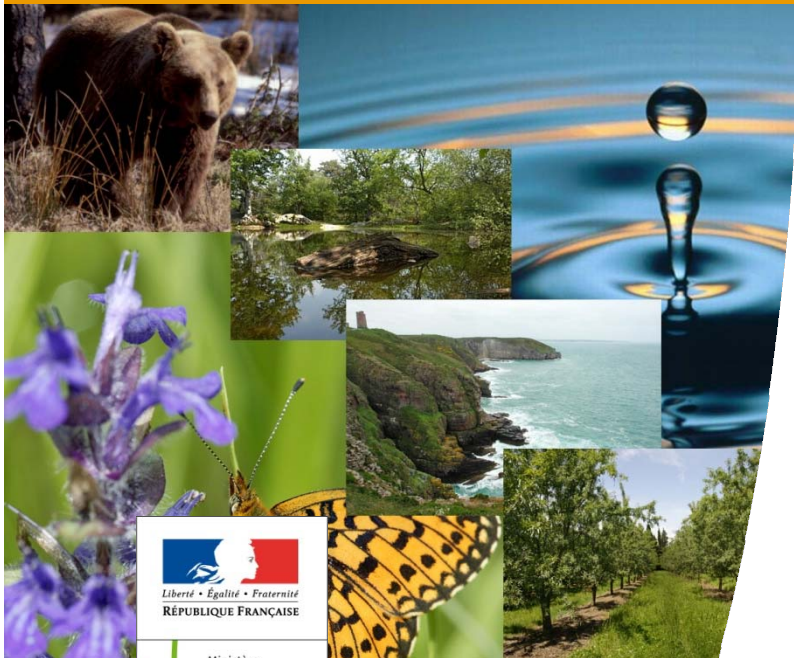


# French Water Policy



Re ressources, territoires, habitats et logement  
Énergie et climat Développement durable  
Prévention des risques Infrastructures, transports et mer

Présent  
pour  
l'avenir

Ministry of Ecology, Energy,  
Sustainable Development and the Sea

[www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr](http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

# Issues involved in managing water and aquatic environments

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- *France: a relatively favoured country, disparities per basin*
  - **resource for environments and uses: 3000 m<sup>3</sup>/year/inhab**
  - **mean domestic consumption: 165 litres of water/inhab/day**
- *Qualitative issues*
  - **good ecological water status**
  - **efforts concerning various types of agricultural and urban pollution (European directives on nitrates, residual urban water)**
- *Quantitative issues*
  - **extreme events: floods and drought (climate change and urban development)**

# The European legislative framework

## The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) of 2000

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- Objectives common to all 27 Member states
- Good ecological status of water and aquatic environments by 2015
- Programming and planning by hydrographic district
  - ✓ Economic analysis
  - ✓ Cost recovery
- Reinforced population participation

80% of French legislation in the water sector is based on European legislation

### Other sectoral directives regulate the water sector:

- Groundwater Directive (December 2006)
- Marine Strategy Directive (June 2008)
- Directive on Priority Substances (December 2008)
- Floods Directive (October 2009)

# The French Legislative Framework

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## Basic texts

**2004, Charter for the Environment:** right to an environment which is healthy and sustainable development = constitutional

**2006, the law on water and aquatic environments (LEMA),** tool to achieve the WFD objectives

- the right to water
- adapting to climate change
- renovation of institutional organisation
- general agricultural pollution
- local and concerted management of water resources
- simplifies and reinforces water policy
- transparency of public water and sanitation services
- reforms freshwater fishing

**2009-2010, Grenelle laws I and II**

### Restore water of good ecological quality

- ✓ Achieve good water status: less than a third offset for good water status or ecological potential
- ✓ Phosphates prohibited in all detergent products
- ✓ Protection of the 500 water catchments most threatened by general pollution
- ✓ Joint sample management
- ✓ Improvement of urban wastewater treatment plants
- ✓ Reduce the presence of priority substances
- ✓ Restore and maintain wetlands and biological reservoirs

### Diverse and high-quality agriculture and silviculture

- ✓ Reduce the use of phytopharmaceuticals and biocides by half within ten years

### Integral management of the sea and the littoral (Aquatic Environments Directive)

**Law n° 2009-967 of 3 August 2009 on scheduling relative to implementation of the Grenelle de l'environnement (Grenelle Environmental Round Table) (art. 27 to 35)**

