



INTERNATIONAL MEUSE RIVER BASIN DISTRICT

**Report on the coordination between the Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive in
the international "Meuse" river basin district**

Liège, 25th June 2021

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Foreword

In accordance with Article 9 of the Flood Risk Management Directive¹ (FRD), the States and Regions, as Contracting Parties to the IMC, shall take appropriate measures to coordinate the implementation of the FRD with that of the Water Framework Directive² (WFD), focusing on the possibilities of improving efficiency and exchange of information and achieving synergies and shared benefits taking into account the environmental objectives set out in Article 4 of the WFD.

In particular, the FRD provides in Article 9 that flood risk management plans may be developed in coordination with, and integrated into, the reviews of basin management plans provided for in Article 13(7) of the WFD.

EU Member States had to report to the European Commission in accordance with the "Reporting sheet for the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP)"³ by 22 March 2016 and then be revised by 22 December 2021.

The reporting sheet states that Member States should provide the following details:

- A summary of steps taken to coordinate the development and implementation of the Flood Risk Management Plans and WFD River Basin Management Plans, including on how the environmental objectives in Article 4 of Directive 2000/60/EC have been taken into account in the flood risk management⁴ ;
- a summary of the public information and consultation, and the encouragement of active involvement of interested parties in the development of the FRMP in coordination with WFD.

Possible ways to achieve this coordination and to achieve synergies and shared benefits were discussed in the EU Resource Document⁵.

The States / Regions, Parties to the IMC, are solely responsible for reporting to the European Commission on the implementation of the FRD. In this context, the IMC acts as a platform for the exchange of information and coordination required at the level of the IRBD Meuse. It provides the States and Regions with jointly developed products (reports, maps, etc.) for the implementation of the FRD.

This report and the annexed table can be used by the States/Regions of the IMC to document the coordination carried out at the level of the IRBD Meuse in the implementation of the FRD and WFD.

¹ Directive 2007/60/EC of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks

² Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

³ See Draft reporting sheets for the Flood Risk Management Version n°14 20 October 2011

⁴ A summary of steps taken to coordinate the development and implementation of the FRMP and WFD RBMP, including on how the environmental objectives of Directive 2000/60/EC have been taken into account in the flood risk management plans (Articles 7.3 and 9).

⁵ Cf. Resource document: Links between the Floods Directive (FD 2007/60/EC) and Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000/60/EC). EU (2014) ISBN 978-92-79-33679-9

Implementation of the Flood Directive and the Water Framework Directive at the level of the IRBD Meuse

As explained in the European Union Resource Document, coordination between the FRD and the WFD is easier to achieve if the administrative units at the scale of which the FRD flood risk management plan and the WFD management plan are drawn up, as well as the competent authorities responsible for the preparation and implementation of these plans, are the same.

Regarding the IRBD Meuse, it should be noted that:

- The Meuse and its tributaries, the corresponding groundwater, transitional waters and coastal waters constitute the International River Basin District (IRBD) of the Meuse for the implementation of both the WFD and the FRD. It concerns five EU Member States (France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands).
- Multilateral coordination for the implementation of the WFD and the FRD in the IRBD Meuse takes place within the International Meuse Commission (IMC) in the framework of the International Meuse Agreement, signed in Ghent in 2002, whose Contracting Parties are France, Luxembourg, the Belgian Federal State, the Walloon Region, the Flemish Region, the Brussels Capital Region, Germany and the Netherlands.
- In order to meet the international coordination obligations of articles 3, paragraph 4 and 13, paragraph 2 of the WFD, the States and Regions whose territory is part of the IRBD Meuse have decided that the IRBD management plan will be composed of the national and regional management plans and a roof report at the IRBD level. The roof report of the management plan focuses on important water management issues of common interest identified during the establishment or updating of the inventory.
- In order to meet the international coordination obligations referred to in article 8 paragraph 2 of the FRD, the States and Regions whose territory is part of the IRBD Meuse decided at the meeting of the heads of delegation on 7 December 2007 in Charleville-Mézières that the IRBD risk management plan would consist of the national and/or regional management plans and a roof report. The roof report the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and the management plans of the States / Regions established in application of article 7 of the FRD constitute the IRBD Meuse's FRMP. The roof report is based on the principle of solidarity defined in article 7 paragraph 4 of the FRD and in recital 15 of the FRD.

