

International Commission of the Scheldt

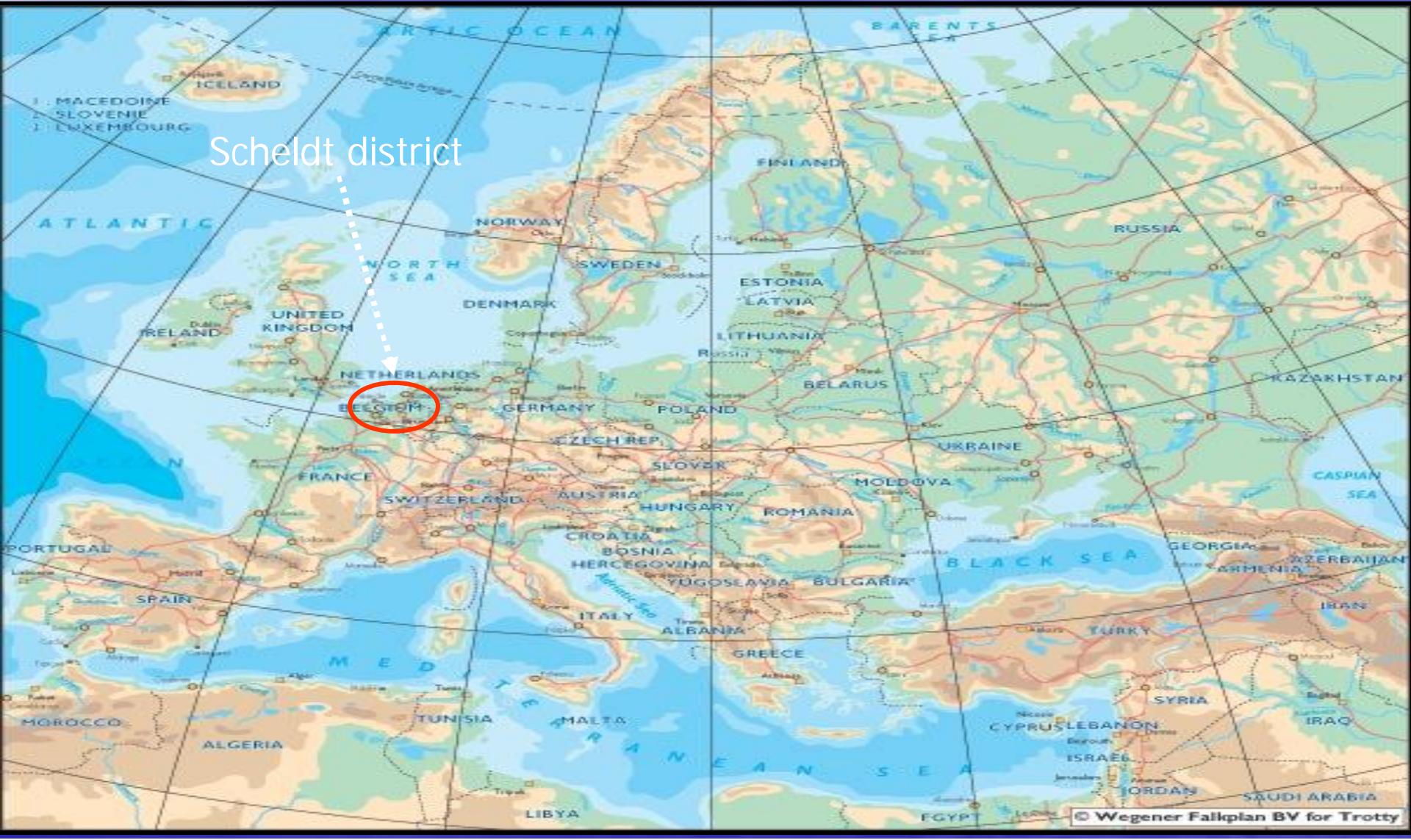


UNESCO _ 29/05/2007

Arnould Lefébure – Secretary General



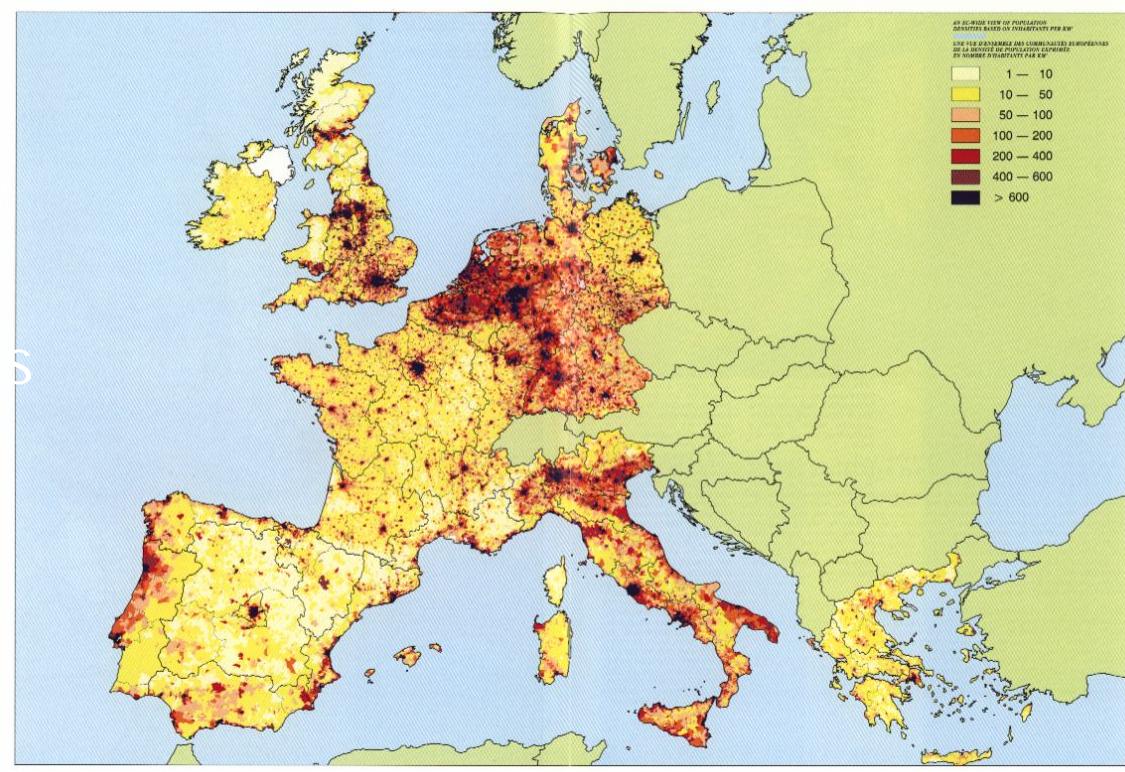
The International river basin district of the Scheldt within the European context



