



# Getting to know the **DGARNE**

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Wallonie



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This brochure presents the various offices and departments of Wallonia's Operational Directorate-General for Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (DGARNE), with full descriptions of the broad tasks with which it is entrusted. These tasks are then illustrated by highlighting one or the other concrete action.

The DGARNE's various offices and departments are completely at your disposal should you need further information and to provide any clarifications that you feel are useful.



Getting to know the **DGARNE**

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# Introduction

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The Operational Directorate-General for Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (DGARNE) was born of the mid-2008 merger of two former Directorates-General, namely, the DG for Agriculture and the DG for Natural Resources and the Environment. It manages Wallonia's natural and rural heritages at the same time as it proposes avenues of development that comply with the government's Declarations in the agricultural and environmental sectors.

The DGARNE is in charge of such important policies as:

- nature conservation, environment, agriculture, waste, air, subsoil management, soil protection, and the management and use of two major natural resources: water and Wallonia's forests;
- detection and management of accidents with environmental consequences;
- monitoring of observance of sustainable development requirements in the primary, secondary, and tertiary sectors;
- preparation, monitoring, and implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP);
- co-ordination of research, with countless popularisation tasks;
- management of the region's agricultural lands as part of its spatial planning and the certification of the quality of breeding stock and plant propagation material;
- raising awareness of the importance of sustainable development among citizens, politicians and professional decision-makers.

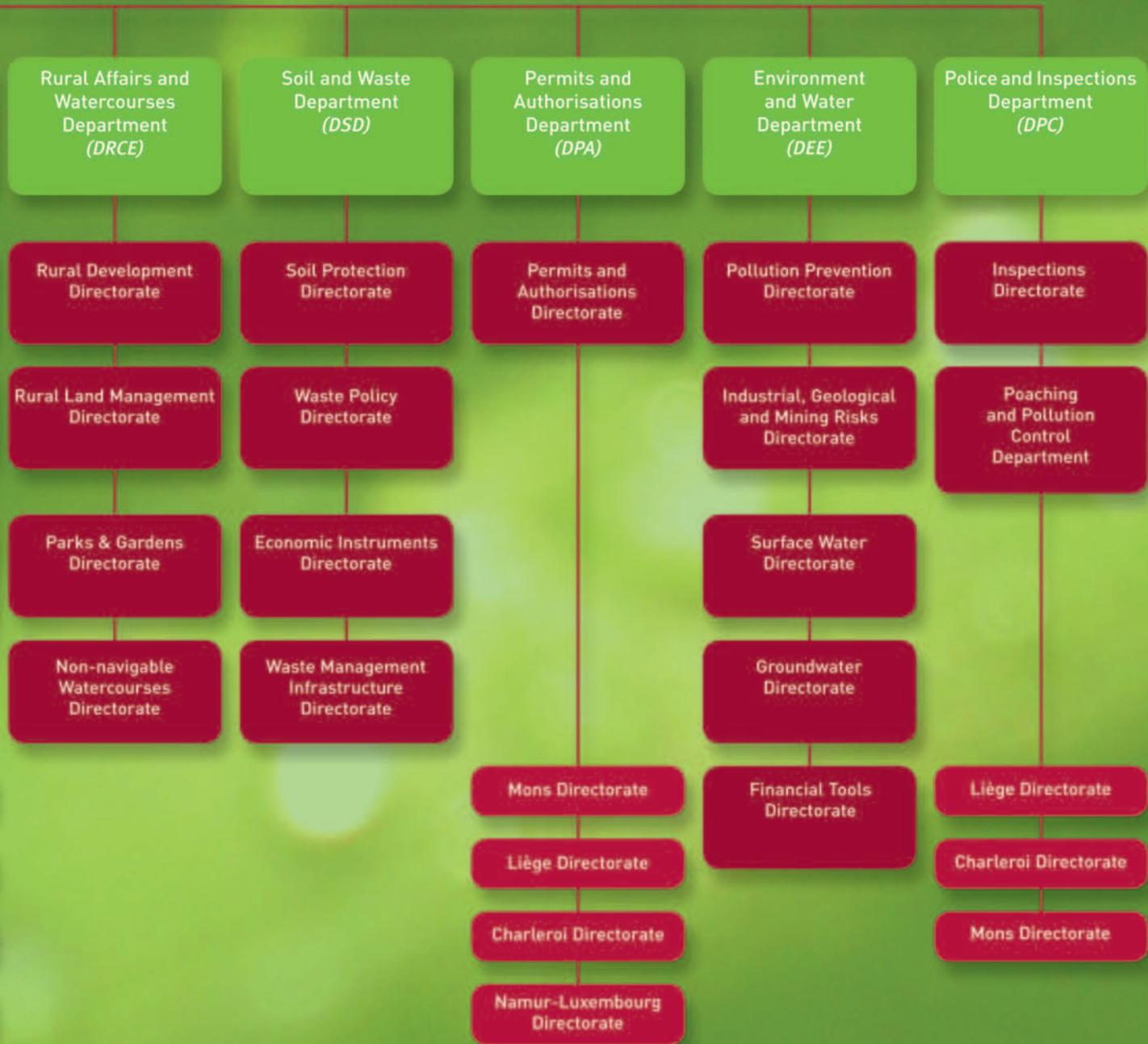
As the administration in charge of agriculture and the environment, the DGARNE's work affects a great many aspects of Walloon residents' daily lives: the quality of the air that they breathe and the water that they drink, the production of the farm products that they eat, the quality of their environment, the management of the waste that they generate, pollution control and prevention, and so on.

# The DGARNE's organization chart



**Directorate-General (3)  
Resources and the Environment  
(DGARNE)**

EAGGF – EAFRD Audit Unit



# 01 European Policy and International Agreements Department

(Département des Politiques européennes  
et des Accords internationaux – DPEAI)

## The department's broad tasks are:

- to take part in developing European and international agricultural policy;
- to interface with the Directorate-General's Management Departments in implementing European and international policy;
- to steer the Directorate-General's legal management with the help of the various departments' lawyers and experts;
- to assist the departments' experts.

## Information

Îlot Saint-Luc  
Chaussée de Louvain, 14  
5000 Namur  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 649 426  
Fax: 00 32 81 649 444

## European Programmes

The department's main task is to carry out the **tasks of the Managing Authority** for the Walloon Rural Development Programme 2007-2013.

This entails informing and communicating in connection with the programme, monitoring and assessing the actions that are taken, and setting up and participating in the Rural Development Network.

It is especially involved in implementing actions under the LEADER programme.

