RIWA-Maas/Meuse

Handling the risk of drinking water pollution

Reaction of RIWA on the "GIMPE-Poster" contributed on the 2nd International Meuse Symposium

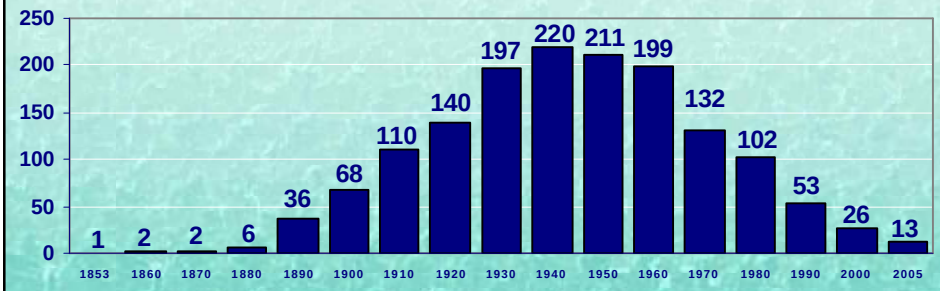
Meeting RIWA-GIMPE on June 20, 2006

RIWA-Maas/Meuse

Supply of drinking water in the Netherlands

Degree of connection: 99,9%

Number of drinking water companies



123 Liter/capita*day

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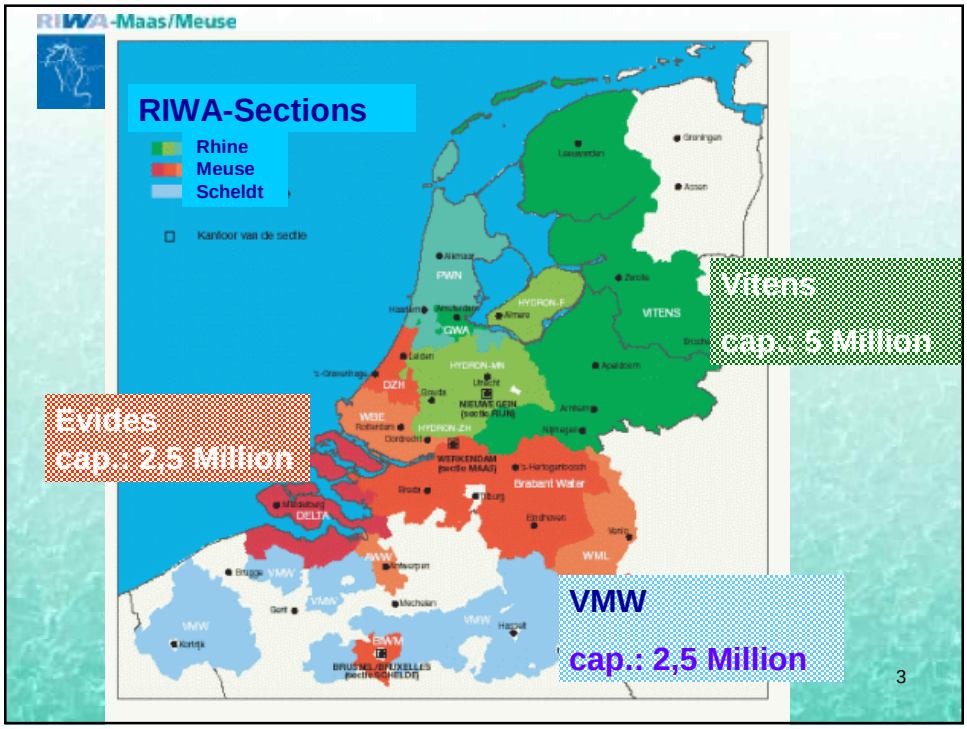
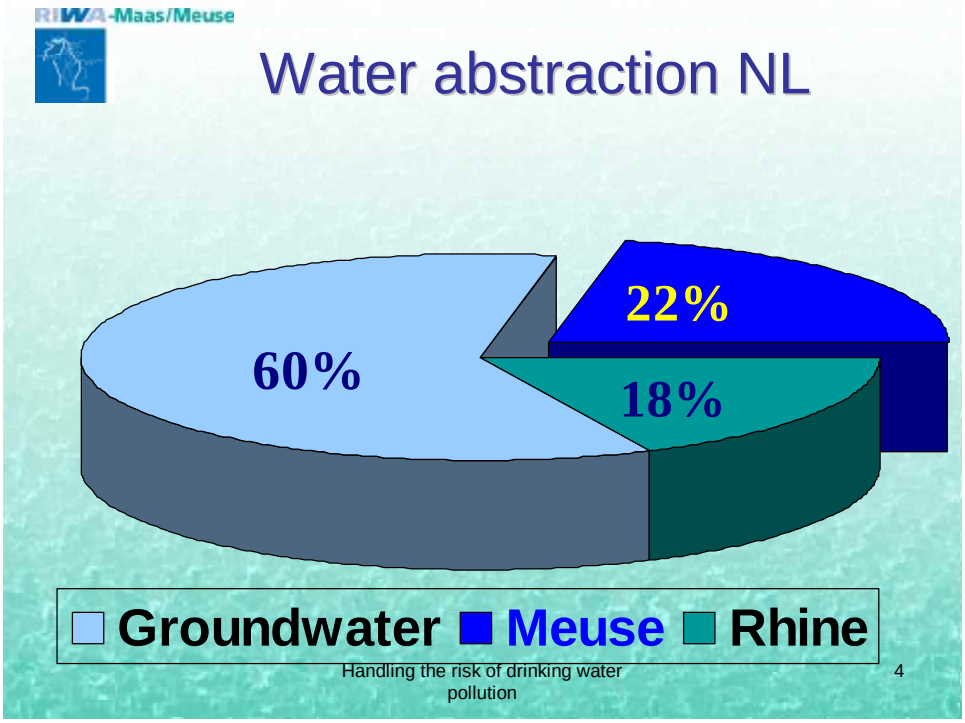