Geographical context

A small international river with small flow of water (350KM) with high pressures coming from :

- Its highest density (550hab/km²)
- Its old & numerous industries
- Its intensive agriculture

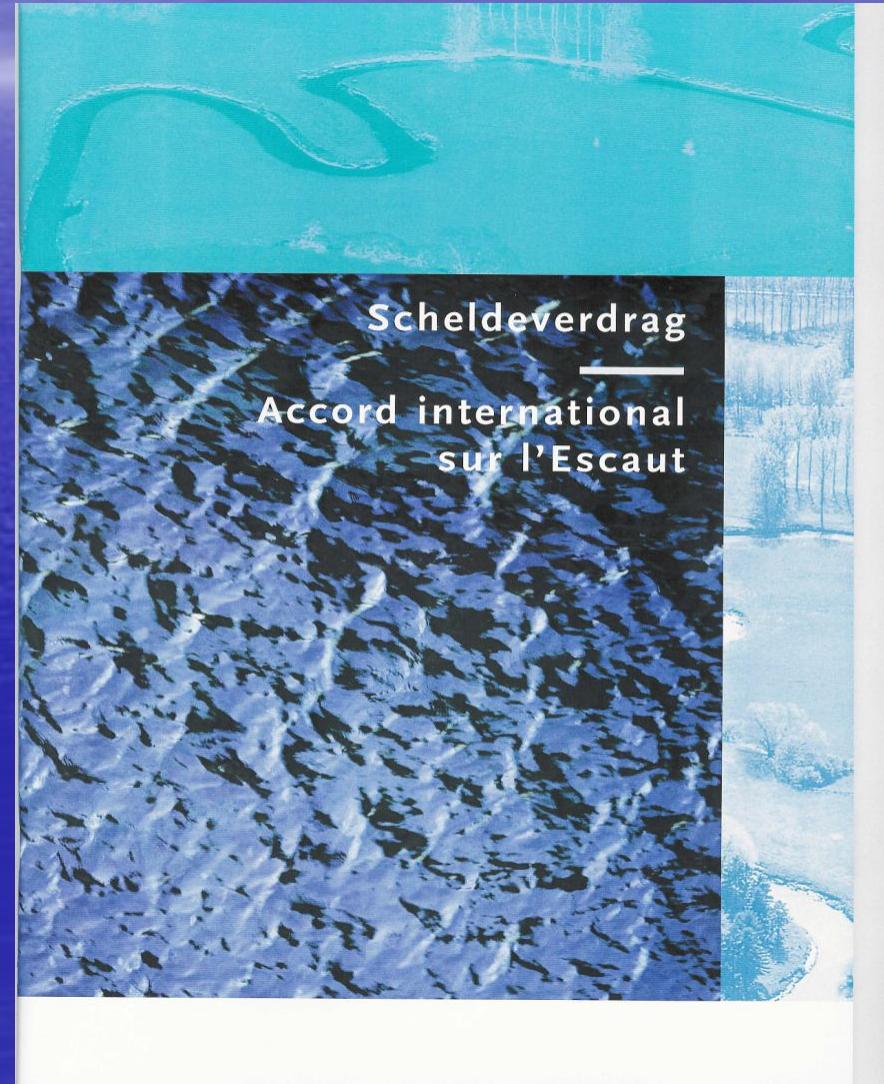


1st agreement on quality of surface waters

2nd agreement : the global treaty of Gent and the new " Scheldt land"