It is also concerned by implementing agriculture and environment projects selected for European Structural Fund co-financing and is the Delegated Managing Authority for the programme co-financed by the European Fisheries Fund.



## Environmental and agricultural policy: development, monitoring, and consultation

Agricultural and environmental policies are both designed and implemented with increasing complementarity to each other. What is more, they must fit into an **overall framework** that stretches from the regional to the international level, with the European and Belgian levels in between.

The DPEAI ensures the consistency and complementarity of these policies. It draws up the region's positions in these areas in conjunction with the relevant Walloon partners. It negotiates over and co-ordinates Belgian positions with the other levels of Belgium's government. Finally, it ensures that the Walloon Region is well represented on the European and international levels and defends Wallonia's interests and positions vis-à-vis these structures and institutions.

The DPEAI monitors in particular the work of the Council of the European Union and the latter's preparatory groups regarding agricultural and environmental affairs.

## The Belgian Presidency of the European Union

On 1 July 2010 Belgium took over the **rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union** and its preparatory bodies. Given this context, the DPEAI's various departments are particularly involved in both the Council's work and the organization of the events that will take place in Wallonia during this presidency.

The DPEAI is directly involved in organizing such major events as the informal Council of European agriculture ministers, a conference on the economic aspects of the Water Framework Directive, a conference on the enforcement of European water policy in agriculture, the informal meeting of Water Managers of the twenty-seven Member States, a meeting of the Directors of the Paying Agencies, and a meeting of the Wildlife and Forestry Administrations' heads.

Moreover, the department will closely monitor and pay special attention to the major international events in the offing, namely, the Conference of the Parties (COP) on Biodiversity in Nagoya and the COP on Climate in Cancun.

## Environmental and agricultural legislation

Most of the environmental and agricultural legislation in effect in Wallonia is the result of decisions taken on the international stage, and more specifically by Europe.

Consequently, the department runs the Directorate-General's **legal management**, in conjunction with officials from all of the DG's departments, in the following areas:

- drafting texts transposing European legislation into domestic law;
- drafting texts (Acts of Assent) making it possible for international treaties to go into effect;
- monitoring infringement proceedings in the fields of agriculture and the environment; and
- codifying regional environmental legislation.

Concretely, one of the consequences of this last point is to make the entire body of environmental and agricultural legislation, including the co-ordinated versions and updates, available on our Web site. This also means that future environment codes are being drawn up to complement the first General Code and Water Code. So, various white papers on a range of subjects, such as waste, permits, natural resources, and so on, are due to come out.

More information is available (in French) at the following address:  
[www.wallonie.environnement.be](http://www.wallonie.environnement.be)

## LEADER: a bottom-up approach

The **LEADER approach** is based on a bottom-up participatory approach to implementing innovative projects on territories that span several municipalities and are carried out by public/private partnerships called "Local Action Groups" or LAGs (GAL in French).

At the end of its selection process, Wallonia selected fifteen LAGs distributed across the Region's entire territory. The department's role, and more particularly that of the European Programmes Directorate, is to co-ordinate and make certain that the projects are implemented smoothly in the field on the one hand and to co-finance agricultural diversification and environmental conservation projects on the other hand.

The LAGs also stimulate initiatives and carry out projects on spatial planning and the conservation of the region's built heritage, the development of tourism, and other areas, all of which contribute to the economic development of Wallonia's rural areas.

Full information about the Walloon Rural Development Programme (PWDR) can be accessed on the following site: [www.pwdr.be](http://www.pwdr.be).

There is also a specific site dedicated to the network: [www.reseau-pwdr.be](http://www.reseau-pwdr.be).



# 02 Natural and Agricultural Environmental Studies Department

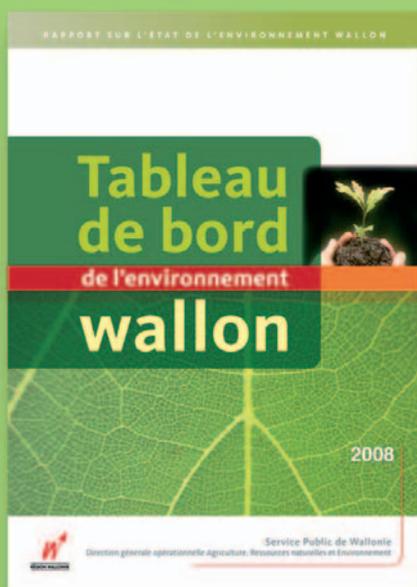
(Département de l'Etude du Milieu naturel et agricole – DEMNA)

## The departments' broad tasks

The Natural and Agricultural Environmental Studies Department or DEMNA draws up and co-ordinates all of the region's programmes for acquiring, validating, using, and disseminating socio-economic and environmental data in the areas of agriculture and the environment.

### Information

Avenue Maréchal Juin, 23  
5030 Gembloux  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 626 438  
Fax: 00 32 81 615 727



## The State of the Walloon Environment

**The State of the Walloon Environment** is a yearly publication giving a review of the environmental situation in Wallonia based on a compilation of environmental, economic, social, health, and other indicators likely to shed light on the pressure that is exerted on the various components of the environment (air, water, soil, fauna, flora, natural habitats, etc.) and their impacts thereupon. In homing in on the actions that have been taken, it also helps to assess environmental policies. Drafting an annual report on the state of the Walloon environment has been an obligation, instituted by decree, since 1987.

The various editions of The State of the Walloon Environment (which is published in French and English) can be consulted on line via the Environment gateway of Wallonia's regional ministry (*Service public de Wallonie*) at the following address: <http://environnement.wallonie.be/eew>.

Besides the electronic versions of the reports, the site offers various types of complementary information, such as the data sources that were used to build the indicators, the methodologies used, downloadable datasets and maps, thematic reports on various environmental issues, the corporate environment review, and even the environmental situation of each municipality in Wallonia.

The next edition, The State of the Walloon Environment 2009, will be put on line in the second half of 2010.

