



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM

TO: EPA Staff

FROM: Division of Visitors and Information Exchange
Office of International Activities

SUBJECT: Attached Report on Belgium

Attached is a report on Belgium, third in a series of background country papers for EPA staff involved in international activities. The first two reports were on Japan and Luxemburg. Other reports which will be available soon include:

ASIA

Australia

EUROPE

Austria	Italy
Denmark	Netherlands
France	Spain
Germany (Federal Republic)	Sweden
Great Britain	Switzerland
Ireland	

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

The country profiles, together with our monthly bulletin -- "Summaries of Foreign Government Environmental Reports", are to inform EPA staff about national environmental efforts abroad. Suggestions on improving the format or contents of the reports are welcome. Please call Dolores Gregory (202-755-0560).

Attachment

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Office of International Activities
Environmental Protection Agency
February, 1976

PREFACE

This is a brief report on the organization and management of environmental activities on the national level in Belgium. Reports on Japan and Luxemburg have already been distributed and similar reports on other countries will be available soon. These reports, which are background papers for EPA staff involved in international activities, are not for distribution outside the Agency.

Emphasis is on policy and regulatory functions of national environmental agencies. Research and development, often under the auspices of other departments, for example, Ministry of Science and Technology, are not covered in these reports.

Source documents for the reports, received under the International Documents Exchange, are available in the EPA Headquarters Library. English summaries of the foreign documents are published in the monthly bulletin "Summaries of Foreign Government Environmental Reports."

Office of International Activities
February, 1976

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E N V I R O N M E N T A L C O N T R O L I N B E L G I U M

I. National Organization for Environmental Control government structure

Belgium is a constitutional, representative and hereditary monarchy. The executive power is exercised by the Council of Ministers, headed by the Prime Minister, and by the King. Legislative power is in the hands of Parliament, and judicial power rests with the Supreme Court of Appeal. The Parliament, composed of a Senate and a Chamber of Representatives, is responsible for the proposal, debate and passage of laws. All legislative proposals are subject to the approval of the Council of Ministers. The Council is also responsible for seeing to it that legislative enactments are carried out. As the ministers are usually members of Parliament, there is not really a complete separation of power between the executive and legislature. Further, as head of state, the King shares legislative power with Parliament as well as exercising executive power in conjunction with the Council of Ministers. The powers granted to the King by the Constitution include dissolution or postponement of sessions of Parliament, appointment of ministers and judges and command of the armed forces. All acts of the King, however, must be countersigned by one of the ministers.

national environmental body

Belgium does not have one centralized environmental agency. Environmental policy is formulated mainly by the Ministry of Public Health, along with various other ministries and certain commissions established for research and coordination of pollution control. A Secretariat of State for the Environment has very recently been created to coordinate legislation and activities of various services involved in pollution control¹ and to serve as a liaison between Belgium and the European Community in environmental matters.

agencies with environmental responsibilities

Advisory functions are carried out by the Superior Councils of Public Hygiene and Water Supply² as well as a national commission for the study of pollution of sea water by hydrocarbons.³ These groups conduct research and advise the King on matters of pollution control. The King is empowered by several laws to issue royal decrees in the interests of environmental protection. Coordinating activities are executed by interministerial committees for science policy and water protection.⁴

The March 26, 1971 Law on the protection of surface waters against pollution provides for the establishment of three water purification associations responsible for the decontamination of wastewater discharged into the coastal basin, the Scheldt Basin, and the Meuse Basin. These associations are to include representatives of the provinces on the territory of which the jurisdiction of one of the associations extends, private enterprises using surface waters from areas under an association's jurisdiction and enterprises discharging polluted wastewater into these surface waters. The duties of these associations are research of possible causes of pollution and the execution of decontamination programs through the amelioration of existing water purification systems and the establishment and maintenance of new systems. Moreover, all discharges of wastewater from other than domestic sources must be authorized by the director of one of the associations. (These authorizations, however, can be annulled or modified by the Minister of Public Health).

