considération en date du 1er janvier de l'année N. Par "renouvellement" on entend la réhabilitation des conduites par le remplacement d'éléments en béton, par chemisage, par gunitage ou par pose de coques.	%	VIVAQUA
4.2	Taux d'extension du réseau des collectes des eaux usées	Rapport entre nombre de kilomètres d'extension du réseau de collecte des eaux usées sur le total de kilomètres du réseau de collecte des eaux usées	%	VIVAQUA
4.3	Indicateur de débordement d'effluents dans les locaux des usagers	Nombre total de plaintes relatives au débordement de réseau sur base annuelle	Nombre	VIVAQUA
4.4	Indicateur de quantité d'eau usée collectée	Collecte des eaux usées par kilomètre de réseau de collecte des eaux usées. Il n'est en effet pas encore possible de calculer les volumes de surverses, mais un travail d'inventaire des déversoirs va bientôt être entrepris par les acteurs du cycle de l'eau. Le nombre de km considérés est celui utilisé pour l'indicateur 4.1 au 1er janvier de l'année N.	mü/km	VIVAQUA

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 2 urban wastewater treatment plants must comply not only with the requirements of annexe 1.B of Directive 91/271/EEC but also with the discharge standards in their environmental permit.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*The Brussels-Capital Region doesn't have a Code of Good practice as it is the case in Flanders but we follow the requirements of Annexe 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.*

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 launched study and improvement works on the use of storm water overflows aiming at the reduction of their frequency of activation.*

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*The target is the one established in the Government 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 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.*

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).

*Implementation of a more restrictive legal framework for private connection to sewers; tighter control of wastewater discharges; connection work to the collecting network 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.
4. Please describe how the target set under this area contributes to fulfilling global and regional commitments, in particular the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
5. If you have not set a target in this area, please explain why.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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. For 7 of*

them, all of them spilling towards the Seine, and we see that the frequency is too high as well as the volumes discharged (see table from River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 for Brussels).

Tableau 6.9 : Nombre de déversements et volumes déversés par an pour les 7 principaux déversoirs vers la Senne.

Unité	Paruck	Molenbeek	Beysseghem	Drootbeek	Marijly	Zwartebeek	Nouveau Maelbeek
Nombre d'épisodes de déversement séparés de plus d'un jour	37	31	9,5	0	32 / 36	27	49
Volume déversé	1669	1787	140	0	1387 / 250	300	4800

[En bleu](#) : Déversements vers la Senne pour la période juin 2008 - Mars 2010 (excepté la période novembre 2009 - janvier 2010, pour éliminer le biais produit par l'arrêt de la STEP Nord durant cette période).  
[En vert](#) : Campagne de mesure sur les déversoirs d'orage de la Senne en Région de Bruxelles-Capitale, période 2010.

Source : Données Aquiris, calcul Bruxelles Environnement, 2010

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

See question 1 above.

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

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 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 obligated to have an environmental permit.*

*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).

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).

*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.*

*In addition, companies are subject to a sanitation price, calculated on the basis of the polluting load of industrial wastewater discharged.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*No target set for the Brussels-Capital Region. The operators of the UWWTP are required to ensure that the sludge is valorised. 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 sites.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*N/A for 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).
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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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 for 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. 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.*

*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 resources 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 at the end of 2012 in a poor chemical status in terms of nitrates, total pesticides, certain specific pesticides (atrazine desisopropyl, 2,6 dichlorobenzamide (BAM)) and tetrachloroethylene based on the analysis of data from the chemical status monitoring programme covering the period from 2010 to the end of 2012. 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.*

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).

*As stated under 1, drinking water protection zones exists and activities within these zones are strictly regulated. A review of the conditions and permitted installations in this zones has been done in February 2017.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*As the Brussels-Capital Region is concerned, we must comply with the requirements of Directive 2006/7/EC but it should be noted that the Region has not yet officially designated any bathing areas to date.*

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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).

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.

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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.

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*In het Brussels Region, the “Ordonnance du 05/03/2009 relative à la gestion et à l’assainissement des sols pollués” 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.*

*Different Orders have been published :*

*l’arrêté du 16/02/2017 relatif à l’attestation du sol : this order provides for a standard content of soil certificates and sets out the terms and conditions for requesting, issuing and paying for the soil certificates.*

*l’arrêté du 16/07/2015 modifiant l’arrêté du 17/12/2009 fixant la liste des activités à risqué : this order establishes the list of risk activities likely to cause soil pollution. The suspicion is based on the soil pollution potential of each of these activities, which is itself determined on the basis of a thorough analysis of the industrial processes.*

*l’arrêté du 29/03/2018 fixant les normes d’assainissement et les normes d’intervention : this order sets 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.*