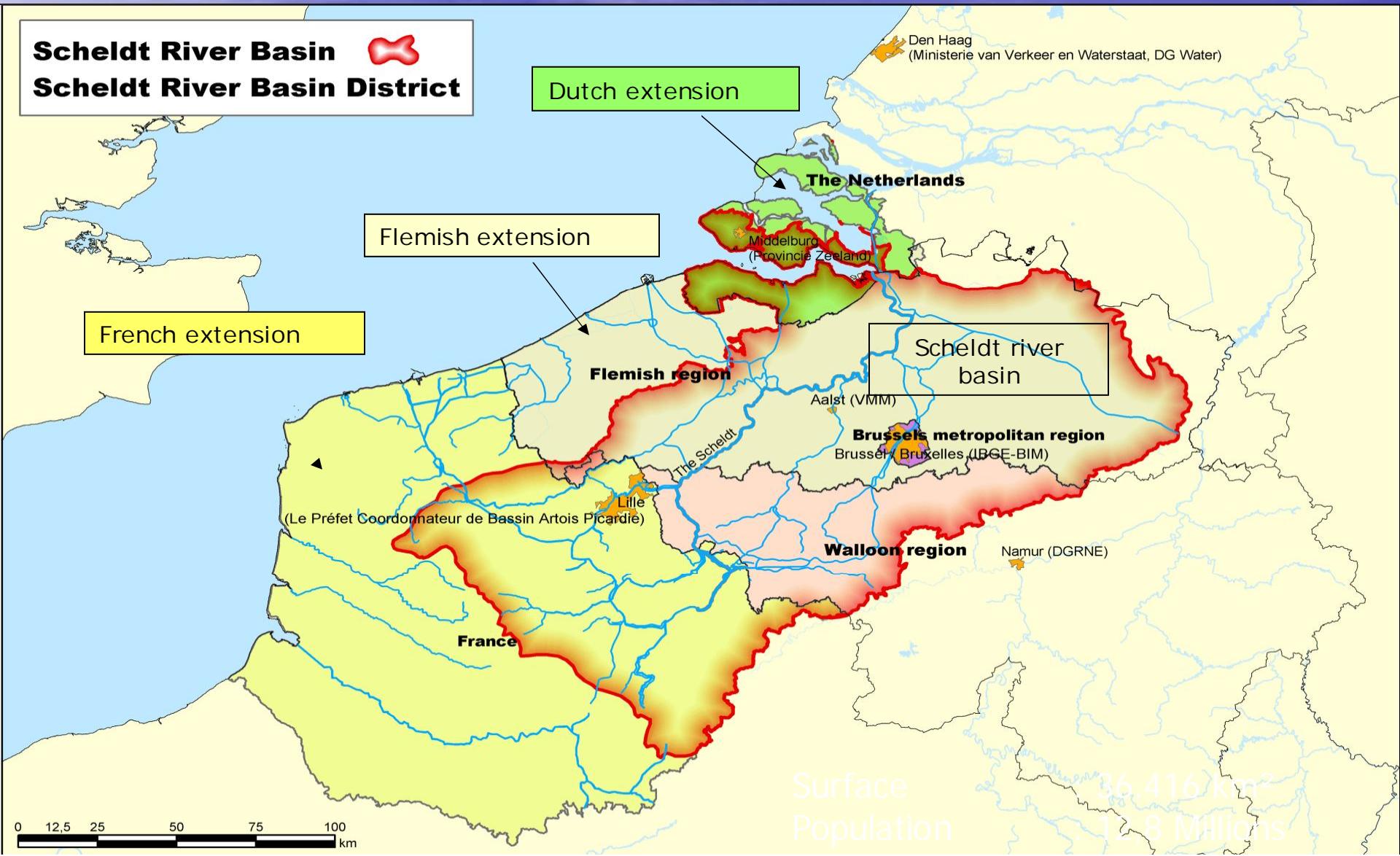


6 parties



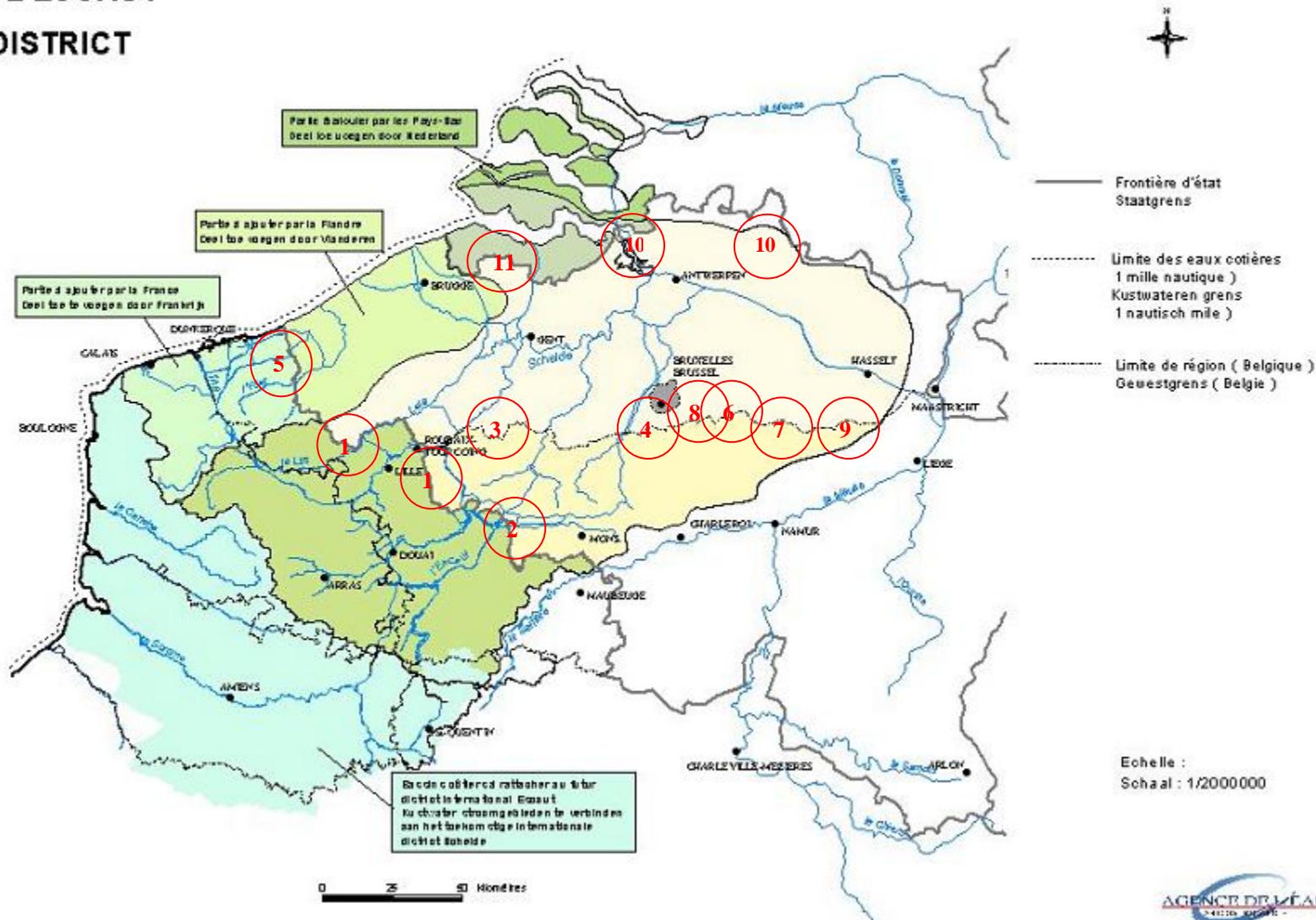


political context :only treaty in EU with IMC with 3 regions & 3 states

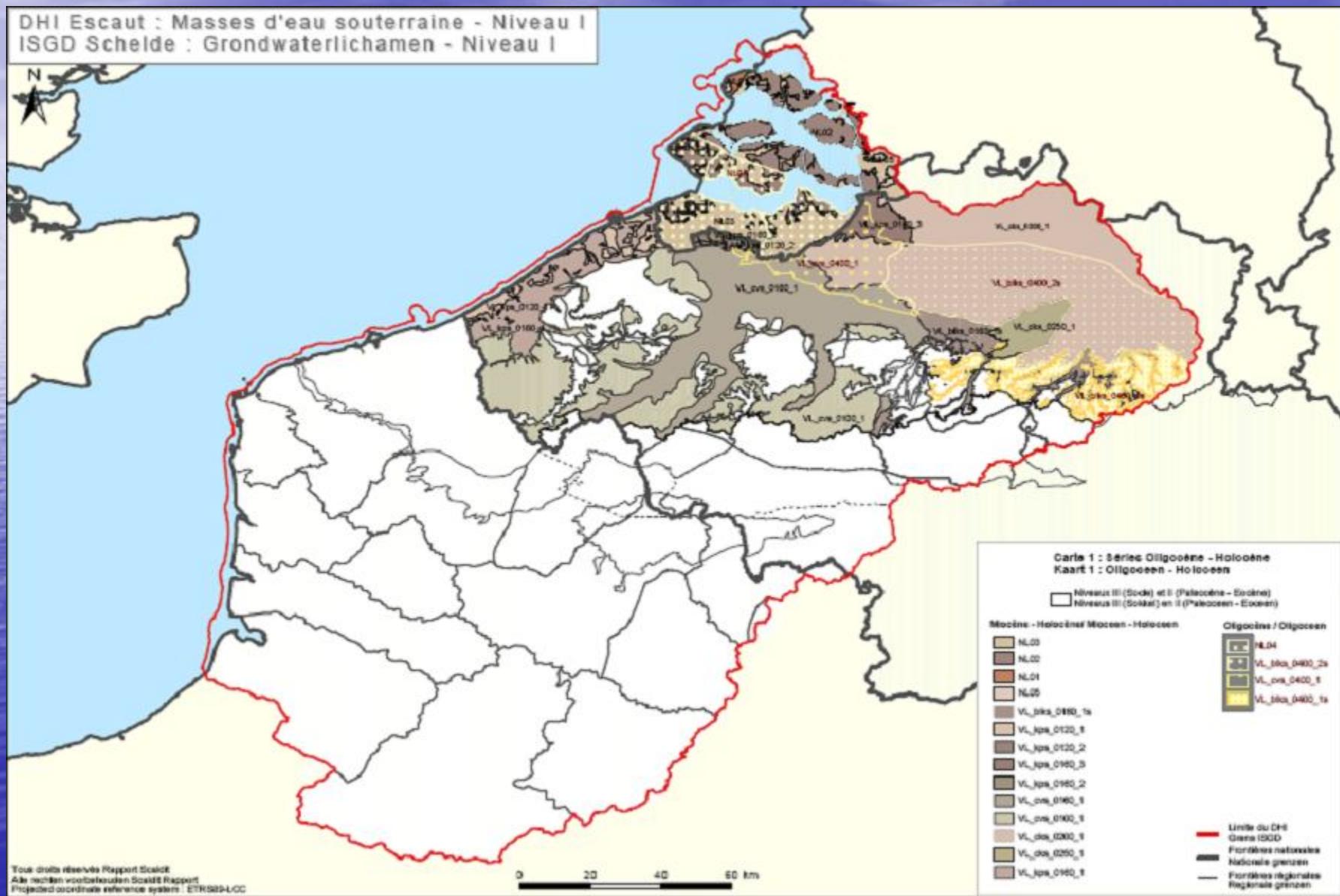


The transboundary groundwater of the Scheldt district

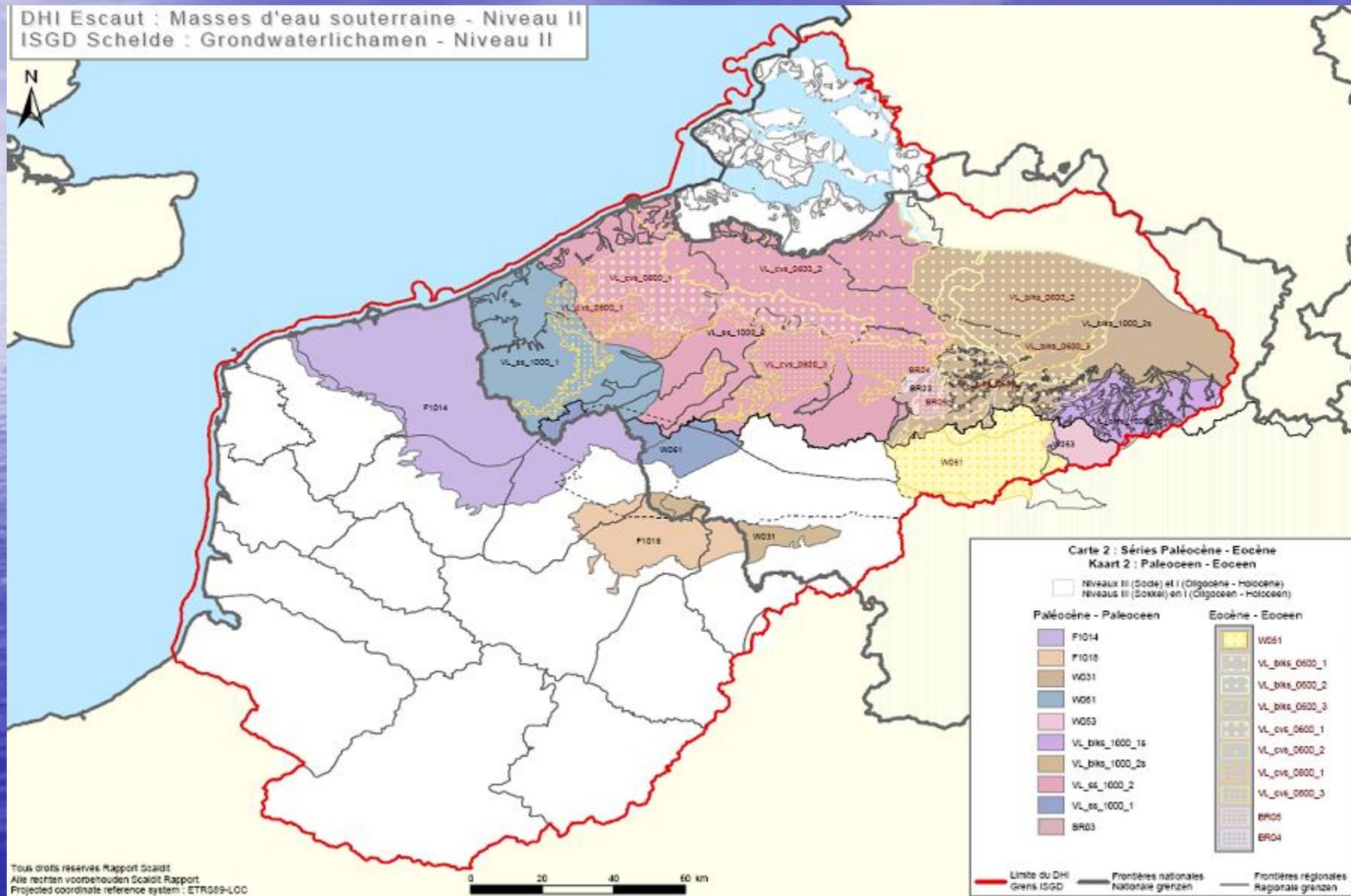
