

Template for reporting under the Water Convention and for global SDG indicator 6.5.2

Country name: Netherlands

This template or reporting form is in the form of a questionnaire to be filled out. Questions can be either “closed”, Yes /No , with appropriate boxes to tick; “open”, requiring further information to be supplied, indicated by the words in square brackets [fill in]; or a combination of both. Depending on the country situation, it will not always be necessary to fill in extra information where space is provided for this.

The questions are divided into four parts: national (section I); by transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (section II); list of transboundary waters and information for calculation of the SDG indicator 6.5.2, Proportion of transboundary basin area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation (section III), and final questions (section IV). Please answer open questions very briefly, and in less than 200 words, using bullet points as appropriate. Section II will need to be completed for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers (please just copy the template for these questions and fill out again for each additional transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer).

The template encourages those reporting to refer to the reporting under other multilateral environmental agreements to which their country is a Party.

I. Transboundary water management at the national level

In this first section, you are requested to provide general information on transboundary water management at the national level. Information on specific transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers and agreements should be presented in section II and not repeated here.

1. (a) Does your country’s national legislation refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact (art. 2 of the Convention)?

Yes /No

If yes, list the main national legislation: National Water Law (29 Januari 2009) (<http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0025458/2017-01-01>) a.o. art. 2.11, 4.3, 4.5, 4.7, 6.5

- (b) Do your country’s national policies, action plans and strategies refer to measures to prevent, control and reduce any transboundary impact?

Yes /No

If yes, list the main national policies, action plans and strategies: National Water Plan 2016-2021 (<https://www.helpdeskwater.nl/onderwerpen/wetgeving-beleid/nationaal/nationaal-waterplan/>)

- (c) Does your country’s legislation provide for the following principles?

Precautionary principle Yes /No

Polluter pays principle Yes /No

Sustainable development Yes /No

- (d) Does your country have a national licensing or permitting system for wastewater discharges and other point source pollution (art. 3, para. 1 (b)) (e.g., in industry, mining, energy, municipal, wastewater management or other sectors)?

Yes /No

If yes, for which sectors? (please list): All sectors; National Water Law art. 6.2: any discharge without licence or exemption is prohibited. Specific arrangements are included for nutrients and pesticides in agriculture, nuclear energy, shipping and mining.

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

If your country has a licensing system, does the system provide for setting emission limits based on best available technology?

Yes /No

(e) Are the authorized discharges monitored and controlled (art. 3, para. 1 (b))?

Yes /No

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

Monitoring of discharges

Monitoring of physical and chemical impacts on water

Monitoring of ecological impacts on water

Conditions on permits

Inspectorate

Other means (please list): [fill in]

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

(f) What are the main measures which your country takes to reduce diffuse sources of water pollution on transboundary waters (art. 3, para. 1) (e.g., from agriculture, transport, forestry or aquaculture)? The measures listed below relate to agriculture, but other sectors may be more significant. Please be sure to include these under "others":

Legislative measures

Norm for uses of fertilizers

Norms for uses of manure

Bans on or norms for use of pesticides

Others (please list): [fill in]

Economic and financial measures

Monetary incentives

Environmental taxes (such as fertilizer taxes)

Others (please list): [fill in]

Agricultural extension services

Technical measures

Source control measures

Crop rotation

Tillage control

Winter cover crops

Others (please list): [fill in]

Other measures

Buffer/filter strips

Wetland reconstruction

Sedimentation traps

Chemical measures

Others (please list): [fill in]

Other types of measures

If yes, please list: [fill in]

(g) What are the main measures which your country takes to enhance water efficiency (art. 3)?

Please tick as appropriate (not all might be relevant)

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| A regulatory system regarding water abstraction | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Monitoring and control of abstractions | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Water rights are clearly defined | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water allocation priorities are listed | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Water-saving technologies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Advanced irrigation techniques | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Demand management activities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other means (please list) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- E.g. salt resistant crops

(h) Does your country apply the ecosystems approach (art. 3, para. 1 (i), and art. 2, para. 1 (d))?

Yes /No

If yes, please describe how: the ecosystems approach is part of the national water policy since 1984, when it was described in the second National Water Policy Plan. In water management, the characteristics of the aquatic ecosystem is an important basis for the use of the human water system.

(i) Does your country take specific measures to prevent the pollution of groundwaters (art. 3, para. 1 (k))?

Yes /No

If yes, please list the most important measures:

- Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources
- Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration
- Rules concerning the abstraction of groundwater (National Water Law art. 2.9)
- Licencing for abstraction and/or infiltration of groundwater (National Water Law art. 6.4)
- National decision in infiltration for the protection of the soil (<http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0005957/2009-12-22>)

2. Does your country require transboundary environmental impact assessment (EIA)?

Yes /No

Does your country have procedures for transboundary EIA?

Yes /No

If yes, please make reference to the legislative basis (please insert the name and section of the relevant laws). (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.): Netherlands is party to

Espoo Convention and has provisions included in the Law on Environmental Management (13 June 1979) (art. 7.14).

3. Does your country have transboundary agreements or arrangements for the protection and/or management of transboundary waters (i.e., surface waters or aquifers), whether bilateral, multilateral and/or at the basin level?