*l’arrêté du 12/07/2018 relatif à l’octroi de primes pour la réalisation d’études de sol et de travaux de traitement de pollution orphaneline du sol : order that provides for the granting, under certain conditions, of premiums for soil studies and orphan pollution treatment works.*

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

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

*For each target set in this area:*

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

*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.*

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. For Brussels-Capital Region, this program is divided in 8 main lines of action, 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 water services' and 'polluter pays'.*

*The 4th encourages rational water management behaviours.*

*The 5th includes measures to prevent and manage flood risks.*

*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.*

*All pesticides containing glyphosate, fipronil or active substances in the class of neonicotinoids are totally prohibited in the entire Brussels region. The use of any pesticide is prohibited in protection zones of catchment areas, places frequented by children, an areas protecting heritage remarkable naturalness.*

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

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

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

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



## Part three

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

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

##### 1. Context of the data

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

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

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

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

##### 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.

##### BRUSSELS

The total population in 2017 was 1,2 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.

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).

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.*

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

## FLANDERS

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

In 2013 the legislation changed. The drinking water companies are now also obliged to work according to a risk analysis. Samples are subsequently taken along the whole chain: raw water, before and after the treatment plant, in the distribution system, water tower, ...

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

## BRUSSELS

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

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

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

## 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;

## BRUSSELS

The rationale of this question is to understand any possible differences between the national standards for microbiological and chemical water quality parameters and the respective WHO guideline values.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The latest edition of the WHO *Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality* is available at: [http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/dwq-guidelines-4/en/).

## 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.*

### FLANDERS

<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 (2017)</i>
<i>E. coli</i>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,07 %</b>	<b>0,14 %</b>	<b>0,14 %</b>
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Enterococcen	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,01 %</b>	<b>0,43 %</b>	<b>0,12 %</b>
	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).

<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>	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,5%</b>	<b>0,85%</b>	<b>0,77%</b>
	Large WSZ	0,5%	0,23%	0,13%
	Small WSZ	n.a.	n.a.	1,40%
Enterococci:	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,6%</b>	<b>0,85%</b>	<b>1,11%</b>

<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>
	Large WSZ	0.6%	0.32%	0.66%
	Small WSZ	n.a.	n.a.	1,55%

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

## BRUSSELS

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>E. coli</i>	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Additional parameter 1: <b>Enterococci</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>2,15 % (2014)</b>	<b>0,82 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		2,15 % (2014)	0,82 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Additional parameter 2:	<b>Total</b>			
	Urban			
	Rural			
Additional parameter 3:	<b>Total</b>			
	Urban			
	Rural			

### 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.*

## FLANDERS

<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 (2017)</i>
Arsenic	<b>Total</b>	<b>0,61 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>	<b>0,00%</b>
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Fluoride	<b>Total</b>	<b>0,17 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Lead	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,71 %</b>	<b>1,85 %</b>	<b>1,64 %</b>
			<b>From 25/12/2013 the Drinking water standard for lead changes from 25 µg/l to 10 µg/l (EU 9883 Drinking water directive)</b>	
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Nitrate and nitrite	<b>Total</b>	<b>Nitrate: 0,00 % Nitrite: 0,35 % (&gt; 0,10 mg/l-; 0,00 % (&gt; 0,50 mg/l)</b>	<b>Nitrate: 0,02 % Nitrite: 0,33 % (&gt; 0,10 mg/l-; 0,03 % (&gt; 0,50 mg/l)</b>	<b>Nitrate: 0,02 % Nitrite: 0,10 % (&gt; 0,10 mg/l-; 0,02 % (&gt; 0,50 mg/l)</b>
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Additional parameter 1: Iron	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,34 %</b>	<b>2,40 %</b>	<b>2,74 %</b>
	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0,66 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>

<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 (2017)</i>
Additional parameter 2: Trihalomethanes	Urban	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	Rural	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>	<b>0,00 %</b>
Additional parameter 3: 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).

<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>
Arsenic	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.61 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>
Fluoride	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.17 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>
Lead	<b>Total</b>	<b>3 %</b>	<b>9,8 %</b>	<b>3,61 %</b>
	Large WSZ			1,82 %
	Small WSZ			4,54%*
Nitrate	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.20 %</b>	<b>0.08 %</b>	<b>0,09 %</b>
	Large WSZ			0,11%
	Small WSZ			0,07%
Additional parameter 1: Pesticides	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.42 %</b>	<b>0,06 %</b>	<b>0,11%</b>
	Large WSZ			0,31 %
	Small WSZ			0 %
Additional parameter 2: Trihalomethanes	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.12 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>	<b>0 %</b>

<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>
Additional parameter 3: PAHs	<b>Total</b>	<b>0.07 %</b>	<b>0.06%</b>	<b>0,37 %</b>
	Large WSZ			0,67 %
	Small WSZ			0,15 %

\* 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.