DISTRICT DE L'ESCAUT SCHELDE DISTRICT



Different approaches for groundwaters

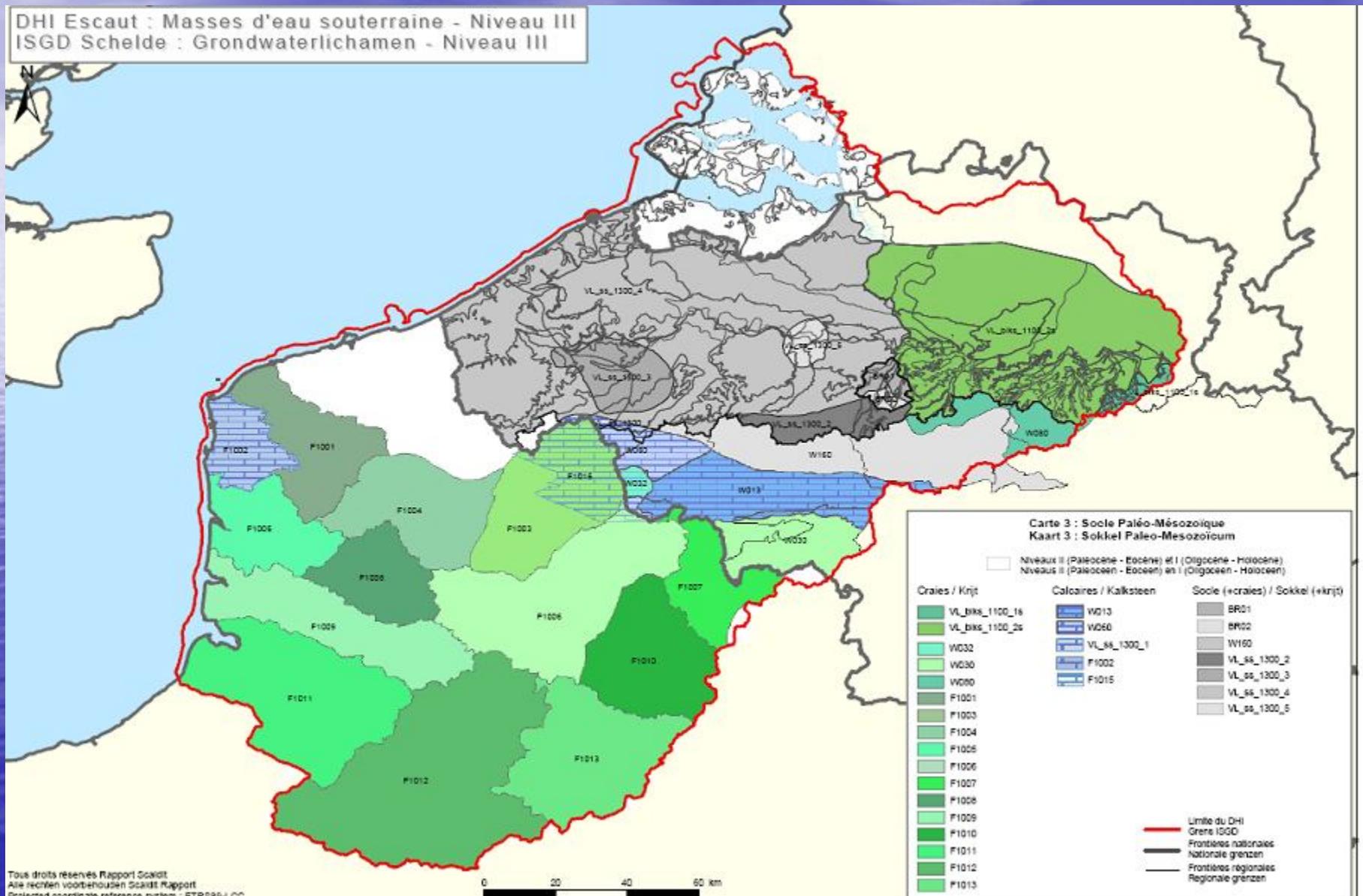


Different approaches for groundwaters yet a common map

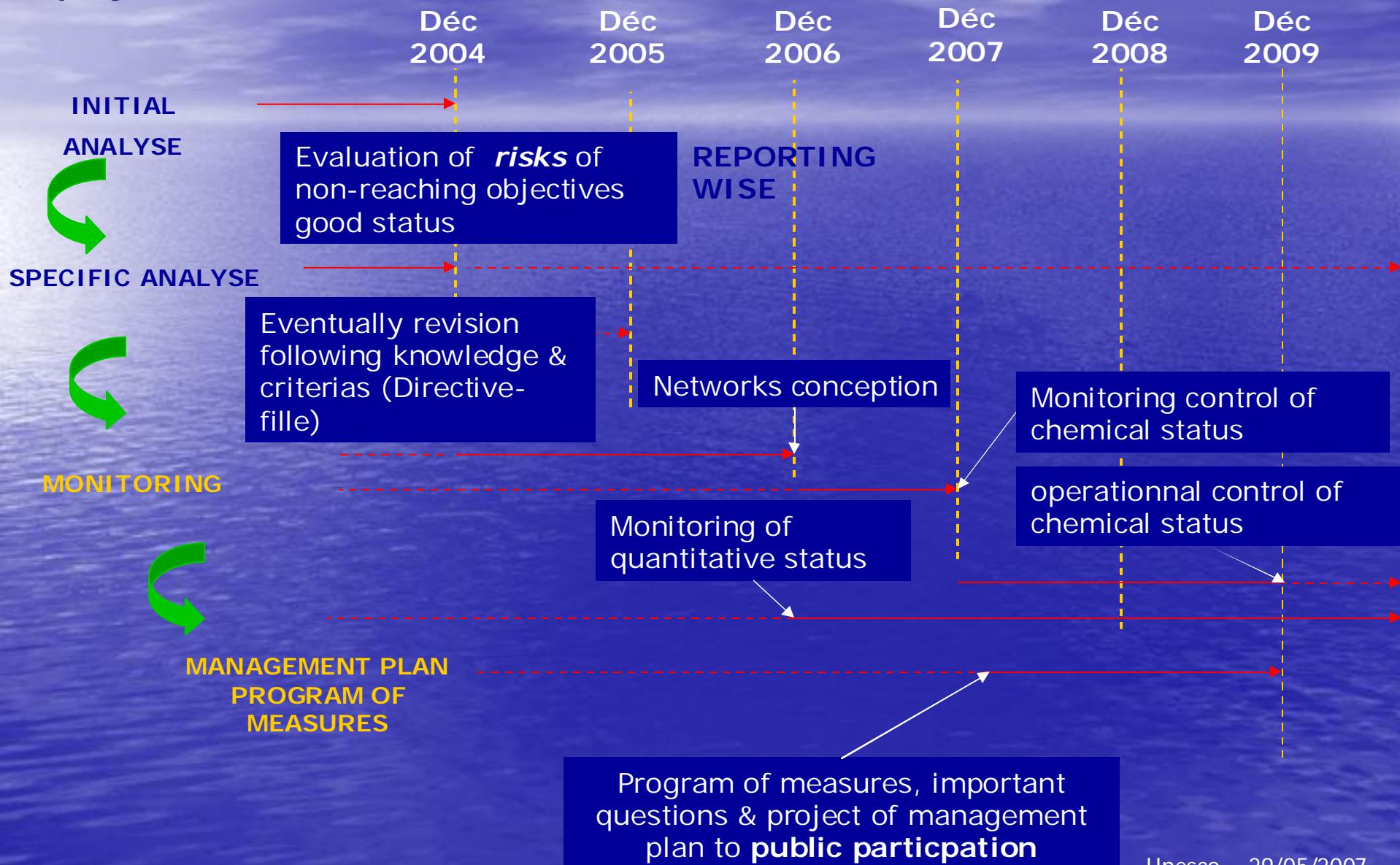




Different approaches for groundwaters yet today a share vision