Yes /No

If yes, list the bilateral, multilateral and basin agreements (listing for each of the countries concerned):

1960 Ems-Dollard treaty on maintenance of the fairway and other shipping issues (NL-GE).

1960 Treaty on the improvement of the canal between Terneuzen (NL) and Gent (BE)

1963 Treaty on the connection between Scheldt and Rhine rivers (NL-BE)

1963 Treaty on the protection of the Rhine River against pollution

1976 Rhine treaty on chemicals

1976 Chlorides Convention

1992 Helsinki Convention

1992 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention)

1994 Treaty on the protection of the Scheldt (NL-BE-FR)

1994 Treaty on the protection of the Meuse (NL-BE-FR)

1995 Treaty on the discharge of the Meuse River (NL-Flanders)

1996 Ems-Dollard environmental protocol

1999 Convention for the Protection of the Rhine

2000 EU Water Framework Directive

2002 Treaty of Ghent to establish the International Meuse Commission and the International Commission for the Protection of the Scheldt

2007 EU Floods Directive

II. Questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer

Please complete this second section for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or for group of basins covered by the same agreement or arrangement and where conditions are similar. It might also be convenient to group basins or sub-basins for which your country's share is very small.^a In some instances, you may provide information on both a basin and one or more of its sub-basins, for example, where you have agreements^b on both the basin and its sub-basin. You may coordinate your responses with other States with which your country shares the basin or aquifer or even prepare a joint report for shared

^a In principle, section 2 should be submitted for every transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, in the country, but States may decide to group basins in which their share is small or leave out basins in which their share is very minor, e.g., below 1 per cent.

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

basins. General information on transboundary water management at the national level should be provided in section I and not repeated here.

Please reproduce the whole section II with its questions for each transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins for which you will provide a reply.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Rhine River

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

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

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements:
Convention on the Protection of the Rhine, Rules of Procedure and Financial Regulations for the Cooperation of the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) with the Coordinating Committee (CC) Rhine, EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive.

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

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

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list):

The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Swiss Confederation, and the European Community (ICPR) and Governments of the Republic of Austria, the Principality of Liechtenstein, the Region Wallonia and the Italian Republic (Coordinating Committee (CC))

- (b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

- (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
- All water uses
- A single water use or sector
- Several water uses or sectors
- If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*
- Water uses or sectors**
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Transport (e.g., navigation)
- Households
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types
- Tourism
- Nature protection
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- (d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?
- Procedural and institutional issues**
- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance (art. 15)
- Topics of cooperation**
- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation
- Monitoring and exchange**
- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Development of shared infrastructure

Other (*please list*): Concerning navigation cooperation exists between the ICPR and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): In general, challenges relate to aligning ICPR plans and activities with changing national policies and programmes.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: The main concrete achievement of ICPR has been a tremendous improvement in the ecological and chemical quality of the water of the Rhine. This has been achieved through both measures to reduce pollution and river restoration measures among other through improving the ecological connectivity and spawning grounds. Also, the flood management has substantially improved. Next to this, improvements include the exchange of data and information between the parties, including a warning and alarm system, and a certain level of alignment of measures and plans in the riparian countries. Key to this success has been close cooperation at technical level and the subsequent building of trust between the parties.

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

http://www.iksr.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente_en/Convention_on_the_Protection_of_the_Rhine_12.04.99-EN_01.pdf,

http://www.iksr.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente_en/IKSR-CC-EN_30.06.10.pdf and <http://www.iksr.org/en/international-cooperation/legal-basis/convention/index.html>

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

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

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, the French Republic,

the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Swiss Confederation, and the European Community

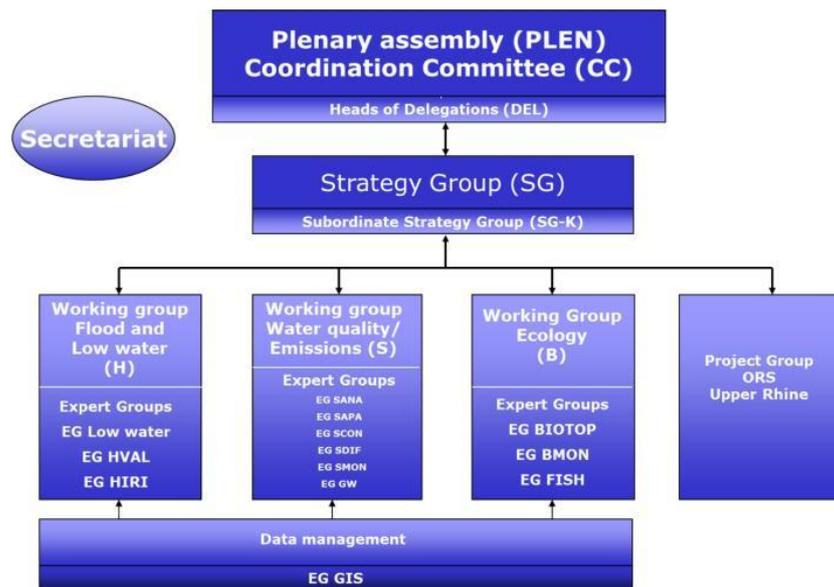
(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

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

A subsidiary body or bodies

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



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

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^c

Identification of pollution sources

Data collection and exchange

Joint monitoring

Maintenance of joint pollution inventories

Setting emission limits

Elaboration of joint water quality objectives

Management and prevention of flood or drought risks

Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures

Water allocation and/or flow regulation

Policy development

Control of implementation

^c This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

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

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

- Governance issues

Please describe, if any: In general, challenges relate to aligning ICPR plans and activities with changing national policies and programmes, and coming to agreement on newly arising issues and setting the agenda.

- Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

- Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

- Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

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

- No cooperation

- They have observer status

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

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? The plenary assembly meets once a year, subsidiary bodies usually meet more often.

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: see above

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: Some of the relevant coastal states are party to the joint body (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany). Contacts exist with OSPAR Convention and Baltic Sea Convention.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details:

Internationally coordinated Rhine river basin management plan 2015 (<http://www.iksr.org/en/water-framework-directive/river-basin-management-plan-2015/index.html>)

Internationally coordinated Rhine river flood risk management plan 2015 (<http://www.iksr.org/en/floods-directive/flood-risk-management-plan/index.html>)

Rhine 2020 – Program on the sustainable development of the Rhine (<http://www.iksr.org/en/international-cooperation/rhine-2020/index.html>)

Sediment Management Plan

(http://www.iksr.org/fileadmin/user_upload/Dokumente_en/Reports/Bericht_175e.pdf and <http://www.iksr.org/en/topics/pollution/sediments/index.html>)

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

Other measures (*please list*): Improve habitat patch connectivity through, a.o.:

- preserve freely flowing river sections
- restore river dynamics
- (permit) a more varied design of the structure of river banks and bottom
- open old alluvial areas to the river
- change to more extensive agriculture in the floodplain
- remove obstacles to the migration of the river fauna
- reconnect old river branches and torrents

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

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

- Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))
- Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))
- Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))
- Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))
- Point source pollution sources
- Diffuse pollution sources
- Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)
- Discharges
- Water abstractions
- Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

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

Yes /No

(d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: <http://iksr.bafg.de/iksr/>

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): Largely technicalities like frequency, comparability, metadata, number format, etc.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): Improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' problematic.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

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

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations
- Joint and agreed methodologies
- Joint sampling
- Common monitoring network
- Common agreed parameters
- (c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: The long-term cooperation yields long time series of chemical and biological parameters, that enable joint trend analyses and joint conclusions on the trends.
- (d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: Deciding upon parameters and methodologies, and assuring comparability of data.
8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?
 Yes /No
- If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment:*
- Annual progress reports (<http://www.iksr.org/en/documentsarchive/progress-reports/index.html>)
9. Have the riparian States agreed to use joint water quality standards?
 Yes /No
- If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: based on quality objectives that the EU Water Framework Directive sets for priority substances and priority hazardous substances, and Rhine river specific pollutants.*
10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures
- If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]
11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures
- If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]
12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: discussed within the framework of the EU Floods Directive

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body:

AK Wasser im BBU (www.akwasser.de)
Alsace Nature (www.alsacenature.org)
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Revitalisierung Alpenrhein/Bodensee (www.lebendigerrhein.org)
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Internationalen Wasserwerke im Rheineinzugsgebiet (www.iawr.org)
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Renaturierung des Hochrheins (www.arge-hochrhein.ch)
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (www.bund-rlp.de)
Conseil Européen de l'Industrie Chimique (CEFIC) (www.cefic.be)
DWA Deutsche Vereinigung für Wasserwirtschaft, Abwasser und Abfall e.V. (www.dwa.de)
EBU – UENF (www.ebu-uenf.org)
EurAqua Network (www.euraqua.org)
European Union of National Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services (www.eureau.org)
Greenpeace International (www.greenpeace.org/international)
Hochwassernotgemeinschaft Rhein Gemeinde- und Städtebund (hochwassernotgemeinschaft-rhein.de)
NABU-Naturschutzstation NABU-Koordinationsstelle Rhein (www.nabu.de und www.nabu-naturschutzstation.de/v1)
Rheinkolleg (www.rheinkolleg.de)
Verband Deutscher Sportfischer e.V. (www.vdsf.de)
VGB Power Tech e.V. (www.vgb.org)
Wereld Natuur Fonds (www.wnf.nl)
WWF Schweiz (www.wwf.ch)

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^d

Public involvement

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

^d Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Meuse River

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

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

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements:
Maasverdrag (Verdrag van Gent)/Meuse treaty (Ghent treaty) , EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

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

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, The Kingdom of Belgium, The Brussels capital region of Belgium, the Flemish region of Belgium, the Walloon region of Belgium, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

- (b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

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

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

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

Water uses or sectors

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

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

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

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

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

Management of shared infrastructure

Development of shared infrastructure

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

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): In general, cooperation is subject to improvement. Agreement on issues to tackle, methodologies to implement, procedures to follow, etc. is only slowly reached.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: Roof reports for EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive are produced, a joint monitoring network is established. Keys to the achievement are strong support from several of the parties and international obligations from EU side.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/ACCORDS/accord-gand_n.pdf and http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/ACCORDS/accord-charleville_n.pdf

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

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

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, The Kingdom of Belgium, The Brussels capital region of Belgium, the Flemish region of Belgium, the Walloon region of Belgium, the French Republic, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