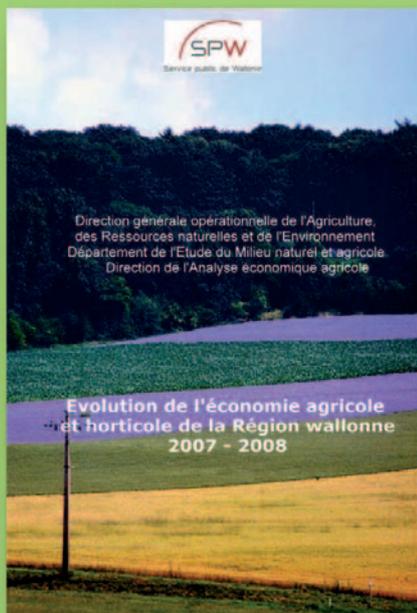


## The Biodiversity in Wallonia Information Server

The **Biodiversity in Wallonia Information Server**, which has been on line since 1991, disseminates biological information, promotes interaction, and hosts exchanges amongst specialists, nature-lovers, the administration, and the public at large. This tool, which is underpinned by strictly organized biological information gathering and analysis, makes it possible to answer the many questions that people have about the natural heritages of their localities or on other scales.

There has been a surge of new biological data entries since a tool for encoding observations (that is available not only to the administration's officials, but to naturalists as well) was put on line at the following address: <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be/outils/encodage/>.

A new, ever more user-friendly and interactive, version of the biodiversity site <http://biodiversite.wallonie.be> will be put on line in the second half of 2010.



## Agricultural economic analysis

The annual report titled **Evolution de l'économie agricole et horticole de la Région wallonne** (Agricultural and Horticultural Economic Trends in the Walloon Region) helps to circumscribe better the far-reaching changes that the agricultural sector is undergoing. This farm inventory covers the sizes and workforces of the region's farms, but also such micro-economic elements as the level of indebtedness and amounts of official aid granted to them. In addition, it covers the situations of agricultural commodity markets, thereby making it possible to evaluate farm income. In so doing, it provides support for the region's agricultural policy decisions.

This report has been drafted each year since 1987. The current version is on line at the following address: [http://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip\\_wolwin/IMG/pdf/rapport2008.pdf](http://agriculture.wallonie.be/apps/spip_wolwin/IMG/pdf/rapport2008.pdf).

# 03 Development Department

(Département du Développement – DD)

## The department's broad tasks

The Development Department is responsible for drawing up the following within the DGARNE's powers:

- a research, knowledge transfer (including awareness-raising), and innovation policy aimed at professionals, institutions, and the public at large;
- a commodity quality policy;
- a communication co-ordination policy for the Directorate-General.

## Information

Ilôt Saint-Luc  
Chaussée de Louvain, 14  
5000 Namur  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 649 465  
Fax: 00 32 81 649 533



## The CRIE network

The Walloon Region has been developing and co-ordinating a **network of Environmental Initiation Centres**, commonly called "CRIEs", for a number of years now. Today, the network consists of eleven CRIEs.

### Why CRIEs?

Being keen to protect the environment, the Walloon government knows that information and awareness raising are necessary preconditions for any and all behavioural changes and policy adoption. The CRIEs play an essential role in providing a methodology for conducting activities and teaching materials for popularising environmental knowledge. Their main activities consist of school activities, training courses, and educational holiday camps.

In other words, Wallonia's Environmental Initiation Centres provide the public services of environmental information, awareness raising, and training, with a view to achieving sustainable development.

Information  
[www.crie.be](http://www.crie.be)



## The biggest Agricultural and Forestry Fair in Europe

Today, the **Libramont International Agricultural and Forestry Fair**, which is situated in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes, is one of the major events in Belgium.

It runs for five days at the end of July. Close to 200,000 visitors took part in the 2009 edition of this major event, which can bank on between 550 and 600 exhibitors each year, and the number of foreign representations has risen from 450 to 4,000 in under ten years!

This must on the summer calendar has become THE place where the public at large, consumers, and agriculture and forestry professionals can rub shoulders.

The DGARNE has supported the development of this ambitious event, which is turned exclusively towards agriculture, agricultural commodities and livestock, and silviculture, for the past twenty years. It invests time and resources to help the fair's organizers to remain on the cutting edge of technical and technological progress and in convergence with policy developments that affect agriculture and silviculture.

### Information

Venue:

6800 Libramont-Chevigny  
Belgium

Dates:

Each year, on the Friday  
preceding the last full weekend  
in July, the last full weekend  
in July, and the following  
Monday and Tuesday

[www.foiredelibramont.com](http://www.foiredelibramont.com)



## Two highly valued breeds

Two livestock breeds that originated in Wallonia are world-renowned for their remarkable butchery quality. These are the **Belgian Blue** (a beef cattle breed) and the **Piértrain** pig.

There is great demand for these two breeds' genetic traits abroad to improve the potential of local breeds through crossbreeding.

The Quality Directorate oversees:

- the breeding stock's guaranteed performance and
- the quality of the reproductive material that is sold.

Breed improvement is supervised and supported through specialised associations such as the Walloon cattle breeders' association *Association wallonne de l'Élevage* (AWE asbl, [www.awenet.be](http://www.awenet.be)) and Walloon swine breeders' association *Association wallonne de l'Élevage porcin* (AWEP asbl, [www.awep.eu](http://www.awep.eu)), which keep genealogical records on the respective breeds. The semen that is sold is checked to give the buyer full guarantees that it meets the requested requirements.

# 04 Aid Department

(Département des Aides – DA)

## The department's broad tasks are:

- to serve as Wallonia's Paying Agency;
- to carry out the tasks of paying and keeping accounts on the aid and subsidies that are granted within the Directorate-General's jurisdiction (European Union, regional or co-financed aids in the fields of agriculture and the environment);
- to follow up and maintain the Directorate-General's certification as Paying Agency for the European Union's agricultural funds (EAGF, EAFRD);
- to manage the fundamental database: beneficiaries, acreage, livestock, and so on;
- to follow up the European surveys (by the Commission and Court of Auditors) aimed at checking the European Funds' management;
- to act as a community service to enable farmers to have a local speaking partner who can provide all necessary information about aid formulae, dairy production, descriptive records, etc.

### Information

Îlot Saint-Luc  
Chaussée de Louvain, 14  
5000 Namur  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 649 473  
Fax: 00 32 81 649 477

## Granting aid to Wallonia's farmers

Under the **first pillar's** implementation, 16,000 Walloon farmers submit an acreage declaration in the first quarter and a suckler cow premium in the summer period each year. The Paying Agency is responsible for processing these applications and paying out the aid monies as of the last quarter of the ongoing year.

Under the **second pillar's** implementation, the Paying Agency processes the applications for investment aid, start-up aid, and aid for agri-environmental measures.

### A few key figures

Aid financed fully by the European budget (direct aid) – first pillar:  
329,000,000 euros.

Aid co-financed by Europe and Wallonia – second pillar (RDP):  
45,000,000 euros.