The structure of the associations consists of a general assembly, whose members represent the three groups of participants and a council of administration, composed of nine elected members of the general assembly. Press reports indicate, however, that these purification bodies have not yet been formed in

accordance with the March 26, 1971 Law, although the necessary legal procedures for their implementation are being worked out.⁵

The creation of an interministerial commission for coordination in the prevention and combating of air pollution is the subject of an October 7, 1971 Royal Decree. Members of the commission represent eight ministries, as well as the organizational hierarchy of the Prime Minister and the Secretariat of State for Scientific Policy and Programming, and their functions include preparation of regulatory provisions and coordination of work among the different ministries involved in air pollution control.

national-local relationships

Belgium is composed of nine provinces, each of which is headed by a governor. The legislative body of the province is the provincial council, administered by a "permanent deputation" of six provincial councillors. The provinces are further divided into communes, the basic unit of local government, each headed by a burgomaster and board of aldermen. Provincial and communal authorities exercise a considerable amount of autonomy in voting their budgets and providing for public services; however, there is a direct link between national and local authorities, as local affairs are conducted under the aegis of the Minister of the Interior. It is on the advice of this minister that the King names the governors and burgomasters.

In the control of water pollution, although the national government, primarily the Ministry of Public Health, provides regulations and standards, it is mainly through the initiative of the provinces and communes that water purification systems are actually implemented.⁶ As the three planned regional water purification associations have not yet begun to function, provinces and communes are conducting research and planning activities for wastewater purification,

subsidized to a great extent by the national government.

A May 10, 1967 Royal Decree provides for the creation of provincial commissions for the coordination of water problems. The functions of these commissions are of a research, planning and development nature, including exchanges of information on decontamination processes, amelioration of irrigation waterways in farmland, and maintenance of pure drinking water.

The communal burgomasters and aldermen are responsible for the authorization of discharges of wastewater from domestic sources into surface waters.⁷ Both air and water pollution legislation impart to communal authorities the power to take emergency measures in cases of dangerous contamination of air or water; these measures, however, must always be confirmed by the Minister of Public Health within an established time period. Provincial and communal authorities may also set their own penalties for non-compliance with environmental laws, in addition to those established by national law.

II. Environmental Legislation

legislative system

Although Parliament is considered to be the legislative power in Belgium and the Council of Ministers (government) the executive, the legislative duties of introducing and voting on laws are shared by both branches. In practice, most laws are proposed by the ministers, after which they must be approved by a vote of Parliament, with or without amendments. When a proposed law is introduced in one of the chambers of Parliament, the bill must be approved by the appropriate minister before undergoing parliamentary study and debate. Ultimately, the King must assent to every law, but this is usually a formality. In certain instances, the King is empowered to issue "royal decrees" amending or abrogating portions of existing laws. Each such decree must be countersigned by the appropriate minister; in some cases the ratification of Parliament is required. The judiciary branch has the power to contest royal decrees and refuse their implementation if the decrees do not appear to be in accordance with the Constitution. Laws voted by Parliament, however, escape this judicial scrutiny.

highlights of the laws and regulations on air and water pollution

Belgium has a multiplicity of laws and decrees on the control of air and water pollution. Two basic laws, given additional substance by various royal and ministerial decrees, provide for the protection of groundwater and surface water. The March 26, 1971 Law on the protection of groundwater empowers the King to take measures to protect groundwater for consumption and domestic use. With the consent of the Minister of Public Health, the King may establish the procedures for the granting of authorization for the placement of discharge of materials into or onto soil that may be harmful to the quality of groundwater.

This law is subsequent to a November 18, 1970 Royal Decree requiring authorization from the minister in charge of mines for the extraction of groundwater for other than domestic use and prohibiting all discharges of wastewater or pollutants into wells or catchment areas.

The March 26, 1971 Law also protects surface water against pollution by prohibiting the throwing or placing of objects or materials in surface water. It also bans the discharge of liquids, pollutants or gases into surface water, other than authorized discharges of wastewater. The King, on the advice of his ministers, may regulate the manufacture, importation, sale and use of products that may pollute surface water. This law calls for the creation of the three previously mentioned water purification associations. The latter may authorize wastewater discharges and provide for water purification installations.