Timetable for the implementation of the Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive in the IRBD Meuse

The timetable and phasing of the work are in line with the requirements of both Directives (cf. Article 7(5) of the FRD and Article 13(7) of the WFD) and allow for the finalisation by the IMC Contracting Parties of the roof report of the FRMP and the WFD management plan by 22 December 2021. Due to the COVID-19 health crisis, the completion of the roof report of the 3rd management plan has been delayed and is now scheduled for March 2022.

Public participation at the IRBD Meuse level for the Flood Directive and the Water Framework Directive

Each Contracting Party is responsible for informing its population about its national plans and the content of the roof report. In addition, the IMC is organising for the first time a public consultation in this management cycle for both roof reports at www.meuse-maas.be.

The draft FRMP roof report was published on 29.04.2021; the draft WFD management plan at the end of June 2021. The Contracting Parties then informed the public in each of the States/Regions concerned.

Coordination at the IRBD Meuse level for the Flood Directive and the Water Framework Directive

Preliminary flood risk assessment

The IMC has prepared a summary report to:

1. document the application of article 4 of the FRD (preliminary flood risk assessment) in the IRBD Meuse or the use of article 13 of the FRD (transitional measures of the States and Regions until the end of 2010);
2. account for the exchange of information under Article 4(3) of the FRD and the coordination under Article 5(2) of the FRD at the level of the IRBD Meuse.

To this end, the report includes a table and maps of transboundary rivers with a potential significant flood risk under Article 5 of the FRD with a catchment area larger than 10 km².

The use of the river network of watercourses with a catchment area of more than 10 km² enables the link to be made with the surface water bodies of the WFD which are also directly concerned by the implementation of the FRD.

Flood hazard maps and flood risk maps

IMC has produced a report documenting the international exchange of information for the production of flood hazard maps and flood risk maps. The report gives an overview of the transboundary rivers for which countries have produced maps and the values applied by the countries for these rivers for the three scenarios mapped.

The common hazard maps and flood risk maps produced by the IMC were published on its website on 19 March 2020.

Management Plans

The roof report of the management plan for the IRBD Meuse under the WFD (2009, 2015 and 2021) focuses on important water management issues of common interest that were highlighted during the preparation or updating of the inventory.

In particular, it was stated that « with regard to floods, all States and Regions establish a useful link between the requirements of the European Directive (2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks (FRD) and the requirements of the WFD: conservation of floodplains and possible creation of new reservoirs taking into account ecological requirements.»⁶

In the IRBD Meuse, the IMC considered it sensible to draft a roof report for the WFD and a roof report for the FRD.

However, the two directives need to be coordinated and measures planned in such a way that synergies can be fully exploited and the environmental objectives set out in Article 4 of the WFD can be achieved. This approach should be developed accordingly when updating the roof report of the WFD Management Plan.

⁶ See § 7.2.4 of the roof report of the WFD 2009 management plan (Floods)

An overall assessment based on the different types of FRD measures was carried out to define the potential effects of these measures on the environmental objectives of surface water bodies as set out in Article 4 of the WFD (see table in the Annex). This table gives an idea of the potential synergy that can be achieved.

To ensure this approach, the IMC has carried out a general assessment of the potential effects of the FRD measures on the environmental objectives set for surface waters in accordance with Article 4 of the WFD, which is summarised in a table (see attached table). The potentially achievable synergy emerges from this overview.