## Plot management or allowing for land use

**The Land Parcel Identification system or LPIS**, which is an integral part of the Integrated Management and Control System or SIGEC, is run by the *Direction des Surfaces Agricoles* (Farmland Directorate). The LPIS is the reference spatial tool to allow for land use in determining all acreage-based aid. The LPIS is thus the agricultural accounting base. It is used for making aid payments under the first pillar (single payment) and second payment (Rural Development Plan), or a total of 260 million euros a year.

Managing the LPIS calls for monitoring and updating some 275,000 agricultural plots and 63,000 reference plots (or blocks). As of 2010 the scope of the LPIS will be broadened, since it will serve as the basis for Wallonia's environmental accounting and the graphic management of approximately 100,000 forest plots (Natura 2000).



# 05

## Wildlife and Forestry Department

(Département de la Nature et des Forêts – DNF)

### *The department's broad tasks*

*The Wildlife and Forestry Department is responsible for implementing the Forest Code, which includes the management of regional and municipal forests. It manages nature conservation issues (protected species, nature reserves, Natura 2000 network, etc.), as well as hunting and fishing matters.*

### **Information**

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 335 808  
Fax: 00 32 81 335 822

### **PEFC certification of sustainable forest management in Wallonia**

The Wildlife and Forestry Department and SRFB (an association of private forest owners) are the driving forces of the development of **sustainable forest management certification** in Wallonia.

This certification scheme, which is recognised by PEFC International and has been effective since 2003, is steered by a working group representing all parties concerned by forest management. It combines two levels of action, namely, a five-year "Progress Plan" that corrects the problems that owners are unable to cope with on their own (regulatory issues, research, management assistance tools, etc.); and an individual commitment (a charter) based on the pan-European sustainable development recommendations, which is a powerful tool for improving forest management on a constant basis.

Close to 50% of Wallonia's forests (and 95% of its public forests) already have such certification.

Such certification has other merits as well, as a driving force to trigger stakeholder consultation and to raise public awareness, on the one hand, and to promote wood and wood derivatives as ecological materials, on the other hand ([www.pefcbelgium.be](http://www.pefcbelgium.be)).



## The hunting examination

The Wildlife and Forestry Department organizes the region's yearly **hunting exam** each year. Each year, some 1,000 would-be hunters register for this examination, which consists of a knowledge test and a practical test.

The knowledge test consists of eighty questions covering the following fields: hunting legislation; the identification, biology, and management of game species; and arms, ammunition, and hunting ethics.

The practical test consists of two separate sub-tests. The first sub-test is aimed at testing the applicants' ability to handle the arms and ammunition safely and to act safely while hunting on three "hunting grounds" simulating different types of hunting. The second sub-test is designed to test the applicants' riflery skills (firing with bullets and shooting clay pigeons).



## A weekly date with biodiversity

Within the framework of the International Biodiversity Year, Wallonia is launching a campaign called "**Biodiversité, puissance 52**" or biodiversity to the 52nd power. The aims of this campaign are to open people's eyes to the biodiversity that literally lives alongside them and to encourage them to look at, welcome, and above all have fun with this biodiversity. So, over the fifty-two weeks of 2010 "**Biodiversité, puissance 52**" will illustrate various problems connected to biodiversity and try to highlight the richness and variety of the plants, animals, and ecosystems that surround us, as well as pointing out their usefulness.

The DGARNE is launching the campaign and offering it the broadest possible media coverage along with a series of basic environmental information and awareness-raising tools.

The operation's website: [www.biodiversite52.be](http://www.biodiversite52.be).

# 06 Rural Affairs and Watercourses Department

(Département de la Ruralité et des Cours d'Eau – DRCE)

## The department's broad tasks

The Rural Affairs and Watercourses Department contributes to developing a sustainable development policy in rural areas by:

- managing certain constituent and structuring elements of the natural and rural heritage, i.e., non-navigable watercourses, parks and gardens, agricultural tracks and roads, and holding ponds on farmland; and
- ensuring the balanced development of rural areas through:
  - > operations to reorganize and unify rural properties;
  - > Municipal Rural Development Programmes (abbreviated as PCDR in French); and
  - > its co-ordinating and interface role between “agriculture” and “environment-nature”.

## Information

Îlot Saint-Luc  
Chaussée de Louvain, 14  
5000 Namur  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 649 452  
Fax: 00 32 81 649 566



## Biodiversity on the scale of landscapes

“...a light mist rises from the loops of the Semois at Frahan. At a turn in the path, there where the river merges with the sky, a moving landscape delights the eyes. We are at the Giant’s Tomb...” (V. Hugo).

**A rural real-property development operation** was carried out recently under the LIFE programme with the Wildlife and Forestry Department and municipality of Bouillon to restore the original appearance of the Giant’s Tomb. A deliberate land unification plan over 51 hectares made it possible to clear the conifers from the bottom of the valley, which was then left as hay meadows liable to flooding, which are more propitious for the development of biodiversity. Tracks were laid out to facilitate access to this remarkable site. Having been rehabilitated and saved in this way, the once-again magnificent site of the Giant’s Tomb will continue to fuel regional legends and offer visitors an unforgettable sight.



## Rural development

The Directorate of Rural Development helps rural municipalities to draw up and carry out their **Municipal Rural Development Programmes** (PCDR in French). The aim is to conduct a general and sectoral target-oriented management policy with the active participation of the population in order to improve rural residents' quality of life and living standards.

The Directorate also has the tasks of designing, supervising, and assessing the region's agri-environmental measures with a view to planting environmental stakes at the heart of agricultural activity. The Walloon programme proposes a set of methods designed to preserve and/or improve the natural heritage that consists of the local flora and fauna and landscapes, as well as to protect water, air, and soil quality.

## Parks and Gardens

The **Directorate of Parks and Gardens** helps the managers of parks and gardens of special historical interest to keep up and promote their assets, provided that certain conditions of opening the properties to the public are met. Concretely, it has maintenance plans drawn up for the gardens and advises the managers on historical as well as technical and environmental matters. Subsidised personnel is made available to the owners to keep up their properties and the Directorate of Parks and Gardens covers 75% of the cost of purchasing maintenance equipment.



## Betting on PARIS, River Action Programmes using an Integrated, Sector-specific Approach

Wallonia has 25,000 km of watercourses, of which the main ones are managed by the public authorities. These watercourses are rich but fragile natural environments that are often degraded by human activities. Their importance has many and often competing facets, i.e., economic (protecting people and property from flooding and erosion, river transport, hydroelectric power generation, etc.); ecological (preserving or restoring natural habitats that are threatened or representative of biodiversity); and socio-cultural (fishing, bathing, kayaking and canoeing, camping, etc.).