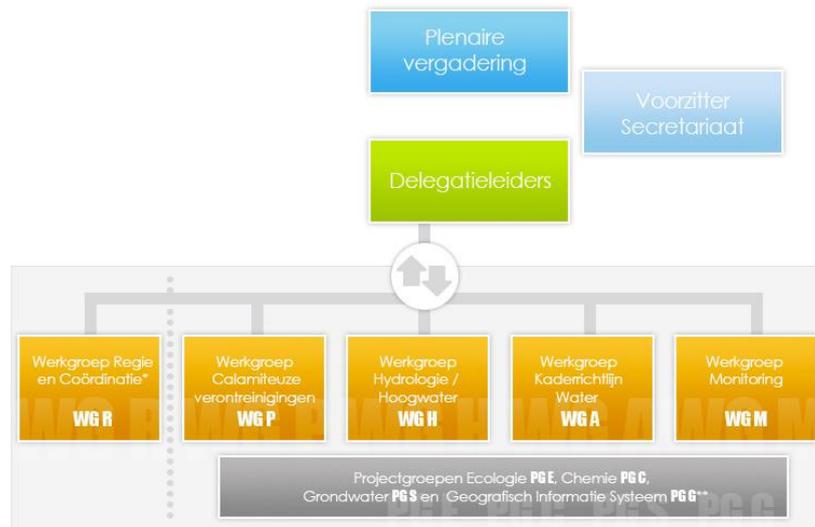
(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

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

A subsidiary body or bodies

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



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

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^e

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Identification of pollution sources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Data collection and exchange | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Joint monitoring | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Maintenance of joint pollution inventories | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Setting emission limits | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Elaboration of joint water quality objectives | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Management and prevention of flood or drought risks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Water allocation and/or flow regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Policy development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Control of implementation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of experience between riparian States | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Settling of differences and conflicts | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultations on planned measures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Exchange of information on best available technology | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Participation in transboundary EIA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Management of shared infrastructure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Addressing hydromorphological alterations | <input type="checkbox"/> |

^e This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building

Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

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

- Governance issues

Please describe, if any: In general, cooperation is subject to improvement. Agreement on issues to tackle, methodologies to implement, procedures to follow, etc. is only slowly reached.

- Unexpected planning delays

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

- Lack of resources

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Lack of effective measures

Please describe, if true: [fill in]

- Unexpected extreme events

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

- Lack of information and reliable forecasts

Please describe, if any: [fill in]

Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

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

- No cooperation

- They have observer status

Other (*please describe*): All States are member

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? The plenary assembly meets once a year. Subsidiary bodies in general meet more often.

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: Roof reports for EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive are produced, a joint monitoring network is established. Keys to the achievement are strong support from several of the parties and international obligations from EU side.

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: Some of the relevant coastal states are party to the joint body (France, Belgium, Netherlands, Germany). Contacts exist with OSPAR Convention and Baltic Sea Convention.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: Roof reports for EU WFD (http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/Rapport-faitier-dec-2015/Rapport_faitier_Maqua_15_1rev11_n_.pdf?ext=.pdf) and EU FD (http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/DI/PGRI%20-%20d%c3%a9c%202015/pr-PGRI_Minond_15_4rev2_n.pdf?ext=.pdf)

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

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

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

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

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

- (c) Is there a shared database or information platform?

Yes /No

- (d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): Timely exchange of data, technicalities like frequency, comparability, metadata, number format, etc.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): Improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of the functioning of the water system as a whole and other countries' problems.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

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

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations

Joint and agreed methodologies

Joint sampling

Common monitoring network

Common agreed parameters

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: The long-term cooperation yields long time series of chemical and biological parameters, that enable joint trend analyses and joint conclusions on the trends.

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: Deciding upon parameters and methodologies, and assuring comparability of data. Timely delivery of data.

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: Results and assessment of the monitoring network (http://www.meuse-maas.be/CIM/media/PUBLICATIONS_Rapport-faitier-monitor_progr-surveillance/Brochure_RMH_2011_2013_Mmonitor_15_10rev4_n_.pdf?ext=.pdf)

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

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: Based on the norms as developed under the EU WFD.

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures
- If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]
11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?
- Notification and communication
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods
- Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts
- Joint climate change adaptation strategy
- Joint disaster risk reduction strategy
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- No measures
- If not, why not? What difficulties does your country face in putting in place such measures?:* [fill in]
12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?
Yes /No
- If yes, please provide a brief summary:* [fill in]
13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?
Yes /No
- If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):*
- Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body
- If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body:*
- RIWA-Maas (RIvier WAterbedrijven), Union Wallonne des Entreprises Inter-Environnement Wallonie, ALUSEAU (Association Luxembourgeoise des Services de l'Eau), Benelux Unie
- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^f
- Public involvement
- Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

^f Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Scheldt River

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

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

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements:
International Agreement on the River Scheldt (<http://www.isc-cie.org/NL/workshops/root/verdragen-verklaringen.html#2002>),

EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

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

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement?
(Please list): The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, The Brussels capital region of Belgium, the Flemish region of Belgium, the Walloon region of Belgium, the French Republic and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

- (b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

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

All water uses

A single water use or sector

Several water uses or sectors

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

Water uses or sectors

Industry

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

(d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?

Procedural and institutional issues

- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance (art. 15)

Topics of cooperation

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

Monitoring and exchange

- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

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

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

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): In general, cooperation is subject to improvement. Agreement on issues to tackle, methodologies to implement, procedures to follow, etc. is only slowly reached.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: Improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' problems and measures taken. Common monitoring network on water quality.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): <http://www.isc-cie.org/NL/workshops/root/verdragen-verklaringen.html#2002>

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

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

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): The Governments of the Kingdom of Belgium, The Brussels capital region of Belgium, the Flemish region of Belgium, the Walloon region of Belgium, the French Republic and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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

A secretariat

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

A subsidiary body or bodies

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



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

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?^g

- Identification of pollution sources
- Data collection and exchange
- Joint monitoring
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Setting emission limits
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Management and prevention of flood or drought risks
- Preparedness for extreme events, e.g., common early warning and alarm procedures
- Water allocation and/or flow regulation
- Policy development
- Control of implementation
- Exchange of experience between riparian States
- Exchange of information on existing and planned uses of water and related installations
- Settling of differences and conflicts
- Consultations on planned measures
- Exchange of information on best available technology
- Participation in transboundary EIA
- Development of river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans
- Management of shared infrastructure

^g This may include tasks according to the agreement or tasks added by the joint body, or its subsidiaries. Both tasks which joint bodies coordinate and tasks which they implement should be included.