Potential synergy between FRD measure types and WFD environmental objectives

Legend:

+ = types of FRD measures supporting the environmental objectives of the WFD

0 = types of FRD measures not relevant to WFD environmental objectives

! = types of FRD measures that may conflict with the environmental objectives of the WFD and require a case-by-case examination.

	FR	WL	NRW	VL	NL	CIM
Aspects of flood risk management						
1. Prevention						
1.1. Avoidance						
Measure to prevent the location of new or additional receptors in flood prone areas	+	+	+	+	+	+
a) planning policies	+	+	+	+	+	+
b) land use planning policies or regulation	+	+	+	+	+	+
1.2. Removal or relocation						
a) remove receptors from flood prone areas	+	+	+	+	+	+
b) relocate receptors to areas of lower probability of flooding and/or of lower hazard	+	+	+	+	+	+
1.3. Reduction						
Measure to adapt receptors to reduce the adverse consequences in the event of a flood actions on buildings, public networks, etc...	+	+!/0	+!/0	+!/0	0/+	
1.4. Other prevention						
Other measure to enhance flood risk prevention						
a) flood risk modelling and assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0
b) flood vulnerability assessment	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) maintenance programmes or policies	+/!	+/!	0	+/!	+/!	+/!
2. Protection						
2.1. Natural flood management / runoff and catchment management						
Measures to reduce the flow into natural or artificial drainage systems, such as overland flow interceptors and / or storage, enhancement of infiltration, etc and including in-channel, floodplain works and the reforestation of banks, that restore natural systems to help slow flow and store water.	+	+	+	+	+	+
2.2. Water flow regulation						

	FR	WL	NRW	VL	NL	CIM
Measures involving physical interventions to regulate flows and which have a significant impact on the hydrological regime						
a) construction, modification or removal of water retaining structures (e.g., dams or other on-line storage areas)	+ / !	+ / !	!	+ / !	+ / !	+ / !
b) development of existing flow regulation rules	+ / !	+ / !	!	+ / !	+ / !	+ / !
2.3. Channel, Coastal and Floodplain Works						
Measures involving physical interventions in freshwater channels, mountain streams, estuaries, coastal waters and flood-prone areas of land, such as the construction, modification or removal of structures or the alteration of channels, sediment dynamics management, dykes, etc.	+ / !	+ / !	!	+ / !	+ / !	+ / !
2.4. Surface Water Management						
Measures involving physical interventions to reduce surface water flooding, typically, but not exclusively, in an urban environment, such as enhancing artificial drainage capacities or through sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)	+	+	! / 0	+	+	+
2.5. Other Protection						
Other measure to enhance protection against flooding, which may include flood defence asset maintenance programmes or policies	+ / !	+ / !	0	+ / !	+ / !	+ / !
3. Preparedness						
3.1. Flood Forecasting and Warning						
Measure to establish or enhance a flood forecasting or warning system	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +
3.2. Emergency Event Response Planning / Contingency planning						
Measure to establish or enhance flood event institutional emergency response planning	0 / +	0 / +	0	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +
3.3. Public Awareness and Preparedness						
Measure to establish or enhance the public awareness or preparedness for flood events	0 / +	0 / +	0	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +
3.4. Other preparedness						
Other measure to establish or enhance preparedness for flood events to reduce adverse consequences	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Recovery & Review						
4.1. Individual and societal recovery						
Clean-up and restoration activities (buildings, infrastructure, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Health and mental health supporting actions, incl. managing stress	0	0	0	0	0	0

	FR	WL	NRW	VL	NL	CIM
Disaster financial assistance (grants, tax), incl. disaster legal assistance, disaster unemployment assistance,	0	0	0	0	0	0
Temporary or permanent relocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
4.2. Environmental recovery						
Clean-up and restoration activities (with several sub-topics as mould protection, well-water safety and securing hazardous materials containers)	0 / +	0 / +	0	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +
4.3. Other recovery and review						
Lessons learnt from flood events	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +	0 / +
Insurance policies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0