A more detailed regulation of the discharge of wastewater into public sewers and surface water is afforded by a January 23, 1974 Royal Decree requiring the sampling and analysis of discharged wastewater and of receiving waters to assure that water purification standards are met. Wastewater discharge into highway drainage ditches is forbidden, unless the wastewater is from a domestic source, contains no fecal matter, and has been treated for the elimination of polluting materials.

Surface water is protected from specific types of wastewater discharge by a number of additional royal decrees. Proprietors of sugar refineries,⁸ iron smelting works,⁹ dairy enterprises,¹⁰ metal pickling and metal-surface treatment plants,¹¹ and fruit and vegetable canneries¹² must obtain an authorization to discharge wastewater from the authority having jurisdiction over the receiving waters. Within a certain time period after such an authorization has been granted, the above-mentioned enterprises must submit plans for purification

installations to the Office of Wastewater Purification in the Ministry of Public Health.

Two royal decrees, dated April 24, 1965 and May 6, 1966, deal with drinking water. The former requires that drinking water be potable, and the latter defines non-potable water as having a pH value lower than 6.5 and containing one or more specified organisms or substances, the tolerable quantities of which are listed.

A third basic water pollution law protects sea water from contamination by hydrocarbons. Dated July 4, 1962, this law prohibits navigating vessels from discharging hydrocarbons or any mixture containing hydrocarbons likely to dirty the surface of the sea. In addition, ships are required to maintain a registry of all hydrocarbons kept on board. The King may make obligatory the installation of oil separators on certain types of ships, and he designates the ports which must have reception installations and determines the minimum volume of residues that they must be capable of collecting during a given period of time. The November 29, 1967 Royal Decree designates types of ships that are required to have a reservoir in which to store hydrocarbons until they can be disposed of at a port reception installation.

Aside from these specific enactments, regulations against pollution of Belgian sea water, ports and beaches are also incorporated in general police and navigation regulations in royal decrees dated January 22, 1929 and May 31, 1968. Each of these decrees contains an article prohibiting throwing, depositing, allowing to float or disposing into water of objects that may impede navigation or hinder the free flow of water.¹³ Any discharge of pollutants (hydrocarbons, radioactive wastes, etc.) is forbidden. In addition, the May 31, 1968 Royal Decree on police regulations of the Lower Scheldt river basin prohibits the discharge of objects or pollutants into those waters.¹⁴

There is one general air pollution law in Belgium dealing with atmospheric pollution from stationary sources. Provisions for control of air pollution by automobile fumes are incorporated in decrees on automobiles and traffic regulations.

The December 28, 1964 Law concerning the fight against air pollution empowers the King to take the following measures, with the consent of the Minister of Public Health: 1) prohibition of certain forms of pollution; 2) regulation or prohibition of pollution-causing apparatus; 3) regulation or requirement of the use of preventive or pollution-control devices.

The March 26, 1971 Royal Decree provides that technical specifications to which combustion facilities used in heating buildings must conform in order to be manufactured, imported or sold in Belgium will be determined by the Ministers of Public Health, Economic Affairs, and Employment and Labor.

A royal decree, dated July 26, 1971, designates certain areas of the country as special protection zones against air pollution where, because of emissions from heating facilities, the air contains a yearly average of more than 150 micrograms of sulfur oxides per cubic meter. In these areas, combustion of peat, lignite and smoking coal briquettes is prohibited. Open-air incineration of all wastes is proscribed except for the burning of vegetable wastes emanating from the upkeep of gardens, the clearing of land or professional agricultural activities.¹⁵

The July 26, 1971 Decree also stipulates that proper functioning of heating facilities in the special protection zones be maintained. This decree was further implemented by the ministerial decrees of March 26 and March 27, 1974, issued by the Minister of Public Health. They set forth the technical processes to be followed in the mandatory testing of heating facilities fueled by solid and liquid combustibles in order to determine the amount of fumes emitted.

The March 27, 1974 Ministerial Decree concerns qualifications of technicians responsible for maintenance of heating installations in the special protection zones. The decree presents a detailed list of courses of study to be given by educational institutions (including examination requirements) to technicians in accordance with air pollution control standards. Also, the Minister of Public Health must approve certifications of all graduates.