- Addressing hydromorphological alterations
- Climate change adaptation
- Joint communication strategy
- Basin-wide or joint public participation and consultation of, for example, basin management plans
- Joint resources to support transboundary cooperation
- Capacity-building
- Any other tasks (*please list*): [fill in]

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

- Governance issues
Please describe, if any: In general, cooperation is subject to improvement. Agreement on issues to tackle, methodologies to implement, procedures to follow, etc. is only slowly reached.
- Unexpected planning delays
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of resources
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of mechanism for implementing measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Lack of effective measures
Please describe, if true: [fill in]
- Unexpected extreme events
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Lack of information and reliable forecasts
Please describe, if any: [fill in]
- Others (*please list and describe, as appropriate*): [fill in]

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

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): All riparian States are member

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? The Commission meets once a year at the highest level. There are several working group meetings which take place throughout the year.

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?: Roof reports for EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive are produced, a joint monitoring network is established. Keys to the achievement are strong support from several of the parties and international obligations from EU side.

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: Some of the relevant coastal states are party to the joint body (France, Belgium, Netherlands). Contacts exist with OSPAR Convention and Baltic Sea Convention.

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: Roof report EU WFD (http://www.isc-cie.org/images/Documents/ODB2-PFPG2_RAPPORT_NL-FR_VDEF.pdf)

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

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

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

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

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

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

Yes /No

(d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

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

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (please describe): Timely exchange of data, technicalities like frequency, comparability, metadata, number format, etc.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (please describe): Improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' problems. Shared concept of mutual pressures. Insight in development of water quality throughout the whole river basin.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

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

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint and agreed methodologies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common monitoring network	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common agreed parameters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: Insight in the development of the water quality throughout the whole river basin. Shared concept of pressures.

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: Deciding upon parameters and methodologies, and assuring comparability of data. Timely delivery of data.

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the date of the last or only assessment, the frequency and scope (e.g., surface waters or groundwaters only, pollution sources, etc.) of the assessment: Driejaarlijks rapport waterkwaliteit Scheldestroomgebiedsdistrict 2016 /Triannual report on water quality in the Scheldt River Basin District 2016 (http://www.isc-cie.org/images/Documents/PA4c_RHME_RAPPORT_TRIENNAL_VDEF.pdf)

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

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: Based on the norms as developed under the EU WFD.

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution

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

No measures

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

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts

Joint climate change adaptation strategy

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

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

No measures

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

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide a brief summary: Not through this Commission, this has been arranged EU wide.

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: BENELUX, IMC, Levende Schelde, Grenzeloze Schelde, GoodPlanet Belgium, Inter Environnement Wallonie, Wereld Water jongerenparlement, Schelde Jongerenparlement

Availability of information to the public

Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^h

Public involvement

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

^h Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

Name of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group thereof, list of the riparian States, and country's share of the basin: Ems River

1. Is there one or more transboundary (bilateral or multilateral) agreement(s) or arrangement(s) on this basin (art. 9)?

One or more agreements or arrangements exist and are in force

Agreement or arrangement developed but not in force

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

Please insert the name of the agreement or agreements or arrangements: Ems-Dollard Treaty 1960 (<http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0005343/1978-07-01>) on navigation, Additional protocol to the 1960 Ems-Dollard Treaty on Cooperation in Water- and Nature Management / Ems-Dollard Environmental Protocol 1997 (http://www.ems-eems.de/fileadmin/templates/downloads/de/1996_Ems_Dollart_Umweltprotokoll_bgl297.pdf), EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive

Exchange of letters between the Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Lower-Saxony and Nordrhein-Westfalen in which they agree to implement the Water Framework Directive (summer 2002) and the Floods Directive (March 17th 2009) in the river basin of the Ems

Agreement or arrangement is under development

No agreement

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

If there is no agreement or arrangement and no joint body for the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer then jump to question 4; if there is no agreement, but a joint body then go to question 3.

Questions 2 and 3 to be completed for each bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement in force in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer or group of basins or sub-basins

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

Yes /No

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

Yes /No

If not, what does it cover?: [fill in]

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

Yes /No

Which States (including your own) are bound by the agreement or arrangement? (*Please list*): The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

- (b) Are aquifers (or groundwater bodies) covered by the agreement/arrangement?