**Law n° 2010-788 of 12 July 2010 concerning the national commitment to the environment (art. 94 to 172)**

# *Institutional organisation*

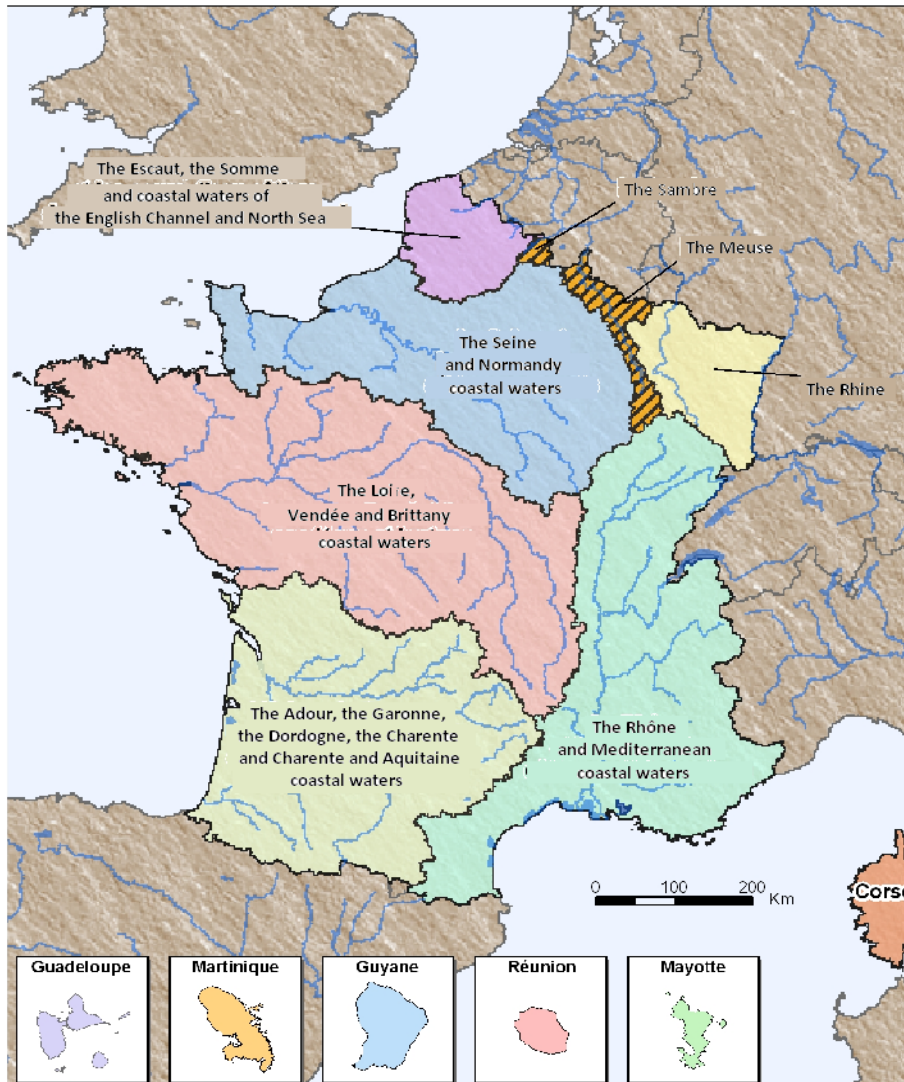
## *3 main players, 3 areas of expertise*

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- ***The State*** (Ministry of Ecology / Water and Biodiversity Department: supervisory)
  - regulation and control
  - French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA)
- ***Basin Organisations***
  - water policy
  - perception and redistribution of user fees (water agencies and offices)
- ***Local decision makers*** (local and regional authorities, farmers, industrialists)
  - Organisation of water and sanitation services  
Investments/contracting authority