Regulations on air pollution from automobile fumes are incorporated in a March 14, 1968 Royal Decree on general regulations on policing of road traffic. Article 86 of this decree states that motor vehicles must be maintained and driven so as not to emit, in an abnormal manner, oil and combustion wastes or discharges of fumes harmful to traffic safety. A subsequent decree of March 15, 1968 on general regulations on technical conditions to be met by motor vehicles establishes the procedure to be used in measuring the opacity of exhaust fumes in compliance with standards.¹⁶ The permissible amount of carbon monoxide content in exhaust gases emitted from automobiles having ignition engines was limited to 4.5% or less by the November 8, 1971 Royal Decree.

other program areas (noise, pesticides, radiation, protection of nature)

Belgium has one general noise pollution law, dated July 18, 1973. This law empowers the King to take the following measures: 1) proscription of the generation of certain noises; 2) placing of time limits on certain noises; 3) regulation or prohibition of production, import or sale of objects or machines capable of producing certain noises; 4) imposition of standards for use of noise reduction devices; and 5) creation of special protection zones within which special measures may be taken. Decrees of August 9 and August 13, 1971 on general regulations for technical conditions of motor vehicles require the measurement of noise levels in motor vehicles, the responsibility for which is granted to the Foundation for the Study and Research of Traffic Safety.

Pesticide control in Belgium is dealt with in the June 20, 1964 Law regulating food substances, as implemented by a December 6, 1968 Decree, authorizing the government to establish and maintain a list, including tolerable levels, of additives and residues of active pesticide substances allowable in foodstuffs of plant origin. In 1969 the government was empowered to authorize the use of pesticides and other materials to stimulate growth in plants and livestock. A list of toxic pesticides and phytopharmaceuticals is contained in a decree of May 31, 1958 with additions to the list appearing in subsequent decrees. The distribution of authorizations to sell or use toxic pesticides and phytopharmaceuticals is regulated in this decree as well as in a decree of April 5, 1963, which also stipulates that treatment of products used for food purposes may be undertaken only by persons specifically authorized by the Ministry of Public Health. In addition, prior to entry into commerce, pesticide products must have their ingredients and intended use listed at and approved by the Ministry of Public Health.

Belgium has three laws on the protection of the environment from damage by radiation. The March 29, 1958 Law for protecting the population from ionizing radiation hazards authorizes the government to set conditions for the importation, production, storage, transport, sale, distribution and use of commercial, industrial, scientific, medical or other uses of apparatus or substances capable of emitting ionized radiation. The government is also authorized to take all necessary measures to safeguard the population and to avoid hazards resulting from the accidental contamination of any place or substance by radioactivity. Another radiation law, dated August 9, 1963, places the responsibility for any accident caused by a nuclear vessel directly on the operator of that vessel. Finally, in 1966 a law was enacted, prohibiting any person from receiving or depositing in a nuclear facility any nuclear substances, combustibles, or radioactive and waste products, unless specific authorization has been granted by the government.

Provisions for the protection of nature and the safeguard of the natural environment are contained in the July 12, 1973 law on the conservation of nature, a framework law authorizing the creation of natural reserves, forest reserves and natural parks. The law specifies the special characteristics of the three types of reserves and designates those activities, such as hunting or deforestation, which are to be prohibited in each. The Ministry of Agriculture is designated as the government agency responsible for the issuance of all necessary implementing regulations, and provisions are made for the establishment of an advisory Superior Council for the Conservation of Nature to assist the Ministry in the performance of its functions under the law.

III. Environmental Standards

status of standards

A general definition for a unit of water pollution is stated in a January 23, 1974 Royal Decree regarding execution of the March 26, 1971 Law on the protection of surface water as follows: 180 liters of wastewater containing suspended materials in the amount of 500 mg./liter, having a biochemical oxygen demand of 300 mg./liter in five days, a chemical oxygen demand of 750 mg./liter, and nitrogen content of 55 mg./liter.