A clear EU calendar yet different implementations by the parties





Different working scales & schedules

| | INTERNATIONAL | REGIONAL | SUB-REGIONAL |
|-----------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| FRANCE | International commissions IC SCHELDT, MEUSE, SARRE- MOSELLE, RHIN, LEMAN LAKE,... | SDAGE ARTOIS- PICARDIE | SAGE LYS, ESCAUT SUPERIEUR,... |
| WALLONY | IC SCHELDT, MEUSE, RHIN | PLAN DE GESTION DISTRICT | SOUS_BASSIN, Contrat de rivière |
| FLANDERS | IC SCHELDT, MEUSE | CIW:Beheerplan Scheldt / Maas | 11 bekken; Deelbekken (waterschap); |
| BRUSSELS | IC SCHELDT, MEUSE | Plan de gestion | |
| BELGIUM | IC SCHELDT, MEUSE OSPAR,... | See Belgian regions | |
| NEDERLAND | IC SCHELDT, MEUSE, RHIN, EEMS | Stroomgebieds- beheerplannen | Beheersplan rijkswateren, waterbeheerpl. |



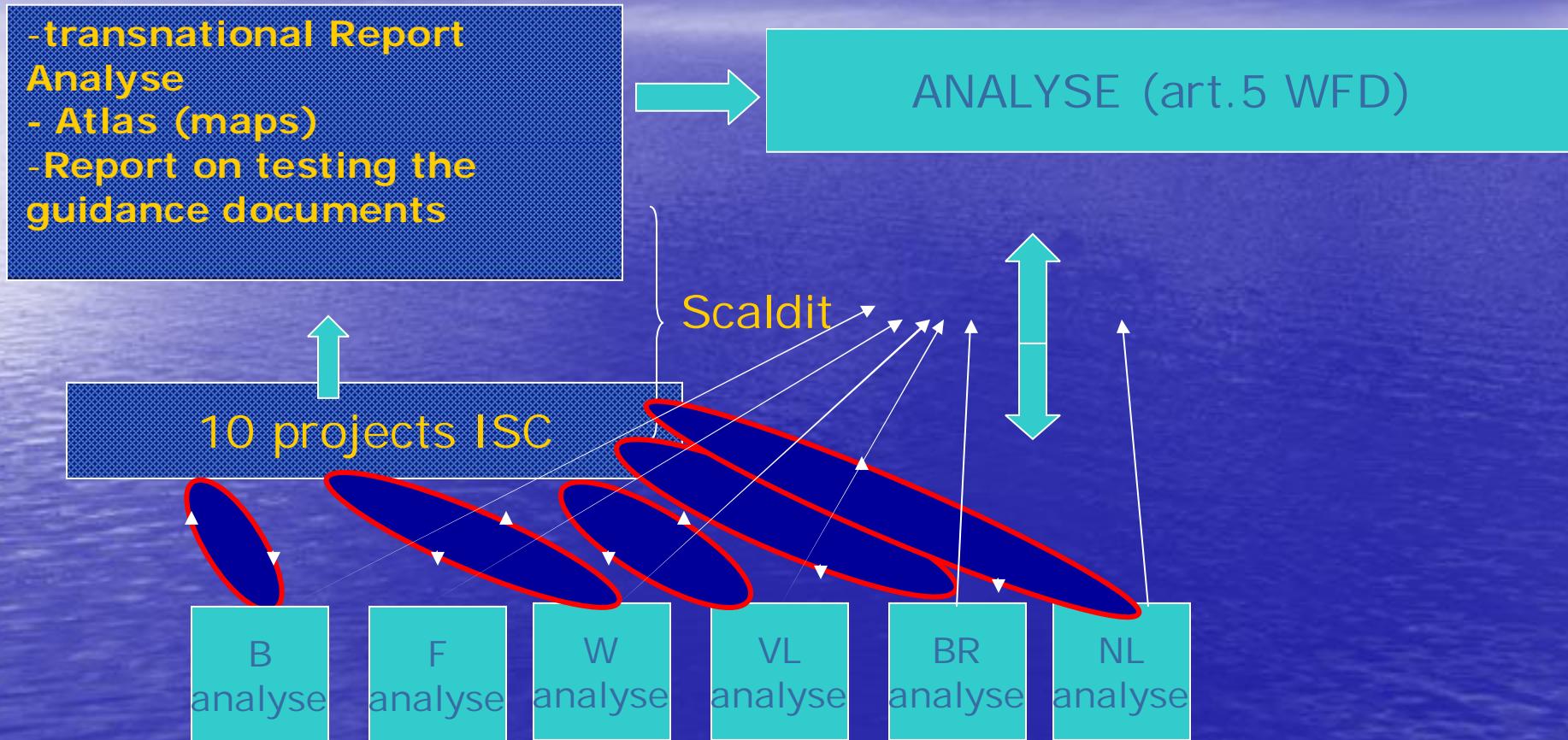
How do we work within the ICS?