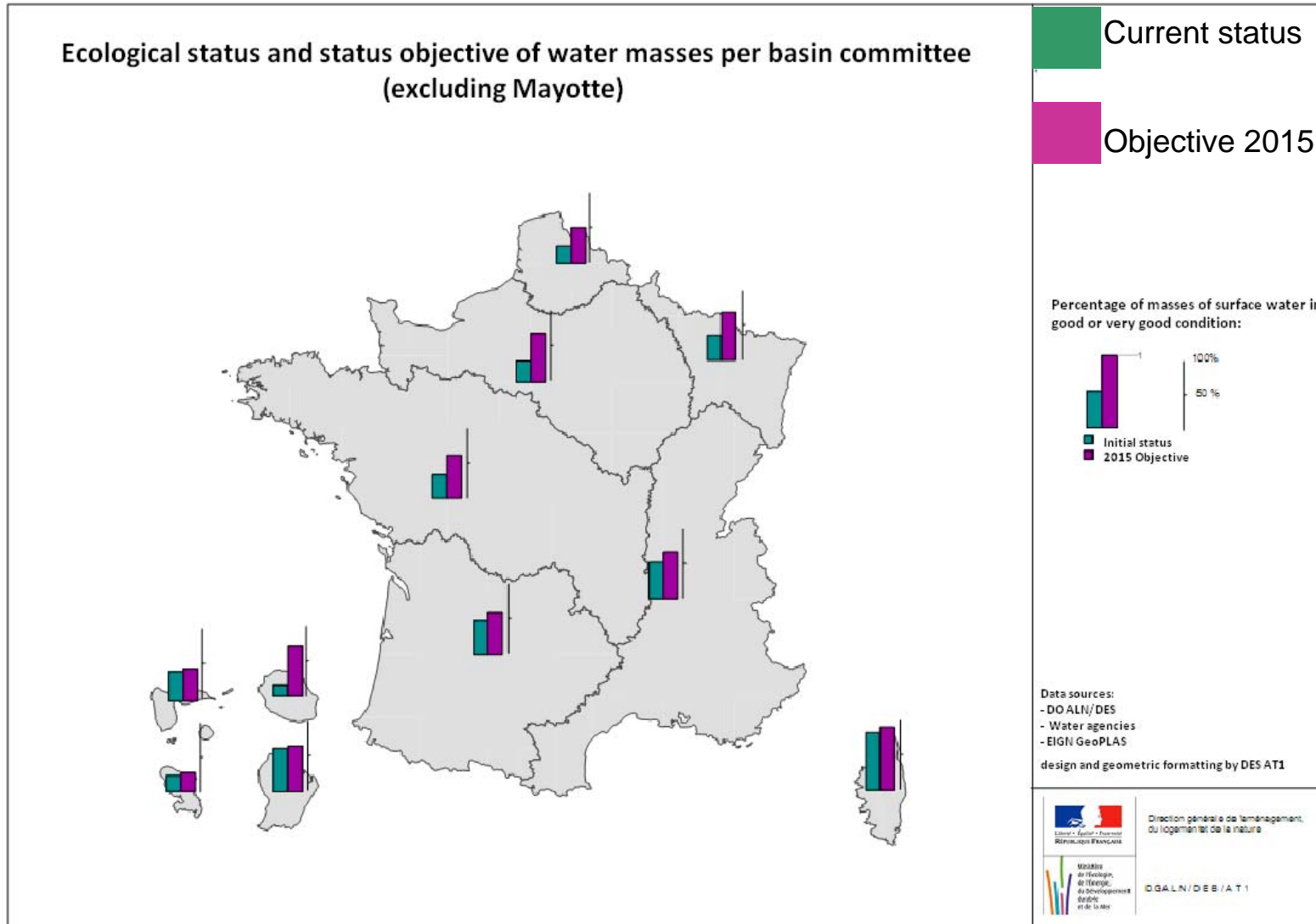


# Hydrographic districts in France



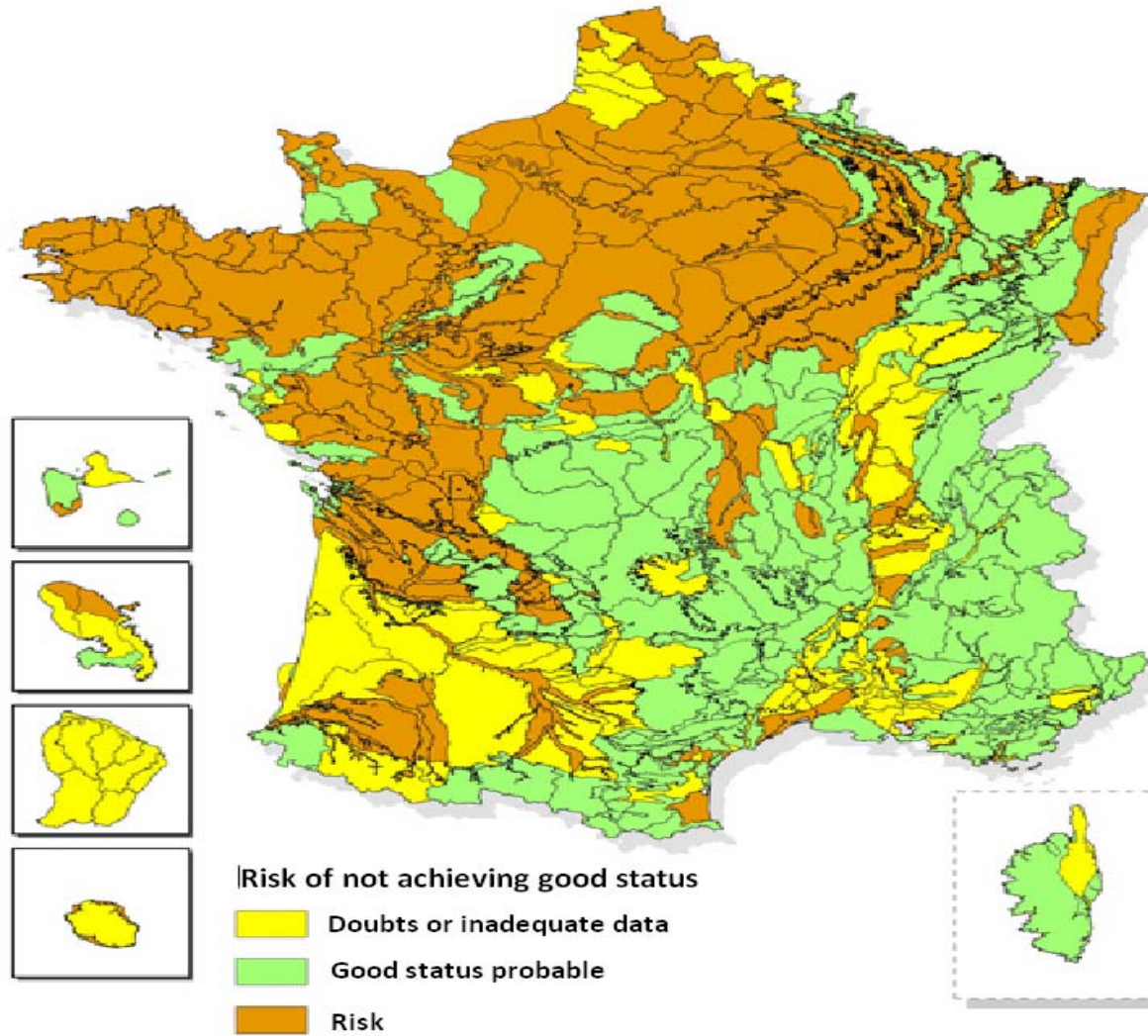
- the 13 hydrographic districts match the main French basins
- management and planning confirmation per catchment basin
- 12 basin committees (the Meuse and Sambre district being attached to the Artois-Picardie and Rhin-Meuse basin committees)