The DGARNE has been doing **integrated watercourse management** for the past twenty years, with help from relevant scientific circles. Through such management it strives to strike the best balance between economic and environmental protection imperatives, so as to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and "Floods" Directive.

So, fifteen catchment areas in Wallonia will thus be covered by a PARIS by 2014.

# 07 Soil and Waste Department

(Département du Sol et des Déchets – DSD)

## *The department's broad tasks*

*The Soil and Waste Department develops Wallonia's soil protection and reclamation policy and implements the region's waste policy, including the problems of subsidies for preventive action and selective waste collection and infrastructure subsidies. It issues opinions about waste management facilities and oversees the enforcement of tax schemes concerning waste.*

### **Information**

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 336 527  
Fax: 00 32 81 336 522



## **Soil protection**

**The soil management decree**, a trump card for the future.

Wallonia's soil has been protected by a decree of its own – the Soil Management Decree – since December 2008. This decree sets out the objectives that concern the inhabitants directly: preventing soil pollution and nutrient depletion, identifying potential pollution sources, organizing investigations to establish the existence of pollution, and determining the right soil reclamation scheme.

Once this decree enters into force fully, the administration will be required to take a stand on the state of the soil whenever a piece of land changes hands or use, or when it is suspected of being polluted.

**In a first step**, an orientation study will determine whether the soil is likely to be polluted. If no indication of pollution is revealed, the process will end and a soil verification certificate is issued.

If, in contrast, indicators reveal the presence of pollution, the administration's experts will carry out a characterisation study to determine as accurately as possible the type and magnitude of the pollution actually present in the soil.

Depending on the situation that is described, the **third step**, that of reclamation, will restore the state of the soil to one that is compatible with its use.

This decree applies to all soils, but targets mainly ground that hosts or hosted in the past potentially polluting facilities or activities.

This decree is a strong-willed, highly effective tool that requires consultation and the co-ordination of all the parties on the ground. Its ultimate goal is to render Wallonia's soil safer, more attractive, and more able to play its various roles, thanks to the performance of its preventive and curative strands.



### The take-back obligation

All producers and importers who put on the market products for which there is a **take-back obligation** must take back or have another party take back, at their expense, the waste pertaining to said products and thus comply with the quantitative collection, recycling, and/or recovery targets for this waste.

Distributors and retailers may also be concerned by this obligation to take back used products. Items that can still be re-used may be recovered by social economy undertakings, which will reincorporate them in second hand circuits.

This take-back scheme concerns electrical and electronic equipment waste, amongst other things.



## *The department's broad tasks are:*

- *to supervise all the steps in processing requests for and checking the issuance of permits and authorisations, especially in relation to the decree of 11 March 1999 concerning the environment permit, as well as the decree of 7 July 1988 concerning mines;*
- *to oversee the quality of the information that is given to permit and authorisation applicants; and*
- *to co-ordinate the submission of opinions with the environment permit (EP) scheme.*

### **Information**

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 336 130  
Fax: 00 32 81 336 133

## **The Environment Permit and the Single Permit**

Wallonia has set up a **Single Permit scheme** that has been in effect since 2002. This system is part of an approach to simplify administrative procedures. It enables undertakings that wish to set up a business in Wallonia to apply for the necessary town planning and environment authorisations in a single procedure.

The various activities and processes were classified by heading, and then integral and sectoral conditions defining for each activity the operating conditions that would be imposed were gradually attached to these headings. Consequently, the applicant can thus be fully informed of the baseline conditions with which he will have to comply as of the start of the application process.

To speed up the process for getting authorisations, strict deadlines have been set for each step in the process. All applicants can thus determine at any point the maximum deadline within which the permit will be issued and thus plan his investments accordingly.



## The development of wind power in Wallonia

Through its Regional Policy Statement 2009-2014 and, more specifically, the axes and priorities set in its Second “Marshall Plan” for “Green” (sustainable) Development, the Walloon Government has embarked on the path of public policies that are resolutely aimed at sustainable development and increased reliance on green energy.

However, certain pioneers did not wait for this strong signal to strike out on their own. This is notably the case of the promoters of wind power.

The number of **promoters of wind power** in Wallonia has been rising steadily. The result is a total of 271.9 MW of installed capacity for 145 built industrial wind turbines at the end of 2009. These figures do not include the 89 other authorised wind turbines that have not yet been built. The 145 turbines in operation generate some 610,750 MWh, or enough energy to supply 174,500 average Walloon households and economise 278,502 tonnes of discharges of CO<sub>2</sub> into the air. This trend is due to gather even more momentum following the adoption of the new governmental measures prescribed by the Second Marshall Plan for Green Development.

In reviewing the applications for wind turbine permits, the DPA must be very alert to a series of unpleasant effects and drawbacks, such as noise pollution, the effects of the shadows that they cast, co-visibility between nearby wind farms, analysis of the restrictions linked to dwellings, transport infrastructure, telecommunications, the civilian and military air space, migration patterns, the potential destruction of wildlife and/or its habitat, and so on. The authorisations that are issued for these facilities take all of these constraints on board in a consistent manner and impose conditions capable of obviating the various problems detected by the DPA official reviewing the application.



**The department's broad tasks are:**

- *to co-ordinate and guarantee the implementation of the European Directives that concern the department, especially the Drinking Water Directive; the directives regarding groundwater protection, nitrates, bathing water, and dangerous substances in surface water; the Framework Directive concerning water, ambient noise, Seveso installations and IPPC, etc.*
- *to work with the DPA to draft co-ordinated opinions regarding the Environment Permit and CWATUPE as far as issues under the department's jurisdiction are concerned, notably for Seveso specialisations, mines and underground quarries, geology and operation of quarries, noise, impact assessments, the environmental aspects of agricultural files, wastewater discharges, the pumping of groundwater, etc.*
- *to develop the financial instruments pertaining to water management necessary, i.e.,*
  - > *to establish taxes, fees, and industrial water use contributions;*
  - > *to grant bonuses for individual treatment systems and other tax rebates;*  
*and*
  - > *to determine the true cost of treatment.*

**Information**

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 336 392  
Fax: 00 32 81 336 311

**A directive to preserve Wallonia's "Blue Gold"**

Co-ordinating and implementing the **European Framework Directive on Water** are one of the main tasks of the Environment and Water Department's Directorate of Surface Water. The ultimate goal is to achieve a good water-quality rating for surface and ground water by 2015. The working method relies mainly on the production of the following three documents:

1. an inventory to identify the problems that must be treated;
2. a management plan that sets relevant environmental objectives and stipulates the programme of measures making it possible to achieve these objectives; and
3. the monitoring programme to monitor achievement of the set objectives.