Yes /No

- (c) What is the sectoral scope of the agreement or arrangement?
- All water uses
- A single water use or sector
- Several water uses or sectors
- If one or several water uses or sectors, please list (check as appropriate):*
- Water uses or sectors**
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Transport (e.g., navigation)
- Households
- Energy: hydropower and other energy types
- Tourism
- Nature protection
- Other (*please list*): [fill in]
- (d) What topics or subjects of cooperation are included in the agreement or arrangement (art. 9)?
- Procedural and institutional issues**
- Dispute and conflict prevention and resolution
- Institutional cooperation (joint bodies)
- Consultation on planned measures
- Mutual assistance (art. 15)
- Topics of cooperation**
- Joint vision and management objectives
- Joint significant water management issues
- Navigation
- Environmental protection (ecosystem)
- Water quality
- Water quantity or allocation
- Cooperation in addressing floods
- Cooperation in addressing droughts
- Climate change adaptation
- Monitoring and exchange**
- Joint assessments
- Data collection and exchange (art. 13)
- Joint monitoring (art. 11)
- Maintenance of joint pollution inventories
- Elaboration of joint water quality objectives
- Common early warning and alarm procedures (art. 14)
- Exchange of experience between riparian States

Exchange of information on planned measures

Joint planning and management

Development of joint regulations on specific topics

Development of international or joint river, lake or aquifer basin management or action plans

Management of shared infrastructure

Development of shared infrastructure

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

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges that your country faces with the agreement or arrangement and its implementation, if any (*please describe, if applicable*): In general, cooperation is subject to improvement. Agreement on issues to tackle, methodologies to implement, procedures to follow, etc. is only slowly reached.

(f) What are the main achievements in implementing the agreement or arrangement and what were the keys to achieving such success?: Roof reports for EU Water Framework Directive and EU Floods Directive are produced, a joint monitoring network is established. Keys to the achievement are strong support from several of the parties and international obligations from EU side.

(g) Please attach a copy of the agreement or arrangement or provide the web address of the document (*please attach document or insert web address, if applicable*): <http://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBV0005343/1978-07-01> and http://www.ems-eems.de/fileadmin/templates/downloads/de/1996_Ems_Dollart_Umweltprotokoll_b_gbl297.pdf

3. Is your country a member of an operational joint body or joint bodies for this agreement/arrangement (art. 9)?

Yes /No

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

Where there is a joint body (or bodies)

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

Plenipotentiaries

Bilateral commission

Basin or similar commission

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

(b) Does the joint body cover the entire transboundary basin or sub-basin, river, lake or aquifer, or group of basins, and all riparian States?

Yes /No

(c) Which States (including your own) are member of the joint body? (*Please list*): The Governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the state of Lower Saxony and the state of Nordrhein-Westfalen. The "Länder" are responsible for waterquality, ecology and floodprotection.

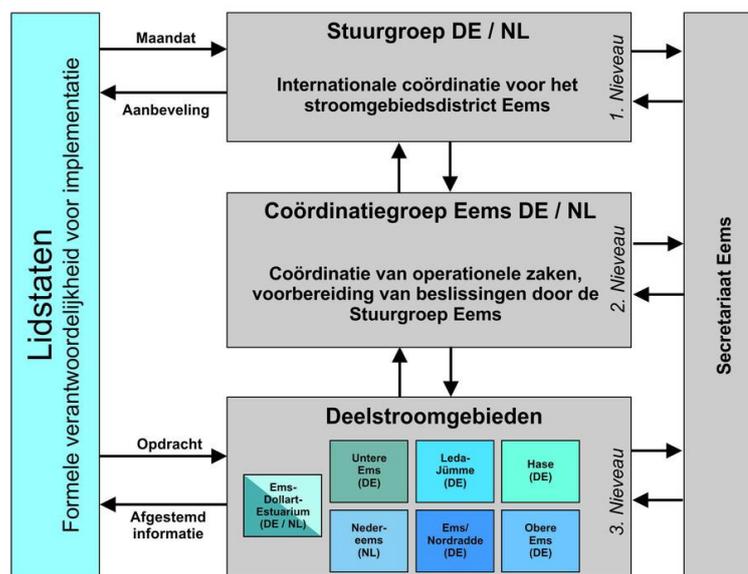
(d) Does the joint body have any of the following features (*please tick the ones applicable*)?

A secretariat

If the secretariat is a permanent one, is it a joint secretariat or does each country host its own secretariat? (Please describe): A secretariat has been established under the ‘Niedersächsischer Landesbetrieb für Wasserwirtschaft, Küsten- und Naturschutz’ (NLWKN), a government body of one of the German Länder.

A subsidiary body or bodies

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



Other features (please list): [fill in]

(e) What are the tasks and activities of this joint body (art. 9, para. 2)?ⁱ

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

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

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

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

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

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

- No cooperation
- They have observer status
- Other (*please describe*): All riparian States are members

(h) Does the joint body or its subsidiary bodies meet regularly?

Yes /No

If yes, how frequently does it meet? At least once a year

(i) What are the main achievements with regards to the joint body?:

The commissions meet frequently. There are several working groups working on different themes.

(j) Are representatives of international organizations invited to the meetings of the joint body (or bodies) as observers?

Yes /No

(k) Did the joint body ever invite a coastal State to cooperate (art. 9, paras. 3 and 4)?

Yes /No

If yes, please give details. If no, why not?: Both Parties are coastal states

4. Is there a joint or coordinated management plan (such as an action plan or a common strategy) or have joint objectives been set specifically on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation (art. 9, para. 2 (f)) ?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide further details: International River Basin Management Plan for the River Basin District Ems (http://www.ems-eems.de/fileadmin/templates/permalinks/WRRL/2015_BWP_Ems/2015_int_BWP_Ems_NL.pdf) and International coordination of the implementation of the Floods Directive in the River Basin District Ems (http://www.ems-eems.de/fileadmin/templates/permalinks/HWRM-RL/2015_HWRMP_Ems/2015_int_Koord_HWRM_Ems_NL.pdf)

5. How is the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer protected, including the protection of ecosystems, in the context of sustainable and rational water use (art. 2, para. 2 (b), and art. 3, para. 1 (i)) ?