# Achieve good ecological status of surface waters



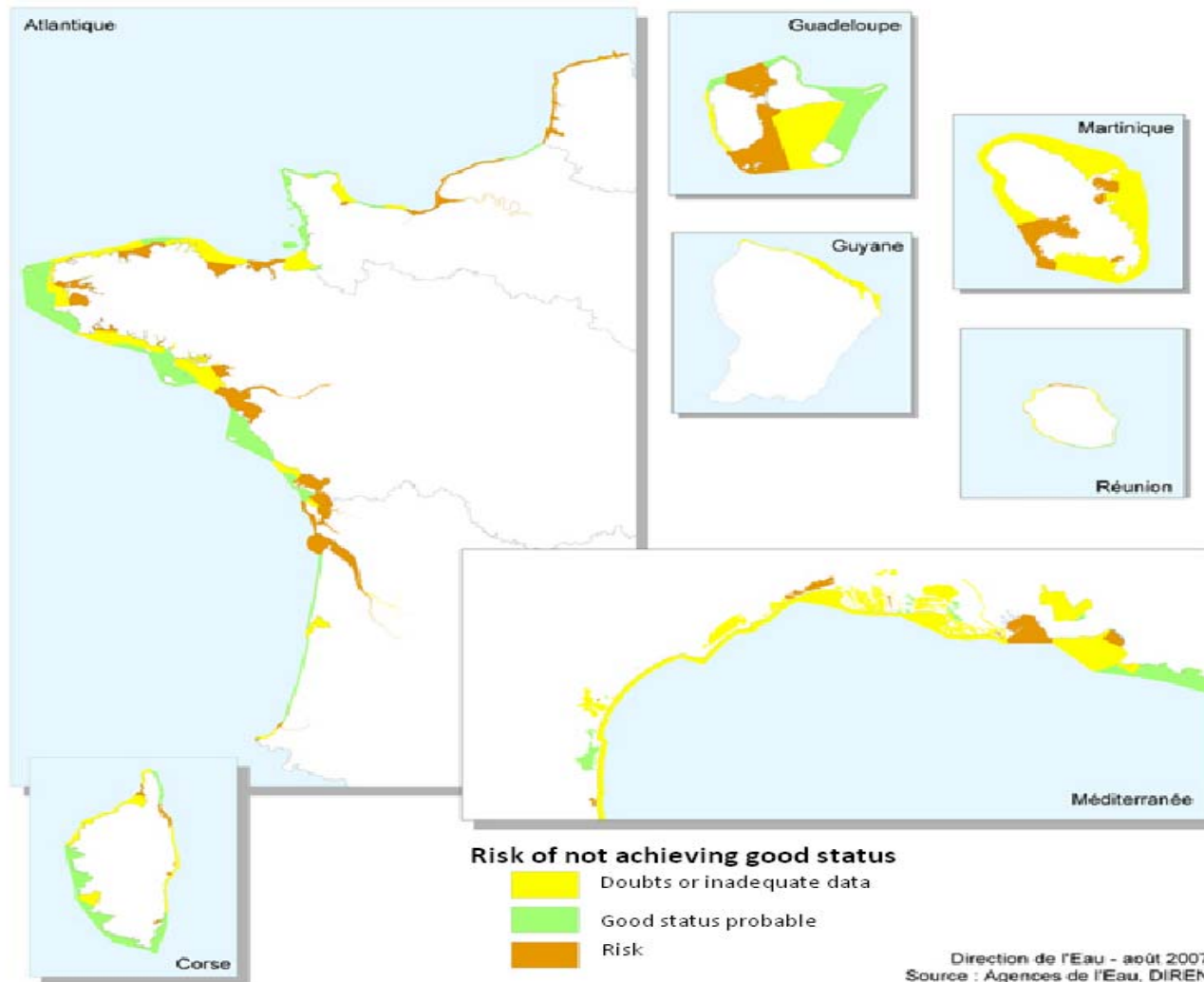


# Achieve good groundwater quality by 2015



Direction de l'Eau - juillet 2005  
Source : BRGM, Agences de l'Eau, DIREN

# Achieve good coastal water quality by 2015



# General agricultural pollution

- **Application of the WFD**

- combined approach (2012)
- waste subject to authorisation
- emission limit values
- environmental quality objectives
- 33 priority substances



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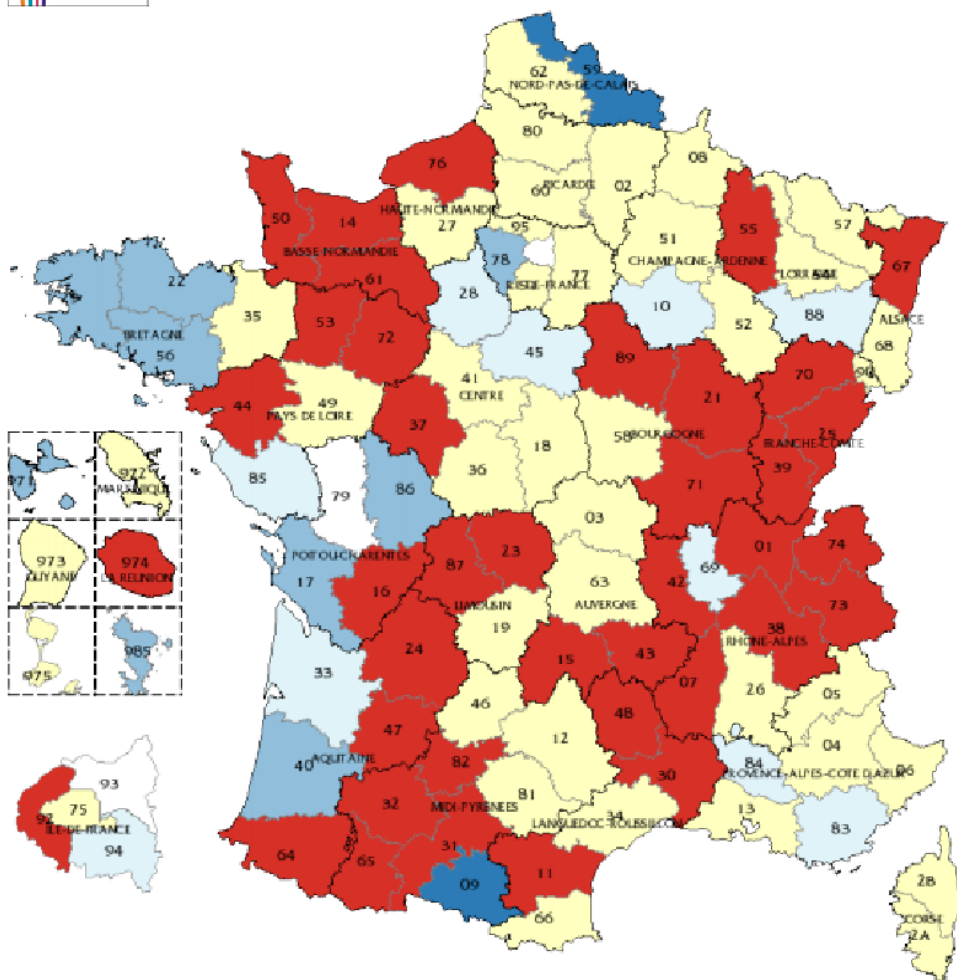
- **Application of the LEMA (law on water and aquatic environments)**

- action plans which may be mandatory in sensitive sectors (catchment feed systems, wetlands of particular interest, erosion areas of various origins)
- 500 priority catchments
- traceability of sales of phytosanitary products and biocides
- control of sprayers used to apply these products
- fees for water agency (product ecotoxicity)



### Report on Water law in 2009

Number of affidavits drawn up and sent to the District Attorney by non-centralised services.