Citizens were involved to a great extent in the various phases of developing the management plans. This was done notably by means of public consultations held in 2006 and 2008. A public poll on the management plans will be conducted once the plans are validated by the Walloon Government.

## The geological map of Wallonia

**The Geological Map of Wallonia Revision Programme** began in 1990. The 141 sheets will be redrawn, to the 1:10,000 scale, by 2018. The old map dated back to 1890. Ten geologists from four universities and the Geological Service of Belgium will have criss-crossed Wallonia in all directions to make the survey readings. After a scientific reading of the results, a team within the administration publishes the paper maps and updates a WebGIS Internet consultation application. Between now and 2013 thematic data linked to the subsoil and mines will also be consultable.



## Co-ordination of Wallonia's River Contracts

**River Contracts** are participatory management schemes designed to bring all of the people working in the same subcatchment area, be they from political, administrative, economic, association, or scientific circles, around the same table to develop a watercourse and riverbank restoration programme in a consensual manner.

Through their three-year action programmes and their partners' commitments, the Walloon River Contracts currently cover more than 5,400 actions, of which the majority (65%) are aimed at preserving and improving very concretely, on the ground, the qualitative (physical, chemical, and biological), quantitative, heritage-related, and landscape aspects of these watercourses. Through such multi-stakeholder consultations, the River Contracts are making a significant contribution to achieving good water quality by 2015, in line with the objectives set by the European Framework Directive on Water.

Through their information and public awareness-raising tasks, the River Contracts are also relay points for disseminating public surveys about water management in Wallonia.



# 10 Police and Inspections Department

(Département de la Police et des Contrôles – DPC)

## *The department's broad tasks*

*The DPC was created to ensure the harmonisation, co-ordination, and performance of most of the police and field inspection tasks for which the DGARNE is responsible. As such, it contributes preventively (through checks) and punitively (as police) to ensuring compliance with the laws, orders, decrees, and other legal measures that tend to preserve Wallonia's natural heritage in the broad sense. In so doing, it is guided by the aim of minimising the number of environment violations committed and having the perpetrators of such violations brought to justice with the help of the other parties that are concerned.*

### **Information**

Avenue Prince de Liège, 15  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 335 817  
Fax: 00 32 81 335 833

### **Information**

Single phone number:  
070 23 30 01

## **The SOS Pollution Unit**

**The SOS Pollution unit**, the official name of which is "**SOS Environnement-Nature**", has been operating within the DPC since 1 July 1992. It makes possible urgent intervention on the scene (sampling, rapid tests, taking witnesses' depositions, etc.) in the event of a pollution incident that is a serious threat for the ecosystem. It operates 24 hours a day in conjunction with the traditional relief services, i.e., the federal and local police, civil protection, fire brigades, and so on.



## The Anti-Poaching Unit (*Unité Anti-Braconnage – UAB*)

The **UAB** began operating in May 2003 when it became part of the Police and Inspections Department. It is thus a full-fledged public service that works for the protection of and respect for the common natural heritage and has an administrative staff and team of sixteen field officers distributed across the entire territory of Wallonia.

The UAB focuses on cracking down on major poaching. Its main role is to co-ordinate targeted field actions. This unit's other primordial task is to search out and conduct investigations for more complex cases of damage to the natural heritage.

In order to carry out these duties correctly, the UAB's officers have the power to look for and report infringements of regulations and laws concerning the following matters:

- the Forest Code;
- the Hunting Act;
- the Fishing Act;
- the Nature Conservation Act;
- the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); and
- the decree of 5 June 2008 concerning searching for, recording, prosecuting, and punishing environmental infractions and laying down reparative measures.



## The Pollution Squad (*Unité de Répression de la Pollution – URP*)

The URP or Pollution Squad was created at the instigation of the Walloon Environment Ministry. It was integrated into the DPC and began working in April 2007.

Its main task is to support the DPC's External Directorates **by searching for and booking environmental infractions**, identifying their authors, and remanding the latter to the judicial authorities. It is a support service for the DPC's External Directorates but also for the federal and local police forces. As such, it is the "armed branch" of the Environment Police.

The Pollution Squad carries out its tasks by using appropriate modern police techniques and focuses on the following phenomena:

- cases of flagrante delicto of severe pollution (watercourses, air pollution, etc.);
- business sectors or operators that are particularly reluctant to observe environmental laws;
- illegal waste tips and waste incineration;
- cross-border waste shipment checks; and
- waste disposal chains (information gathering, observation, tailing operations, and intervention).

Finally, the URP's officers have powers in the following areas:

- air, water, and soil pollution control;
- noise pollution control;
- waste;
- environment permits; and
- the prevention of and reparations for environmental damage – the polluter-pays principle.



# Walloon Agricultural Research Centre

*(Centre wallon de Recherches agronomiques – CRA-W)*

## *The CRA-W's broad tasks*

*The CRA-W is a choice instrument for the Walloon Government to put Wallonia's agriculture in the vanguard of technical, economic, and societal progress and to guarantee the Region's effective presence in the area of agricultural expertise.*

*So, the CRA-W takes up the challenges of today's major issues by focusing on five research areas, namely:*

- 1. improving living conditions, preserving the environment, and producing sustainably;*
- 2. improving food, preserving consumer health, and understanding consumers' behaviour;*
- 3. diversifying products and their uses and improving the competitiveness of producers and undertakings;*
- 4. adapting species, practices, and production systems to changing contexts; and*
- 5. providing information to enable public and private agents to take enlightened decisions.*

*In this way, the CRA-W contributes to achieving the aims of the General Policy Statement, which talks of the will to "guarantee sustainable, multifunctional agriculture to take up the century's challenges".*

*It also contributes to this through its many service activities, involvement in various commodity chains and industries, and the use of or availability of living capital consisting of flocks and herds, land, and even orchards, without which a certain number of research projects could not be conducted by either the CRA-W or its many partner institutions. The CRA-W has a host of contacts with farmers, horticulturists, businesses, private individuals, universities, and research centres in Belgium and abroad. It participates in this way in European, national, and regional research projects. Its active presence in overseas development aid also attests to the extent of its international action.*

## **Information**

Bâtiment Léon Lacroix

Rue de Liroux, 9

5030 Gembloux

Belgium

Tel.: 00 32 81 626 555

Fax: 00 32 81 626 559

cra@cra.wallonie.be

<http://www.cra.wallonie.be>



## The production of renewable carbon energy sources – a new function for agriculture? Under what conditions?

Without forgetting the essential goal of food production, **using agricultural or forest biomass** for energy or the chemicals industry (manufacturing of plastic) is an alternative to depletable fossil fuels. However, to make certain that the processes are efficient, one must check that the carbon budget/balance is positive.