## BRUSSELS

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Arsenic	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Fluoride	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Lead	<b>Total</b>		<b>29,31 % (2014)</b>	<b>10,64 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		29,31 % (2014)	10,64 % (2017)
	Rural			
Nitrate	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Additional parameter 1: <b>pesticides</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/
Additional parameter 2: <b>trihalomethanes</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/

<i>Parameter</i>	<i>Area/category</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Additional parameter 3: Na	<b>Total</b>		<b>0 % (2014)</b>	<b>0 % (2017)</b>
	Urban		0 % (2014)	0 % (2017)
	Rural		/	/

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BELGIUM**

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*Incidence rate per 100,000 population  
(all exposure routes)*

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*Number of outbreaks  
(confirmed water-borne outbreaks)*

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Disease	Baseline	Value reported in the	Current value (2018)	Baseline	Value reported in the	Current value (2018)
	(specify year)	previous reporting cycle (specify year) <sup>4</sup>		(2005)	previous reporting cycle (2015)	
Shigellosis	3.3 (2010- 2018)	/	3.8	0	0	0
Enterohaemorrhagic <i>E. coli</i> infection	0.9 (years 2011 to 2018)	/	1.0	0	0	0
Typhoid fever	0.2 (2010- 2018)	/	0.2	0	0	0
Viral hepatitis A	1.3 (2016)	/	2.1	0	0	0
Legionellosis	not stable	/	-	0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis	not stable (range: 2.5- 11.0)	/	11.0	0	0	0

### III. Access to drinking water

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

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

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

**BELGIUM**

<sup>4</sup> Since the current available data use different baseline dates to the one used in the previous reporting cycle, no value has been reported

Percentage of population with access to drinking water	Baseline value (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2014)	Current value (specify year)
<b>Total</b>	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>.*
- x 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):*
- x 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.*

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Percentage of population with access to sanitation	Baseline value (2005)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2014)	Current value (2019)
<b>Total</b>	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>.*

- x 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):*

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

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

### 1. Water quality

1. On the basis of national systems of water classification, please indicate the percentage of water bodies or the percentage of the volume (preferably) of water<sup>5</sup> falling under each defined class (e.g., for European Union countries and other countries following the European Union Water Framework Directive<sup>6</sup> classification, the percentage of surface waters of high, good, moderate, poor and bad ecological status, and the percentage of groundwaters/surface waters of good or poor chemical status; for other countries, in classes I, II, III, etc.).

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

##### FLANDERS

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

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015- data from 2012))	Current value (data 2015)
High status		0	0%
Good status		0	0%
Moderate status		16,5%	22,7%
Poor status		45,4%	50,0%
Bad status		38,1%	23;7%
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		200	194%
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>		202	195%

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

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	Baseline value (specify year)	Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015- data from 2012))	Current value (data 2015)
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<sup>5</sup> Please specify.

<sup>6</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy.

<i>Percentage of surface water bodies classified as</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2015- data from 2012))</i>	<i>Current value (data 2015)</i>
Good status		6,2%	6,2%
Poor status		93,8%	93,8%
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>		194	194%
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>		202	195%

(iii) *Status of groundwaters*

<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 (no current value available yet)</i>
Good quantitative status		81,0%	
Good chemical status		21,4%	
Poor quantitative status		19,0%	
Poor chemical status		78,6%	
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies classified</b>		42	
<b>Total number/volume of groundwater bodies in the country</b>		42	

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(i) *Ecological status of surface water bodies*

<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 %
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>	320	340	340
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>	354	354	352 (*)

(\*) In Wallonia, 2 X 2 SWB were merged to 2 SWB for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

<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 %
<b>Total number of water bodies classified</b>	252	259	352
<b>Total number of water bodies in the country</b>	354	354	352 (*)

(\*) In Wallonia, 2 X 2 SWB were merged to 2 SWB for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*

<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 % (*)
<b>Total number of groundwater bodies classified</b>	29	33	34
<b>Total number of groundwater bodies in the country</b>	33	33	34 (*)

(\*) in Wallonia, 1 GWB was splitted to 2 GWB in 2017 due to different pressures (agriculture/industry) and the 2 new GWB were classified in poor status; taking this into account, there is no real change between 2013 and 2017

## BRUSSELS

*Ecological status of surface water bodies*

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Baseline value (2009)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (2012)</i>
High status	0%	n.a	0%
Good status	0%	n.a	0%
Moderate status	0%	n.a	33%
Poor status	66%	n.a	33%
Bad status	33%	n.a	33%

<i>Percentage of surface water classified as:</i>	<i>Value reported in the</i>		
	<i>Baseline value (2009)</i>	<i>previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (2012)</i>
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies classified</b>	3	3	3
<b>Total number/volume of water bodies in the country</b>	3	3	3