Number of affidavits sent to the District Attorney

- 0
- 1 à 5
- 6 à 10
- 11 à 20
- 21 à 50
- 51-50
- Aucune donnée

## Strength control of authorisations approved

In 2008, 30 000 field inspections and 31 000 checks on administrative documents took place (mainly self-surveillance by wastewater treatment plants)

Levels of non-conformity observed: 37,5%.

Action taken:

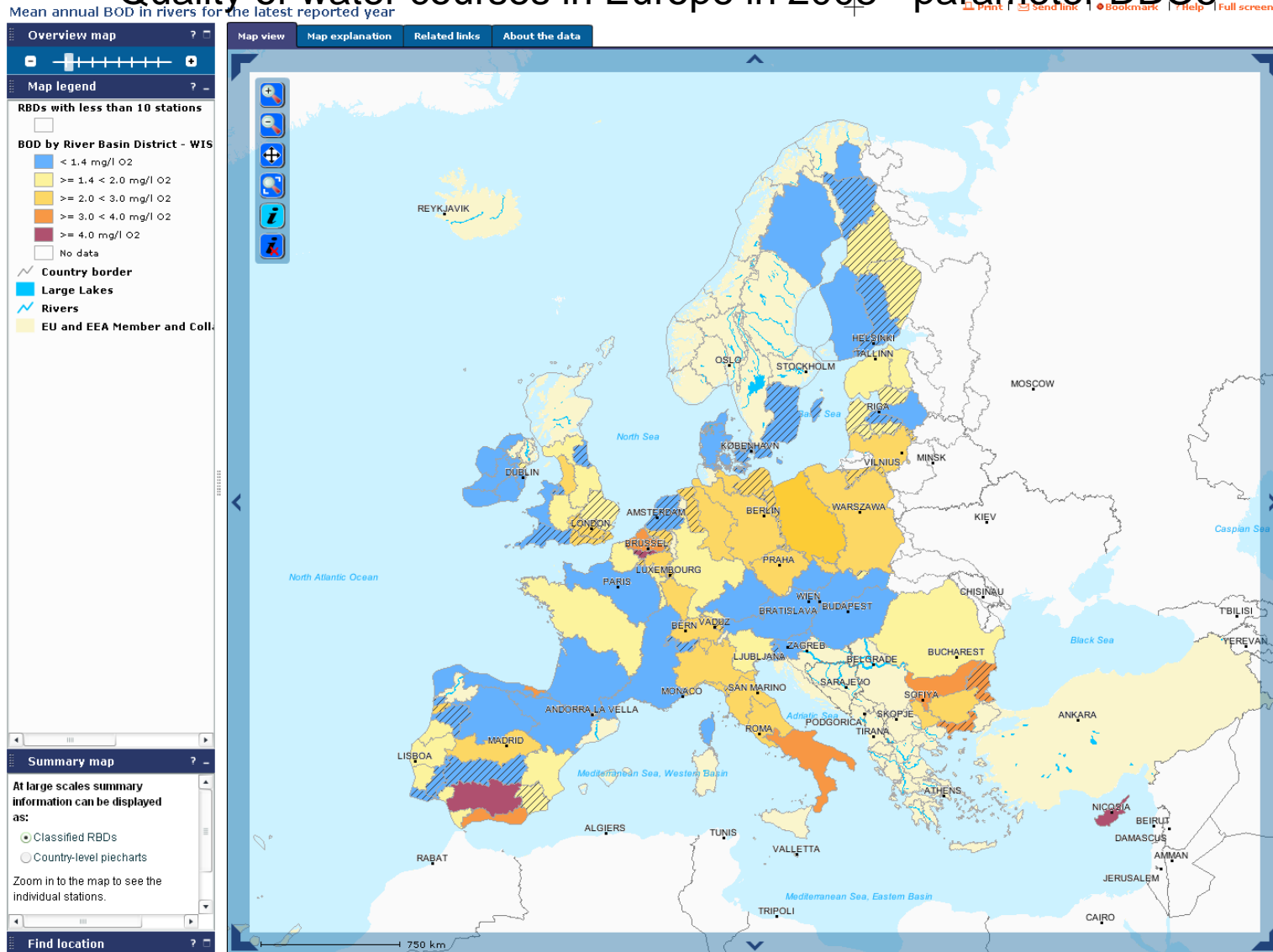
- 93% of reminders about regulations
- orders concerning further instructions (0.3%);
- official notifications (6.5%);
- consignments (0.1%);
- suspensions or withdrawal of authorisation (0.05%).
- 35 000 infractions concerning water and the natural environment: waste dumping, infractions linked to hunting or fishing, species and environmental protection, and driving in natural areas, damage to aquatic environments (10% of the total).