To identify the ecologically intensive technical agricultural itineraries that would make it possible to optimise the production of renewable carbon, the CRA-W has set up trials to test the biomass potential of a dozen plant species as energy crops. Some of the selected species are already well known. They are maize, spelt, tall fescue, and orchard grass. Others, such as miscanthus (elephant grass), switch grass, sorghum, Jerusalem artichoke, and hemp, are grown little in our regions. These trials were set up with the support of the BIOETHA2 and ENERBIOM projects and co-financed by the ERDF and Wallonia (INTERREG IV *Grande Région* programme).

### Information

Contacts:

Thomas Schmit

[t.schmit@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:t.schmit@cra.wallonie.be)

François Ghysel

[f.ghysel@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:f.ghysel@cra.wallonie.be)

Bruno Godin

[b.godin@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:b.godin@cra.wallonie.be)



## Duralait: What production patterns and management methods for a sustainable dairy farm?

In a **dairy sector** in crisis – a crisis moreover which has been amplified by various things such as the coming disappearance of milk quotas, a more volatile market, greatly increased production costs (fertilizer, feed, energy, and so on), and increased demands on producers (to meet standards, for example) –, dairy farmers must become managers and take care to optimise all aspects of their operations (economic, environmental, social, animal husbandry techniques, etc.). To help producers ride out this difficult period and ensure their future, the Duralait project proposes to perform a detailed economic, environmental, animal husbandry, and social analysis of dairy farming by ranking the farms according to their management schemes rather than the type of farming (TF). The project's overall aim is to propose specific avenues to enable dairy farmers to increase their incomes, reduce their working times, and enhance the sustainability of their activity according to their herd management options.



### Information

Contacts:

Amélie Turlot

[a.turlot@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:a.turlot@cra.wallonie.be)

Carolina Cardoso

[c.cardoso@cra.wallonie.be](mailto:c.cardoso@cra.wallonie.be)

# 12 Walloon Agency for the Promotion of Quality Agriculture

*(Agence wallonne pour la Promotion d'une Agriculture de Qualité – APAQ-W)*

## *The agency's broad tasks*

*The main aims of APAQ-W's work are to publicise and foster appreciation of the specific qualities of Walloon agriculture; to develop a positive image of Wallonia's agriculture, undertakings, and products; to promote products of differentiated quality; to provide information about the nutritional quality of products; to develop educational actions and promote the development of taste and the appreciation of savours; to highlight the social, cultural, and environmental roles of Walloon agriculture; and to promote the various channels that distribute Wallonia's agricultural products.*

### **Information**

Rue Burniaux, 2  
5100 Jambes  
Belgium  
Tel.: 00 32 81 331 700  
Fax: 00 32 81 305 437  
info@apaqw.be  
www.apaqw.be

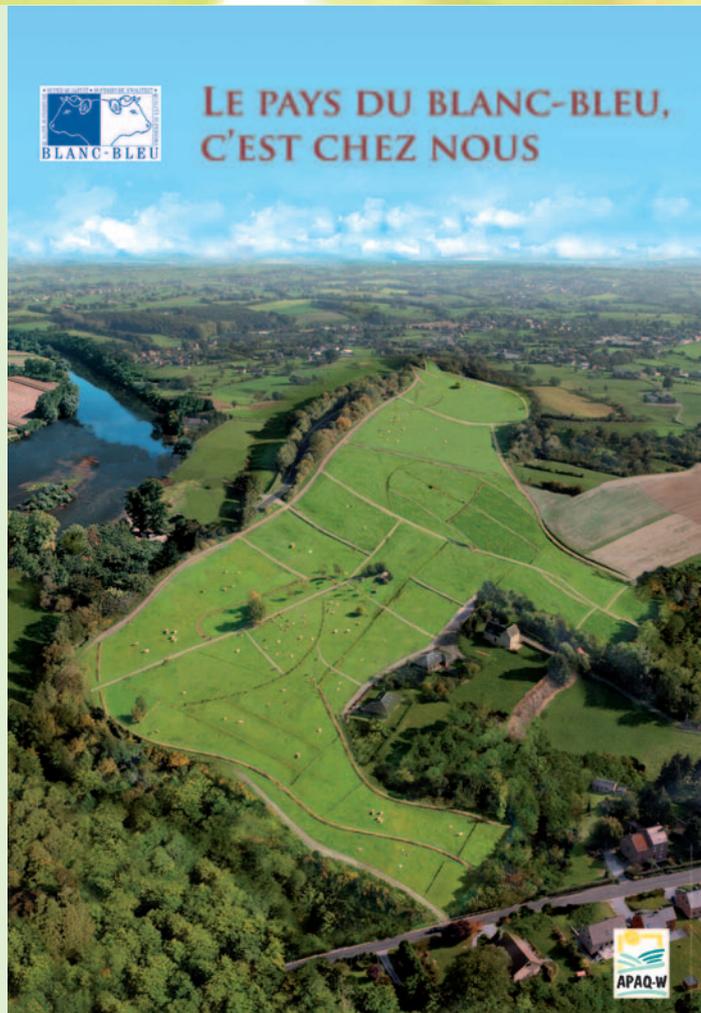
## **Promotional activity on a daily basis**

When it comes to **promoting products**, APAQ-W's work takes the form of communication campaigns aimed at raising the profiles and images of the region's agricultural sectors (cattle, swine, dairy farming, poultry farming, horticulture, etc.) and supporting the marketing of their products.

### **Our land is the land of the Belgian Blue!**

Driven by the concern to cope in a concrete manner with the problems faced by the agricultural world, APAQ-W launched a campaign to promote beef not only in order to raise consumption levels and sales, but above all to exploit what our farmers do best, that is, producing quality products!