(ii) *Chemical status of surface water bodies*

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

(iii) *Status of groundwaters*

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

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

### FLANDERS

<i>Water exploitation index</i>	<i>Baseline value (average 2000-2009)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle value (2009)</i>	<i>Current Value</i>
$WEI = \frac{\text{WaterUse} - \text{Returns}}{\text{WaterResources}}$ <p>Water Resource = Precipitation – actual evapotranspiration + external inflow</p> <p>External inflow: river water and groundwater entering the Flemish region from neighbouring countries or regions</p> <p>Water use = water used for irrigation and other agricultural use, for households and for industry, provided by public or private water supply systems. Cooling water is supposed to be returned to the (surface) water system.</p>	3.8 %	N.A.	N.A. <sup>7</sup> .

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<i>Water exploitation index (+)</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (2013)</i>	<i>Current value (2016)</i>
Agriculture			
Industry <sup>a</sup>			
Domestic use <sup>b</sup>			
All water abstractions (*)		5,2 %**	4,2%

(+) : 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.

<sup>7</sup> Given the past and present uncertainties regarding the precise range of the WEI, Flanders has chosen not to calculate the WEI-score.

(\*\*) WEI<sup>+</sup> has been recalculated for the year 2013 (5,2% instead of 5% in the previous reporting) because data provided by the RMI (Royal Meteorological Institute) for the calcul of the WEI<sup>+</sup> were modified for the years 2010 to 2015.

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<i>Water exploitation index</i>	<i>Baseline value (specify year)</i>	<i>Value reported in the previous reporting cycle (specify year)</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
Agriculture		n.a	0,22%
Industry <sup>a</sup>		n.a	2,13%
Domestic use <sup>b</sup>		n.a	6,40%

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

<sup>b</sup> 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 : 32.106.430m<sup>3</sup>/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.*

## Part four

### Water-related disease surveillance and response systems

FLANDERS

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

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

3. 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 §2 of the Drinking Water Decree 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.

4. 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**

#### **FLANDERS**

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

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 within 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.

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- 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 m<sup>3</sup> distributed). Four editions of calls for development aid projects related to the water sector were launched on this basis, financing with a global budget of €1,197,925 some 20 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. An international agreement signed in Gent 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.

## Part six

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

FLANDERS

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

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

*Basic services refer to the following:*

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

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

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

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

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

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (2018)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	
Basic drinking-water service	16
Basic hygiene service	
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	
Basic drinking-water service	27
Basic hygiene service	

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>)

**2. Safe management of drinking-water supply**

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

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

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

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

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

**3. Equitable access to water and sanitation**

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

To reduce geographical disparities

To ensure access for vulnerable and marginalized groups

To keep water and sanitation affordable for all

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

Equitable access and social measures regarding access to water and sanitation are included by a series of legislation, notably the drinking water decree and the general water sales regulations.

BRUSSELS

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

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

Basic services refer to the following:

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

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

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

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

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

<i>Institutional setting</i>	<i>Current value (specify year)</i>
<i>Schools</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100 % (2019)
Basic drinking-water service	100 % (2019)
Basic hygiene service	100 % (2019)
<i>Health-care facilities</i>	
Basic sanitation service	100 % (2019)
Basic drinking-water service	100 % (2019)
Basic hygiene service	100 % (2019)

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).

## 2. Safe management of drinking-water supply

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

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

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

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

**3. Equitable access to water and sanitation**

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

YES  NO  IN PROGRESS

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

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

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

*Almost 100 % of the population, including schools and hospitals, are connected to the public drinking water system.*

## 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

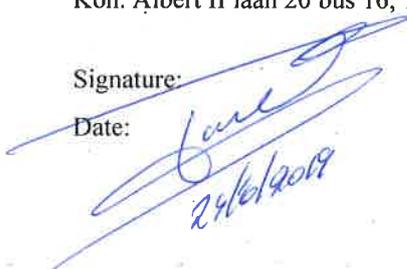
E-mail: k.vandenbelt@vmm.be

Telephone number: 0032 2 214 21 60

Name and address of national authority: VMM – Flemish Environment Agency  
Kon. Albert II laan 20 bus 16, 1000 Brussels

Signature:

Date:



*Kris Van den Belt*  
24/01/2019

### Submission

1. Parties are required to submit their summary reports to the joint secretariat, using the present template and in accordance with the adopted guidelines on reporting, 210 days before the next session of the Meeting of the Parties. Submission of the reports ahead of this deadline is encouraged, as this will facilitate the preparation of analyses and syntheses to be made available to the Meeting of the Parties.
2. Parties are requested to submit, to the two addresses below, an original signed copy by post and an electronic copy by e-mail. Electronic copies should be available in word-processing software.

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

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