RIWA-Maas/Meuse
RIWA-Sections
Rhine
Meuse
Scheldt
Kantoor van de sectie
Vitens
cap.: 5 Million
Evides
cap.: 2,5 Million
VMW
cap.: 2,5 Million
3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Water abstraction NL
22%
60%
18%
Groundwater
Meuse
Rhine
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4

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RIWA –Meuse Members

- (Brussels) BIMW
- (Antwerp) AWW
- (Flanders) TMVW
- (Flanders) VMW
- (Prov. South-Holland) DZH
- (Prov. Limburg) WML
- (Prov. Brabant) BW
- (Europoort) Evides
- (Zealand) Evides
- (Stockage) WBB

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Three reservoirs with a storage capacity of 5 months

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Present situation

- The river-basin Meuse:
  - River-basin 33,000 km^2
  - 950 km rain river
  - prognoses abstractions: stabile
  - 1.2 million inhabitants along the river dispose untreated sewage water
- Meuse-water as source for drinking water:
  - abstractions 450 million m^3 per year
  - drinking water consumers: > 6 million
  - industrial complexes in the Delta: 25 %
  - role of surface water in the future

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Drinking water source for six million people (B, NL)

Run-off Meuse
1976 120 m^3/sec

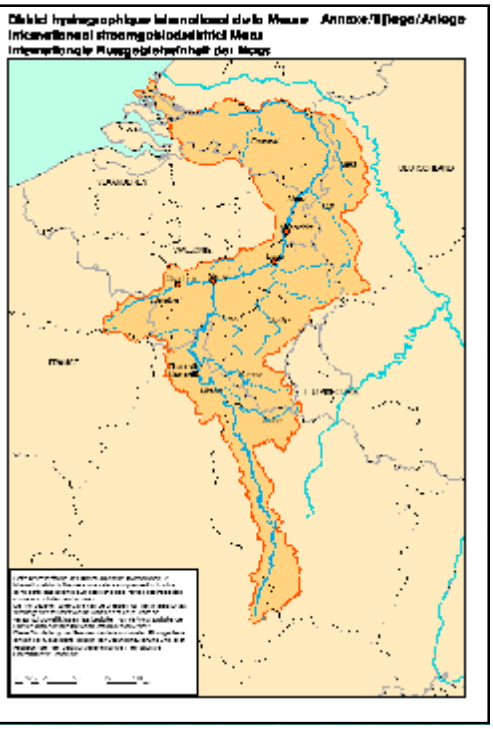
2003 125 m^3/sec

(annual average)

RIWA –Meuse : 450 Mln. m^3/annum (long term)