More specific standards for the discharge of wastewater into public sewers and surface water are established in the January 23, 1974 Royal Decree. As regards discharges into public sewers, the decree stipulates that these discharges may not contain solid household wastes, textile fibers, plastic wrappings, or dissolved inflammable gases and that any detergent must be 80% biodegradable within 24 hours. Further, the temperature of wastewater may not exceed 45°C and the pH value must be between 6 and 9.5. The content of mineral oils, volatile solvents, and animal or vegetable fat may not exceed 0.5 g./liter, and the content of suspended material may be no more than 1 g./liter and no larger than 1 cm. Finally, wastewaters entering public sewers are not to contain substances such as phenol, phosphorous, fluorine, zinc, arsenic, or manganese in amounts that could be harmful to sewers, purification installations or receiving waters.

Standards for the discharge of wastewater into surface water are somewhat different. In this case, the temperature of the wastewater may not exceed 30°C and the pH value must be between 6.5 and 8.5. In addition, the content of suspended materials is not to exceed 100 mg./liter, animal or vegetable oil content may be no greater than 5 mg./liter, and the detergent content is not to be more than 3 mg./liter. In industrial sectors where hydrocarbons enter directly into production processes, the content of petroleum or its derivatives

in discharged wastewater may not be greater than 15 mg./liter; in other industrial sectors, petroleum content may not exceed 5 mg./liter.

Lastly, a November 29, 1967 Royal Decree on pollution of sea water by hydrocarbons states that, for ships on which oil separators are mandatory, the water discharged into the sea must contain less than 100 parts oil per 1,000,000 part of mixture discharged.

Clean air standards in Belgium are fewer in number than those for water. The July 26, 1971 Royal Decree creating special protection zones against air pollution, as further delineated in a January 29, 1974 decree, sets standards for heating facilities in the special protection zones. Fuel oils for domestic heating are not to contain more than 1 percent sulfur. When solid fuels are used, the maximum permissible weight of combustion gases is 0.6 g./1000kcal and the proper temperature of combustion gases less than 400°C. When liquid fuels are used, the proper temperature of combustion gases is between 200 and 350°C, and the carbon dioxide content of those gases must be more than 9 percent. Moreover, heating facilities must not emit visible fumes, except rarely and in a fleeting manner and traces of oil should not be visible on filter paper used in measuring the fume index.

As for air pollution caused by automobile emissions, motor vehicles with ignition engines are to comply with the standards set by the "March 20, 1970 European Communities Council of Ministers Directive on the Harmonization of Legislation of Member States on Pollution from Positive-Engine Equipped Motor Vehicles."¹⁷ Besides, automobiles must be maintained so as not to emit exhaust gases having a carbon monoxide content exceeding 4.5%.¹⁸

The Ministry of Public Health sets most of the air and water pollution standards in conjunction with the King and, in certain cases, other ministries. For example, technical specifications to which combustion apparatus must conform

in order to be manufactured, imported or sold in Belgium are established by the Ministries of Public Health, Economic Affairs and Employment & Labor. The Ministry of Communications issues directives on automobile emissions; in general, standards for air pollution caused by motor vehicles are taken from the "March 20, 1970 European Communities Council of Ministers Directive on the Harmonization of Legislation of Member States on Pollution from Positive-Engine Equipped Motor Vehicles."

Advisory councils on water supply and public hygiene and various aforementioned environmental research commissions assist the government in the formulation of anti-pollution standards.

All laws and regulations regarding pollution control in Belgium contain a statement as to the Minister(s) responsible for their execution; in most cases, it is the Minister of Public Health. Major laws, like the 1971 laws on protection of surface water and groundwater and proper maintenance of heating facilities, are the subject of newspaper articles, urging citizens to comply with regulations. In addition, officials of the Ministries concerned with the environment speak to industrial groups such as the Union of Brussels' Enterprises,¹⁹ emphasizing the necessity of clean-air and clean-water measures.

formulation and promulgation

All standards are incorporated into laws and decrees and published in the Moniteur Belge (Belgisch Staatsblad), the official law gazette of Belgium. Copies of laws also appear in the Bulletin Usuel des Lois et Arretes, Les Codes et les Lois Speciales les Plus Usuelles en Vigueur en Belgique, and Recueil des Lois et Arretes.

