



GOOD PRACTICE



Title of the practice

International coordination of the Flood Risk Management Directive in the River Basin Meuse

Detailed description of the practice

A structural collaboration within the catchment area of the Meuse started in 1994 by signing the Convention for the Protection of the Meuse. However, this cooperation concerned exclusively water quality. After the flood of 1993 the Working Group Floods Meuse was established. It has elaborated the Action Plan Floods Meuse. Following the signing of the International Meuse Treaty (Treaty of Gent) in 2002, the International Meuse Commission (IMC) was established, which covers both water quality and water quantity matters. The partners of the Convention are all countries covering the catchment area of the Meuse. IMC has five working groups, among others the Working Group Hydrology and Floods. Already at the very beginning of the implementation of the Flood Risk Directive it was obvious, that the IMC would coordinate this process. In order to obtain uniformity inside a country (important for the ease of citizens) each country of the catchment area began to elaborate its own implementation approach. On the other hand the IMC desires to reach a certain uniformity within the catchment area. These goals are often contradictory. It is decided, that the IMC coordinates the major questions (e.g. that the medium scenario forms the discharge of 1:100); all other cross border matters are left to bilateral coordination. IMC coordinates the drawing of the common part of the Flood Risk Management Plan containing the international aspects of Flood Risk Directive, among others the way the multilateral and the bilateral coordination is done.

Evidence of success

- The fact, that there exists a long tradition of good collaboration within the catchment area helps enormously in the cooperation on the implementation of the Flood Directive.
- An international river commission is an optimal body to coordinate the implementation of the Directive.
- All international matters concerning the implementation are successfully discussed in the meetings of the Commission and solved directly or forwarded to bilateral coordination.

Location of the practice

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City: *Liège*

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