# Application of the European Directive to Residual Urban Water

## Quality of water courses in Europe in 2008 - parameter DBO5



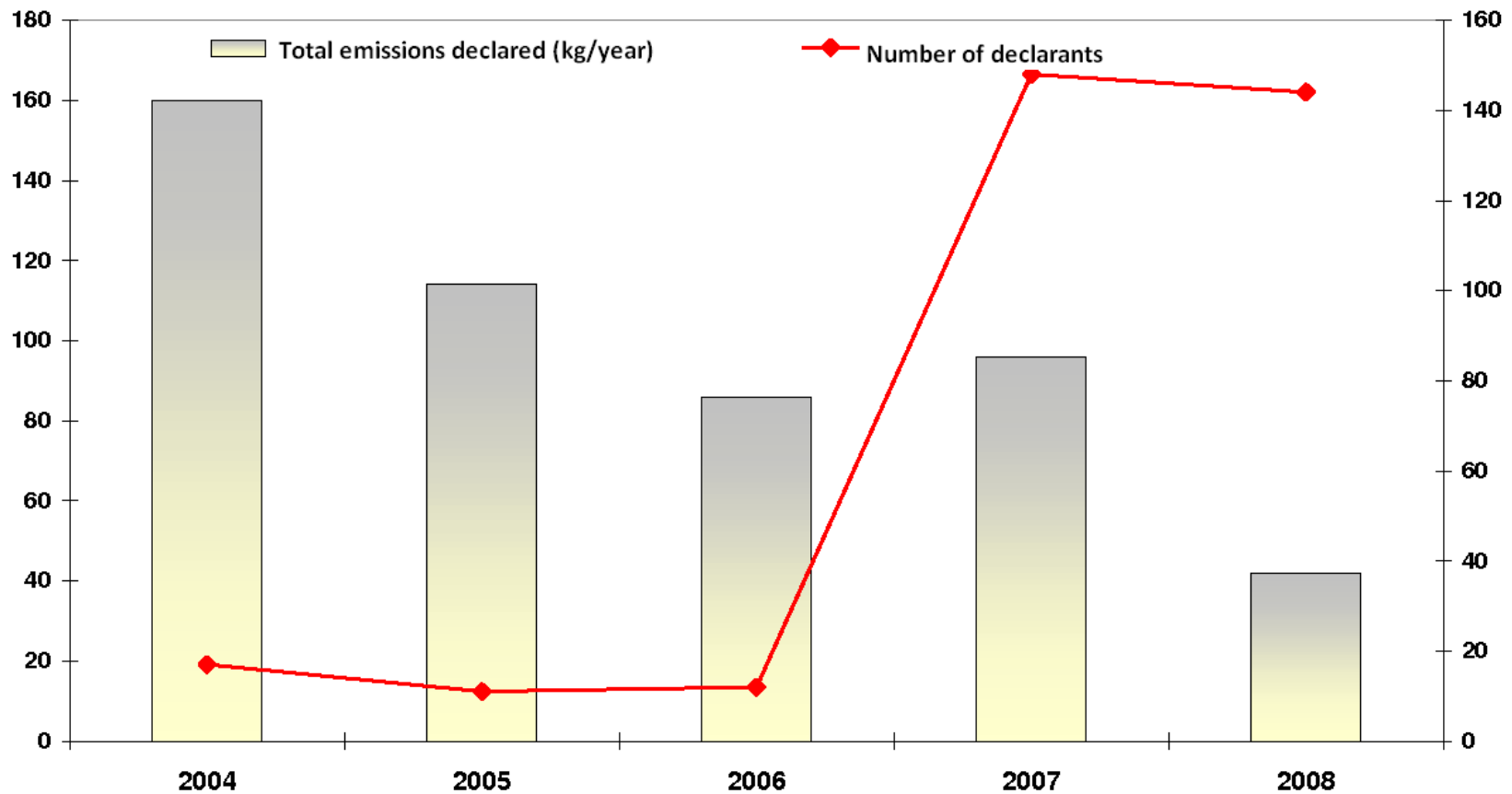
<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/interactive//soe-ri-bod>  
<http://assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>



# Example of industrial pollution reduction

Observation of effective reduction of certain pollutant discharge through declarations in the French register for declaring pollutant emissions

Declaration of indirect discharge into water for mercury and its compounds in kg/year