IV. Enforcement Procedures

court system

Belgium's judiciary system is empowered to act independently of the other branches of the government. Although judges are chosen by the King on the advice of the Ministers, they can be removed from their posts only by the Cour de Cassation (the Supreme Court of Appeal), the highest court. At the bottom of the court structure are the Tribunal de Police, the lowest criminal court, and the Justice de Paix, the lowest court for civil cases. These courts deal with minor offenses carrying a maximum penalty of seven day's imprisonment. The Tribunal de Premiere Instance handles appeals from the lower courts, as well as the majority of civil cases and more serious criminal cases involving penalties of up to five years' imprisonment. Appeals from this court are heard by the Cour d'Appel. Criminal cases resulting in sentences of from five years imprisonment to the death sentence are carried out in the Cour d'Assise, the only court having a jury. Sentences of the Cours d'Assise, although not open to appeal, can be set aside by the Cour de Cassation, which submits the case to retrial by a court of the same level as that which originally heard the case. The Cour de Cassation consists of two sections, civil and criminal, presided over by at least seven judges. The function of this court is the annulment of verdicts of other courts if its judges feel that the law has not been properly applied. In addition, the citizens of Belgium are protected against arbitrary actions of the national, provincial or municipal governments by the Council of State (Conseil d'Etat), which can annul administrative verdicts and order indemnification for damages resulting from governmental actions.

enforcement mechanisms

Enforcement of environmental regulations is carried out by various agents of the Ministry of Public Health and by local and communal authorities.

Groundwater laws are enforced by engineers and agents of the Administration of Mines as well as agents designated by the Minister of Public Health. These officials, who may be assisted by communal authorities, are responsible for taking samples of substances in groundwater suspected of being harmful and submitting them to a designated laboratory. These agents can prohibit utilization of malfunctioning installations or apparatus that may pollute the water; after fifteen days, such measures must be ratified by the Ministry of Public Health.

Similarly, enforcement procedures for surface water and drinking water include taking and analyzing samples of discharged water and receiving water (in the case of surface water) and distribution networks (in the case of drinking water). Agents of the Ministry of Public Health (more specifically, the Water Distribution Service, the Inspectorate of Food Commodities and the Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology) may enter water distribution installations at any time to extract samples.

Regulations regarding discharges of hydrocarbons into sea water are enforced by maritime commissions, maritime police, and other local officials. Within 24 hours of a ship's arrival in port, the ship captain must advise the maritime commission of any discharge into the water of a mixture containing more than the permissible amount of hydrocarbons.

Air pollution laws are enforced through sample-taking of fumes from commercial heating installations by agents of the Inspectorate of Public Hygiene in the Ministry of Public Health. The carbon monoxide content of automobile fumes may be measured by local police. If a heating facility in a private residence is suspected of non-compliance with air standards, the Justice de Paix may grant permission for inspection by government agents.

penalties

Each major environmental law includes a statement of penalties for non-compliance. Infractions against groundwater, surface water and air standards are punishable by eight days to six months in prison and/or a fine of 26 to 5,000 francs. Penalties for non-compliance with drinking water standards are eight days to six months imprisonment and/or a fine of 26 to 1,000 francs. Penalties are doubled if a new offense is committed within two years of a previous conviction. In all cases, the offender is considered to be guilty until proven innocent.²⁰

V. Government-Industry Relationships

collaboration

One of the most industrialized countries in the world, Belgium is a large producer of steel, non-ferrous metals and metal manufactured products, as well as chemicals, textiles, glass, and paper products.

In the fight against pollution of surface water, private industries are to be represented in the aforementioned water purification associations, along with the provincial officials. The general assembly of each association is to have one representative from each industrial enterprise that utilizes surface water in the association's district and one representative from each industry which discharges pollutants into the water and uses one of the association's purification installations.

Further cooperation between government and industry is indicated by a multi-disciplinary research and development program concerning water problems, being carried out by academic and industrial laboratories.²¹

In the area of financing purification installations for treatment of wastewater, the government has instituted subsidy programs to aid the water purification associations, as well as private enterprises which must comply with clean-water standards and which do not have one of the association's installations at their disposal.

polluter pays?

Initial investments and maintenance costs of planned purification facilities of the three associations are to be borne by the provinces in the associations' districts and the industries involved, along with aid from the national government. Provinces are to contribute funds in proportion to the number of inhabitants residing in an association's district. Industrial

enterprises utilizing surface water under an association's jurisdiction are to pay in proportion to the volume of water extracted, and enterprises polluting surface water must pay in proportion to the amount of polluting substances contained in their discharged wastewater.²² Additional funds may be provided by the sale of purified water and byproducts of the purification process.