On the menu of this vast campaign: the tasting of Belgian Blue beef in some 570 points of sale throughout Wallonia and broadcasting of radio and television commercials on both the national and regional networks. Medical and paramedical professionals, i.e., 2,500 dieticians, 1,000 GPs, 2,100 specialists in internal medicine, and so on, were informed of the place of meat in a balanced diet, including a reminder of the importance of the high biological value proteins and iron that are the major benefits of this source of protein. Actions were also conducted in the hospitality industry. In all cases, emphasis was placed on the merits of local production with a minimal ecological footprint. "La viande bovine: un effet bœuf!" or "Beefing up with beef!" said it all.



APAQ-W's action when it comes to **promoting the image** of agriculture is aimed at improving the public-at-large's knowledge of the agricultural world and at supporting the use of Walloon agricultural commodities in the development of a healthy and sustainable diet. In addition, it works to defend Walloon agri-food commodities in the marketplace and to boost regional and local actions to promote Wallonia's farmers and their crops.

### The city wakes up to the cock's crow!

For the past five years already, cows, calves, chickens, and pigs have been taking up residence in the hearts of various Walloon towns, from Liège to Bastogne, with Waterloo, Brussels, and Namur in between, for the space of a weekend.

These weekends give young and old alike a chance to discover modern agriculture in **three dimensions**: **Discovering** farm animals and information about healthy food and the food chain, or even animal husbandry, through educational workshops and various demonstrations; **Relaxing** during carriage rides or in the company of Margot, the cybercow; and **Tasting** local products at farmers' markets of producers from specific parts of Wallonia.



### Information

[www.lavilleauchantducoq.be](http://www.lavilleauchantducoq.be)



### Information

[www.jfo.be](http://www.jfo.be)

### Open Farm Days (*Journées Fermes Ouvertes – JFO*) in Wallonia

Each year, as summer draws nigh, some sixty farms across Wallonia open their gates for a weekend of **Discovery**, **Tasting**, and **Relaxation**. On the weekend's menu: discovering the great diversity and richness of the farmer's profession through visits of dairy and beef cattle farms, pig farms, poultry farms, rabbit farms, snail farms, beekeeping operations, and even ostrich farms, along with grain fields, market gardens, orchards, and vineyards.

The visitors – young and old – get a chance to see how cows are milked, sheep are sheared, butter is made, and farriers ply their trade, without forgetting the opportunity to taste delicious farm and local products (dairy products, coldcuts, fruits and vegetables, foie gras, and so on) and relaxing thanks to a host of family activities (wagon and tractor rides, rabbit races, cooking classes for budding chefs, a walk in a nature preserve, or even drawing contests).

The **Open Farm Days** are an opportunity to discover agriculture, a sector that feeds each day on its passion for raising animals and growing crops!



# 13 Walloon Air and Climate Agency

(Agence wallonne de l'Air et du Climat – AWAC)

## The agency's broad tasks

*“The Walloon Government undertakes to pursue a strategy, in line with the movement begun by the Air-Climate Plan and the Sustainable Control of Energy Plan, that will enable us to reach a 30 percent reduction in our emissions by 2020 and an 80-95 percent reduction by 2050”. Government Policy Statement for 2009-2014, Walloon Government, July 2009.*

*The Walloon Air and Climate Agency (AWAC) belongs to the regional ministry (SPW or “Walloon Public Service”) in charge of regional air and climate change policy. The AWAC is directly accountable to the Walloon Minister in charge of the environment.*

*The agency is based in Namur (Jambes) and has a workforce of twenty people or so. Three additional officers are on secondment in Brussels, with the National Climate Commission and the Interregional Environment Cell (CELINE – IRCEL).*

*The agency represents the region on the national level and in international organizations in all matters related to air and climate and is responsible for transposing decisions into Walloon legislation and implementing them.*

## Information

Rue des Masuis jambois, 5

5100 Jambes

Belgium

Tel.: 00 32 81 321 170

Fax: 00 32 81 321 177

info-airclimat@wallonie.be

<http://airclimat.wallonie.be>



## Air policy

The AWAC is responsible, amongst other things, for the **Walloon air quality monitoring network**, for preventing air pollution, for approving heating and refrigeration technicians, and air pollution test laboratories, for applying international standards, for conducting air pollution emission inventories and submitting reports to the authorities, and so on. In addition, the AWAC submits opinions on environmental permit applications.



## Climate change policy

The AWAC co-ordinates the region's policies and measures taken to meet its climate protection commitments, especially those under the **Kyoto Protocol**. It participates actively in drawing up Belgian climate policy (prevention and adaptation), in drafting reports for the relevant authorities, and in climate negotiations.

Under the Community greenhouse gas emission allowance trading scheme, the agency validates the emissions of Wallonia's undertakings and organises the flexibility mechanisms' implementation. It manages the Walloon Kyoto Fund set up for emission trading.

The agency is also entrusted with raising the awareness of the general public and occupational sectors about the importance of protecting both air and climate.



Air  Climat  
agence wallonne de l'air & du climat

# 14

## Public Service Scientific Institute

(Institut scientifique de service public – ISSeP)

### *The institute's broad tasks*

*The Public Service Scientific Institute (ISSeP) is a public service entity founded in 1990 from a research centre originally dedicated to the mining industries. It is directly accountable to the Walloon Government, which is vested with the necessary powers to run the institute.*

*The institute's expertise and know-how explain its roles as an interface between the private and public sectors and as a choice interlocutor for implementing Wallonia's policies.*

*It is organized around three major axes, namely:*

- *environmental mapping;*
- *environmental and accident risk assessment; and*
- *technology monitoring and development.*

*ISSeP is recognised regionally, nationally, and internationally as a scientific centre with multifaceted potential, and is an active member of many European scientific and technical committees and expert networks.*

### **Information**

Rue du Chéra, 200

4000 Liège

Belgium

Tel.: 00 32 42 298 311

Fax: 00 32 42 524 665

direction@issep.be

<http://www.issep.be>



### **Improving air quality by improving the reliability and integration of the monitoring networks**

The Walloon Region has an air quality surveillance network that consists of 180 measuring points. This network, which is managed by the ISSeP, makes it possible to analyse 109 parameters in various physical fractions (gas, rain, suspended particles, and sedimentable dust) (<http://airclimat.wallonie.be>).

As air pollution is not affected by political borders, cross-border co-operation is necessary. It must give rise to harmonised measurement and data processing protocols, as well as better identification of the sources and of what happens to particles in the air. The ISSeP contributes actively to this work by participating in European Interreg projects such as PMLab, which aims to provide reliable, consistent information about the air's particulate loads in the MEUSE-Rhine Euregio area so as to enable the relevant authorities to draft joint air quality improvement proposals (<http://www.pmlab.eu>).