14 m^3/sec **= 5% MQ!!**

Handling the



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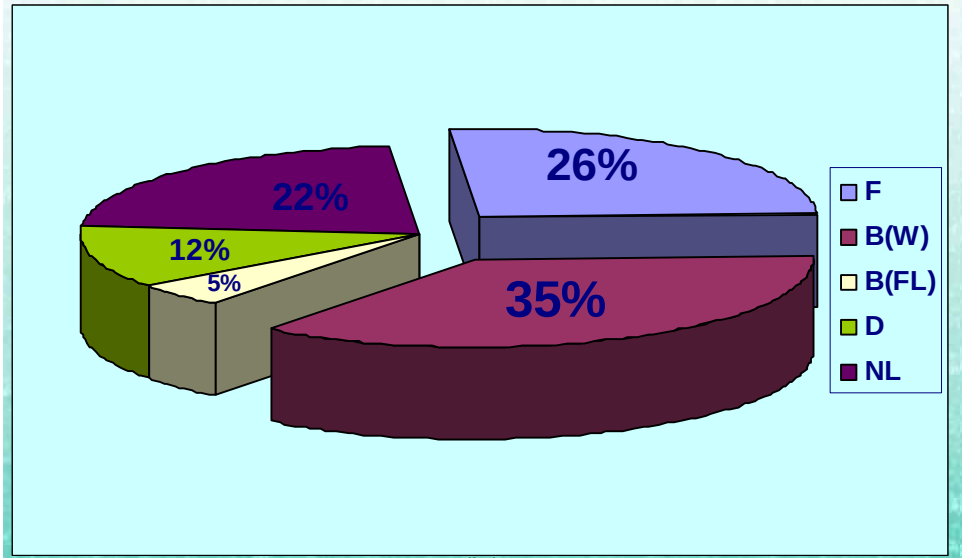
Surface Area of the Meuse Basin



pollution

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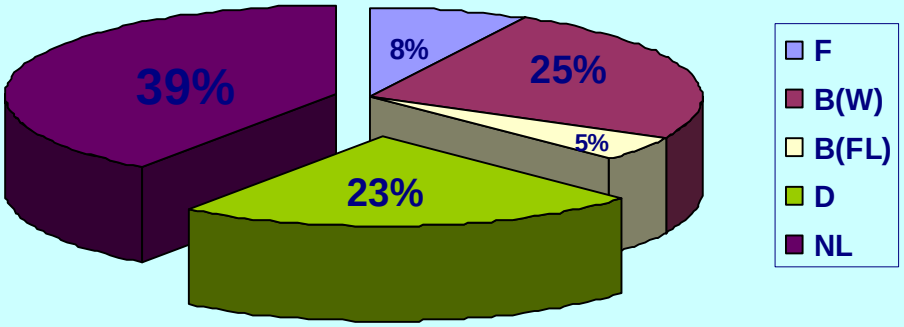
Population in the Meuse basin



Population density (capita per km²)

F 75 B(W) 180 B(FL) 260 D 500 NL 460

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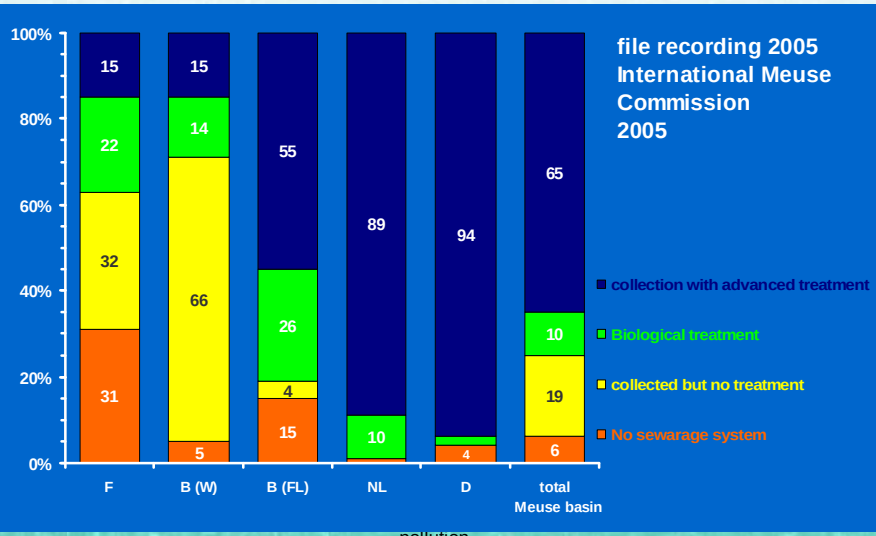
Waste water sanitation Meuse