Private enterprises that have to build their own purification facilities can receive government subsidies through a five-year aid program, extending from January 1, 1974 to May 1, 1979; by virtue of this program the national government will provide financial aid varying from 60% in 1974 to 35% in 1979,²³ thereby creating an incentive for industries to undertake water treatment programs as soon as possible. In order to qualify for such assistance, an enterprise must begin execution of the treatment project within three months from the time of the government's decision to provide aid.²⁴

In addition to the previously discussed procedures for the inspection of water purification installations, holders of authorizations to discharge wastewater are obligated to report any changes in the composition or quantity of wastewater to the director of the water purification association in that area. Further, if a director of one of the associations determines that an enterprise continues to pollute surface water, even after judicial scrutiny, he is to advise the Minister of Public Health who may suspend authorization to discharge and prohibit the use of installations and equipment suspected of causing pollution.²⁵

Reference Notes

Numbers in brackets following entries are the identification numbers assigned to documents which have been abstracted for the Foreign Exchange Documents Program of the E.P.A. Office of International Activities. Copies of documents are filed under these numbers at the E.P.A. Headquarters Library in Washington, D.C.

1. "Ce que sera la pollution de l'environnement en Belgique,"
Le Peuple (Brussels), May 29, 1974, p 2.
2. Materialen zum Umweltprogramm der Bundesregierung 1971, (Bonn: Federal Ministry of the Interior, 1971), p 636. [ID #00354A]
3. established by Royal Decree of December 7, 1955. [ID #00454A]
4. Materialen zum Umweltprogramm der Bunderegierung 1971, p 636. [ID #00354A]
5. "Le gouvernement se préoccupe de la protection de l'environnement,"
Le Soir (Brussels), June 5, 1973, p 2; "Vingt-deux communes de l'agglomération namuroise réaliseront-elles ensemble l'épuration de leurs eaux usées?" Le Soir (Brussels), April 12, 1974, p 7.
6. ibid., p 7.
7. March 26, 1971 Law on protection of surface water against pollution. [ID #00549A]
8. December 10, 1954 Royal Decree. [ID #00461D]
9. September 12, 1956 Royal Decree. [ID #00461F]
10. February 10, 1967 Royal Decree. [ID #00461G]
11. November 3, 1969 Royal Decree. [ID #00461H]
12. November 3, 1969 Royal Decree. [ID #00461J]
13. January 22, 1929 Royal Decree, Article 11, [ID #00462A]; May 31, 1968 Royal Decree, Article 13. [ID #00813A]
14. Article 21.
15. Exceptions are given in July 3, 1972 Royal Decree.
16. Article 39.
17. July 19, 1971 Royal Decree regarding approval of automobiles with ignition engines, as regards emission of gaseous pollutants. [ID #00436D]
18. November 8, 1971 Royal Decree on limiting of carbon monoxide content in exhaust gases emitted by automobiles having ignition engines. [ID #00436G]

19. "Les industriels appelés à épurer eux-mêmes leurs eaux résiduaires,"
Le Soir (Brussels), March 28, 1974, p 8. [ID #00549E]
20. March 26, 1971 Law on the Protection of Groundwater. [ID #01324A]
21. Edgar Kesteloot, "Les nuisances et les possibilités de les maîtriser,"
Pour une conservation efficace de l'environnement, Colloque
des 15 et 16 décembre 1970, (Brussels: Parc Leopold, 1972),
p 31.
22. measured in units of pollution, defined in January 23, 1974 Royal Decree
on minimum pollution amounts regarding the Law of March 26, 1971 on the
protection of surface water. [ID #00549D]
23. "Les industriels appelés à épurer eux-mêmes leurs eaux résiduaires,"
op. cit.
24. January 23, 1974 Royal Decree on intervention of the government in
investment by an industrial enterprise for special treatment of
wastewater. [ID #00549D]
25. March 26, 1971 Law on the protection of surface water. [ID #00549A]