Afforestation

Restoration of ecosystems

Environmental flow norms

Groundwater measures (e.g., protection zones)

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

6. (a) Does your country exchange information and data with other riparian States in the basin (art. 13)?

Yes /No

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

Environmental conditions (art. 13, para. (1) (a))

Research activities and application of best available techniques (arts. 5, 12 and 13, para. 1 (b))

Emission monitoring data (art. 13, para. 1 (c))

Planned measures taken to prevent, control or reduce transboundary impacts (art. 13, para. 1 (d))

Point source pollution sources

Diffuse pollution sources

Existing hydromorphological alterations (dams, etc.)

Discharges

Water abstractions

Future planned measures with transboundary impacts, such as infrastructure development

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

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

Yes /No

(d) Is the database publicly available?

Yes /No

If yes, please provide the web address: <http://www.ems-eems.nl/>

(e) What are the main difficulties and challenges to data exchange, if applicable? (*please describe*): Timely exchange of data, technicalities like frequency, comparability, metadata, number format, etc.

(f) What are the main benefits of data exchange on the transboundary waters subject to cooperation? (*please describe*): Improved possibilities for early warning and alarm system, improved understanding of other countries' problems and the shared problems with turbidity in the Ems-Dollard estuary.

7. Do the riparian States carry out joint monitoring in the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11, para. 1)?

Yes /No

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

	Covered?	Hydrological	Ecological	Chemical
Border surface waters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters in the entire basin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface waters on the main watercourse	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Connected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unconnected aquifers (or groundwaters)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

National monitoring stations connected through a network or common stations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint and agreed methodologies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Joint sampling	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common monitoring network	<input type="checkbox"/>
Common agreed parameters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(c) Please describe the main achievements regarding joint monitoring, if any: A common fish monitoring for the WFD has been established.

(d) Please describe any difficulties experienced with joint monitoring: Deciding upon parameters and methodologies, and assuring comparability of data. Timely delivery of data. The methodologies are usually different. Developing and use of a common monitoring methodology would lead to an anomaly in the data series.

8. Do the riparian States carry out joint assessment of the transboundary basin, river, lake or aquifer (art. 11)?

Yes /No

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

International River Basin Management Plan for the River Basin District Ems (<http://www.ems->

eems.de/fileadmin/templates/permalinks/WRRL/2015_BWP_Ems/2015_int_BWP_Ems_NL.pdf), including point sources, diffuse sources, water abstractions, morphological alterations, and emissions and other pollutions on both surface- and groundwater.

For the EU Flood Directive: http://www.eems-eems.de/fileadmin/templates/permalinks/HWRM-RL/2015_HWRMP_Ems/2015_int_Koord_HWRM_Ems_NL.pdf

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

Yes /No

If yes, is the basis an international or regional standard (please specify which) or has it been adapted from the national standards of the riparian States?: Directive 2008/105/EC on Environmental Quality Standards

10. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of accidental pollution (art. 14)?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for accidental water pollution

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

No measures

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

11. What are the measures implemented to prevent or limit the transboundary impact of extreme weather events (art. 14)?

Notification and communication

Coordinated or joint alarm system for floods

Coordinated or joint alarm system for droughts

Joint climate change adaptation strategy

Joint disaster risk reduction strategy

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

No measures

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

12. Are procedures in place for mutual assistance in case of a critical situation (art. 15)?

Yes /No *If yes, please provide a brief summary: Denmark, Germany and Netherlands treaty on assistance in case of emergencies in the estuary and the North sea.* [fill in]

13. Are the public or relevant stakeholders involved in transboundary water management in the basin, river, lake or aquifer? (art. 16)?

Yes /No

If yes, how? (please tick all applicable) (Please note: If your country is a Party to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), you may refer to your country's report under that Convention.):

Stakeholders have observer status in a joint body

If yes, please specify the stakeholders for each joint body: [fill in]

- Availability of information to the public
- Consultation on planned measures or river basin management plans^j
- Public involvement
- Other (*please specify*): [fill in]

Please remember to complete section II for each of the transboundary basins, rivers, lakes or aquifers. Please also remember to attach copies of agreements, if any.

^j Or, where applicable, aquifer management plans.

III. Calculation of SDG indicator 6.5.2

Methodology

Using the information gathered in section II, the information gathered in this section allows for the calculation of the Sustainable Development Goal global indicator 6.5.2, which is defined as *the proportion of transboundary basins' area with an operational arrangement for water cooperation*.

The Step-by-step monitoring methodology for SDG indicator 6.5.2^k, developed by UNECE and UNESCO in the framework of UN Water, can be referred to for details on the necessary data, the definitions and the calculation.

The value of the indicator at the national level is derived by **adding up the surface area in a country of those transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. 'transboundary' basins') that are covered by an operational arrangement and dividing the obtained area by the aggregate total area in a country of all transboundary basins (both catchments and aquifers)**.

Transboundary basins are basins of transboundary waters, that is, of any surface waters (notably rivers, lakes) or groundwaters which mark, cross or are located on boundaries between by two or more States. For the purpose of the calculation of this indicator, for a transboundary river or lake, the basin area is determined by the extent of its catchment. For groundwater, the area to be considered is the extent of the aquifer.