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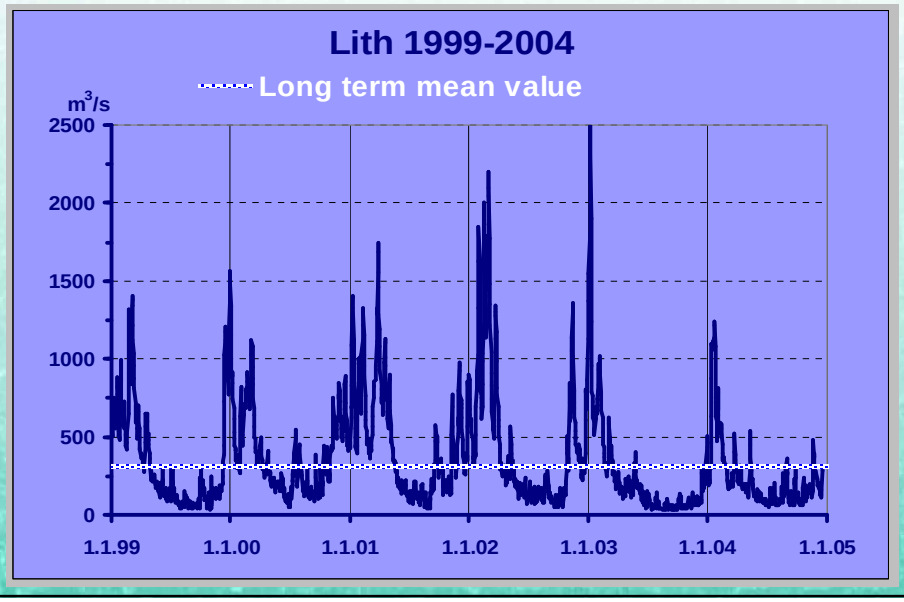
Water discharge of the Meuse



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EU-Framework Water Directive

- Art. 7, sub 3: Member states must protect the surface water in such a manner, that for the production of drinking water required, the purification process is simplified and the extent is reduced.
- **75/440/EEC** concerning quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water: limit 0,1 µg/l
- To reach the 'sound' situation 2015 = enormous task

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Main tasks of RIWA –Meuse

- coordinated promotion towards national governments / other bodies
- the function as a source for drinking water higher (priority) on the agenda
- influence in policy making
  - availability of quality measurements
  - involvement in evaluation of action programs
  - influence in follow up phases, etc.

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The Meuse River

A shared future – How? (re: Poster GIMPE)

- Downstream countries have applied such intensive cattle breeding that their aquifer has become unsuitable for the production of drinking water
- Downstream countries should not sue for extra demands on common household upstream in order to reach better river water quality
- Walloon enterprises should be safeguarded from effects of low water discharge and thus high concentrations of pollution.

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Aquifer has become unsuitable for the production of drinking water

- Don't do yourself what you accuses the other
- Drinking water companies put strong effort in stopping pollution from agriculture and cattle breeding
- EC is not intending to defunct the EC-directive on Nitrate

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No extra demands on common household to reach better river water quality

- 75/440/EEC reflects the responsibility of states to warrant quality of river water as a source for drinking water production
  - Water is an essential necessity of life: drinking water + irrigation water
  - Dependent on surface water after exhaustion aquifer (drying out)
- EU WFD - on top of that – focuses on a sound ecological and chemical condition of the river basin water
- Upstream can not withdraw from responsibility of problems downstream (**à** store effluent from production processes and wait for high river flow to decrease concentrations)

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No extra demands on common household to reach better river water quality - 2

- Drinking water companies invest huge amounts in storage basins, alternative sources en purification techniques in order to safeguard the liable provision of drinking water at all times!
- DWC'ies search for (deeper) aquifer and apply for concessions. Much higher cost!
- "The polluter pays" – principle versus "Too much is too much".

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Walloon enterprises should be safeguarded from effects of low water discharge

- Low water is the mirror image of High water: In Germany barrages and retention area's have been furnished in order to store water volumes for gradual discharge during low water and to nourish the aquifer
- Water sharing of different river basins meets high technical and financial problems with respect to feasibility and - beyond - are multilateral/political very controversial. European support fails.

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Walloon enterprises should be safeguarded from effects of low water discharge - 2

- Low water discharge is a mutual problem, so also for drinking water enterprises!
- DWC'ies face the annual repeating exceeding of the drinking water standards during low water
- DWC'ies remain responsible for the adequate supply of liable and tasty drinking water, at all times.

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Thank you