Be flexible ⇒ Adapt regularly the work's structure

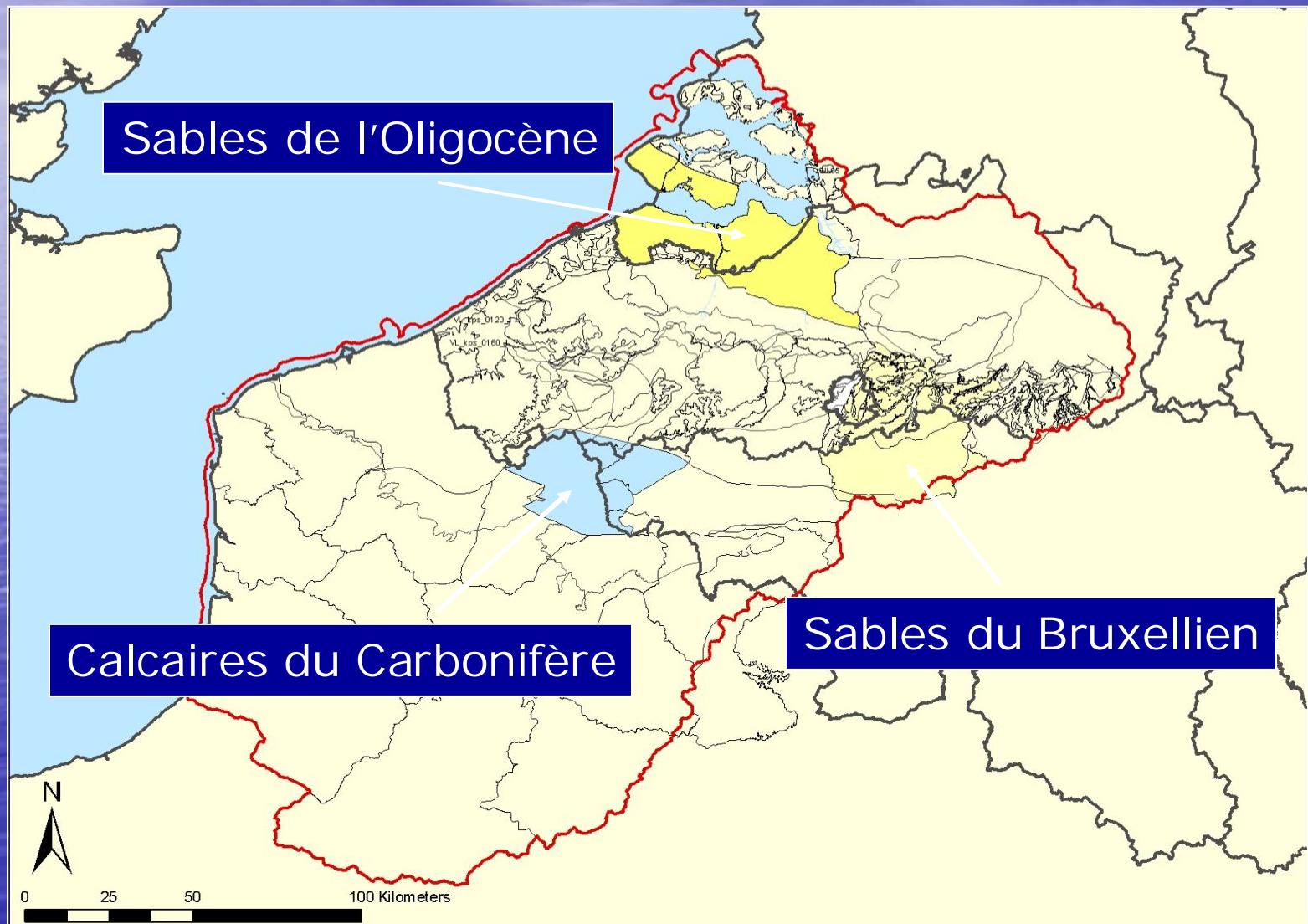
Be efficient ⇒ propose workplans with specific products and realistic calendar

Be attractive ⇒ Measure the work done, give frequent result, added values

Reporting to the EC, an iterative work: the example of the analyse (art.5 WFD)



Working's method: Tests on 3 transboundary pilot aquifers





Recharge areas & dependent ecosystems

- concepts are fuzzy
- comparison of respective approaches
- characterisation of recharge areas has been included in a wider concept (vulnerability) which will be dealed with during further characterisation as well as risk assessment

Obstacles:

- consensus for the concept of dependent ecosystems not yet achieved (all GWBs are often considered as related to surface ecosystems)
- vulnerability assessment is a complex procedure



Protected areas

List of protected areas

- will be restricted to those areas relative to groundwater
- comprises:
 - **Water catchment protection areas**
 - **Vulnerable areas**
 - **Natura 2000 areas**
 - **Special protection areas**
 - **Preservation special areas**
 - **Nature reserves**
 - **Bathing, yachting, piscicultural waters**
 - **Quarries of biological interest**
 - **Underground cavities of scientific interest**



Major problems for a coordinated implementation in the Scheldt district

1. The risk assesment and the choice of parameters can be only provisional and arbitrary
2. The monitoring networks are still today individual following each philosophy
3. complexity of networks in the past
4. Oriented monitoring to exploitation of water ressource
5. More works are needed (piezometers, exploitation's wells)
6. Don't forget the tri dimension of volume unlike for surface waters
7. Transboundary flows evaluation?
8. Large scale impacts far away the borders ?



Conclusions

1. A legal European framework and a multiparty treaty allowed the first real cooperation with positive results and now a stability of quantitative status
2. Needs of common workplan with short and long-term schedules and specific results
3. Cooperation must be supported by transparent exchange of datas
4. The monitoring networks can be coordinated as far as the protocols, frequency, sites, methods,... are concerned but they cannot be multiplied
5. Be careful to well coordinated networks which results couldn't be useful being too much individually exploited: don't ask too much!
6. Lack of qualitative as well as quantitative criterias for the status remains the priority mainly for the exchanges between transboundary ground waterbodies
7. Bi ou tri-lateral initiatives remain very positive, knowing the specificities of hydrogeology



The International Commission of the Scheldt thanks you for your attention



If you need further informations go to our
Internet site: www.isc-cie.com