An "**arrangement for water cooperation**" is a bilateral or multilateral treaty, convention, agreement or other formal arrangement among riparian countries that provides a framework for cooperation on transboundary water management.

For an arrangement to be considered "**operational**" all the following criteria needs to be fulfilled:

- There is a joint body, joint mechanism or commission (e.g. a river basin organization) for transboundary cooperation,
- There are regular (at least once per year) formal communications between riparian countries in form of meetings (either at the political or technical level),
- There is a joint or coordinated water management plan(s), or joint objectives have been set, and
- There is a regular (at least once per year) exchange of data and information.

Calculation of indicator 6.5.2

Please list in the tables below the transboundary basins (rivers and lakes and aquifers) in your country's territory and provide the following information for each of them:

- the country/ies with which the basin is shared;
- the surface area of these basins (the catchment of rivers or lakes and the aquifer in the case of groundwater) within the territory of your country (in km²); and
- the surface area of these basins within the territory of your country which is covered by a cooperation arrangement that is operational according to the above criteria (please consider the replies to the questions in section II, in particular questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6).

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

^k Available at <http://www.unwater.org/publications/publications-detail/en/c/428764/>.

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

Name of transboundary basin / sub-basin	Countries shared with	Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km ²) within the territory of the country ¹	Surface area of the basin / sub-basin (in km ²) covered by an operational arrangement within the territory of the country
Rhine	AT, BE, CH, DE, FR, IT, LI, LU	28,917	28,917
Meuse	BE, DE, FR, LU	7,474	7,474
Scheldt	BE, FR	3,263	3,263
Ems	DE	2,478	2,478
Total surface area of transboundary basins / sub-basins of rivers and lakes covered by operational arrangements within the territory of the country (in km²) [A] (do not double count sub-basins)			42,132
Total surface area of transboundary basins of rivers and lakes within the territory of the country (in km²) [B] (do not double count sub-basins)		42,132	

Transboundary aquifers [please add rows as needed]

Name of the transboundary aquifer	Countries shared with	Surface area (in km ²) ^m within the territory of the country ⁿ	Covered by an operational arrangement (yes/no)
Rhine	AT, BE, CH, DE, FR, IT, LI, LU	23,517	Yes
Meuse	BE, DE, FR, LU	10,119	Yes
Scheldt	BE, FR	3,980	Yes
Ems	DE	2,313	Yes
Sub-total: surface area of transboundary aquifers covered by operational arrangements (in km²) [C]		39,929	

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/pdf/3rd_report/CWD-2012-379_EN-Vol3_NL.pdf

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

ⁿ Water quality portal of the 'Informatiehuis Water'

<http://www.informatiehuiswater.nl/pagina/producten/waterkwaliteitsportaal.html>

Total surface area of transboundary aquifers (in km²) [D]	39,929	
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Indicator value for the country

$$((A + C)/(B + D)) \times 100\% = ((42,132 + 39,929)/(42,132 + 39,929)) \times 100\% = 100\%$$

Additional information

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

Spatial information

If a map (or maps) of the transboundary surface water catchments and transboundary aquifers (i.e. ‘transboundary basins’) is available, please attach them. Ideally, shapefiles of the basin and aquifer delineations that can be viewed in Geographical Information Systems should be sent.

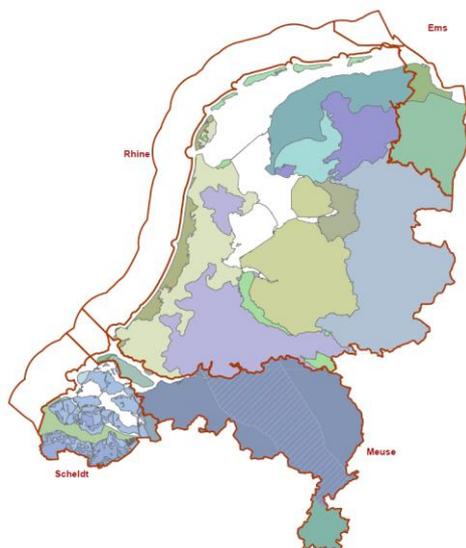


Figure 1: Netherlands EU-WFD River basin districts and Groundwater bodies RBMP 2015-2021^o

^o Water quality portal of the ‘Informatiehuis Water’
<http://www.informatiehuiswater.nl/pagina/producten/waterkwaliteitsportaal.html>

IV. Final questions

1. What are the main challenges your country faces in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? (*Please describe*): In general, challenges relate to aligning River Basin Organisation (RBO) plans and activities with changing national policies and programmes. The exchange of information between the countries nevertheless helps to put issues on the national agenda as well. Other challenges are related to aligning different timescales of plans and activities between different states.
2. What have been the main achievements in implementing the Convention and cooperating on transboundary waters? What were the keys to achieving that success? (*Please describe concrete examples*):
The cooperation in the river basin has led to an improved water management situation and good cooperation among the neighbouring countries. This has been achieved through regular meetings and technical cooperation, that has led to a better mutual understanding and trust.
3. Name and contact details of the person(s) who filled out the questionnaire:
Contact person: Carien van Zwol, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands, carien.van.zwol@minienm.nl



Date: 15 May 2017

Signature:

4. Please include any additional information on the process of preparing the report (e.g., whether there was an exchange or consultation within the joint body or with riparian countries), in particular which institutions have been consulted (*please describe*):
A draft of part II for the Rhine river has been distributed to the riparian countries for information.
5. If you have any other comments please add them here:

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