# *Directive 2007/60/EC of 23 October 2007 relative to flood risk evaluation and management*

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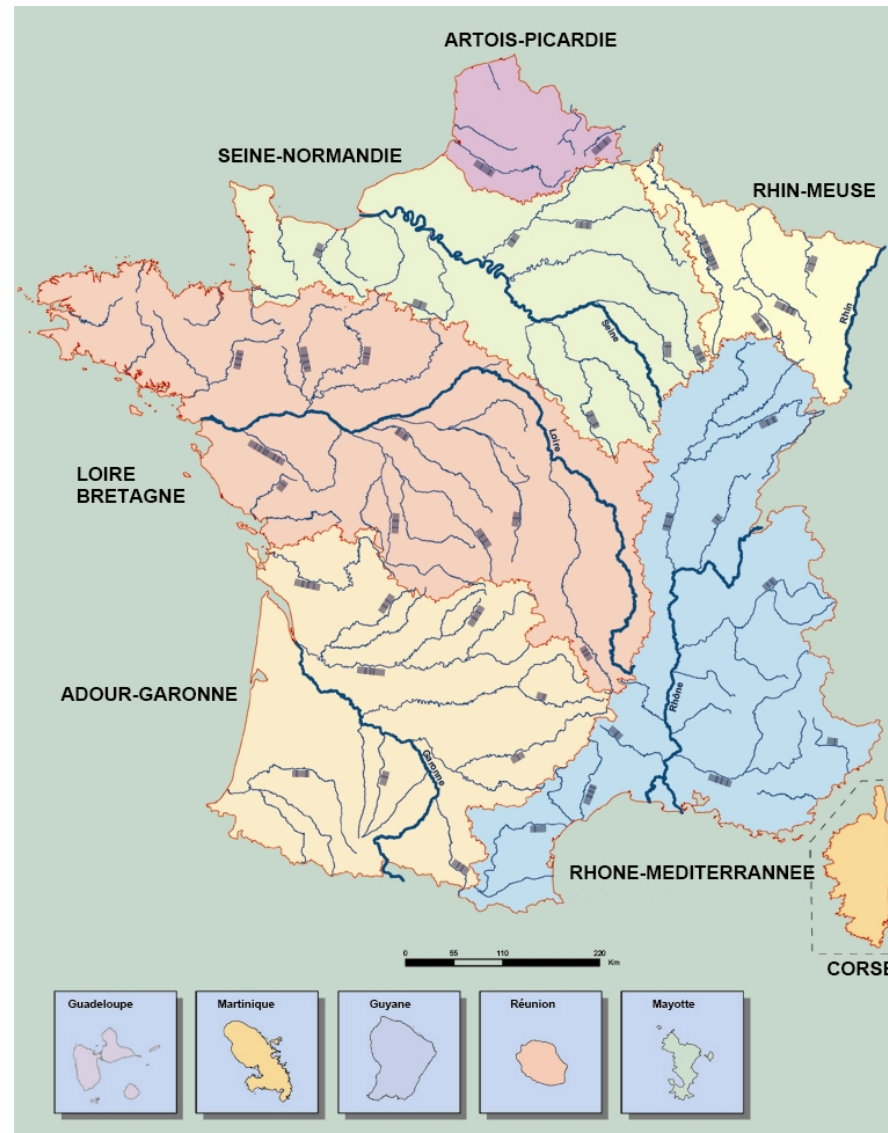
- Preliminary evaluation of flood risk
  - Based on known information
  - Selections of areas at major risk
- Flood mapping
  - Maps of floodable areas
  - Flood risk maps: positioning what is at stake
- Flood risk management plans
  - Risk reduction objectives defined by the EM
  - Description and categorisation of the measures decided by the EM
- Public information and coordination



# Water agencies and offices

- **6 water agencies**
- **4 water offices (Overseas administrative departments)**

- conservation and improvement of water resources
- fight against pollution
- public information
- user fees and investment aid



# Management of Water and Sanitation Services

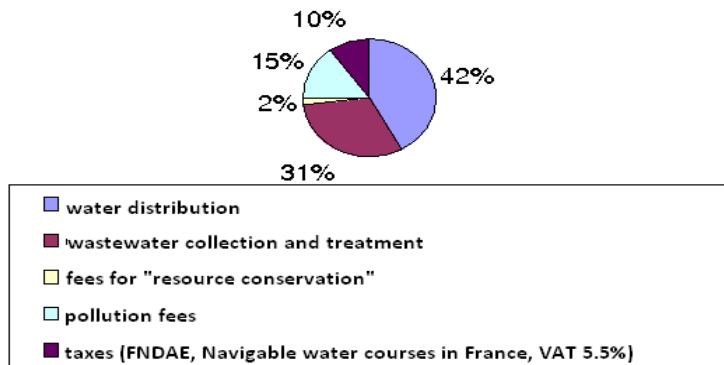


500,000 km<sup>2</sup>  
62,000,000 inhabitants  
35,000 towns  
Drinking water: 6 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year taken and 4.1 Mm<sup>3</sup> invoiced

- Drinking water: 15 000 water services  
4 500 PPP 75% of the population
- Sanitation: 17 000 services  
4,000 PPP 50% of the population

# Water Prices for Domestic Users

The average price of water in France



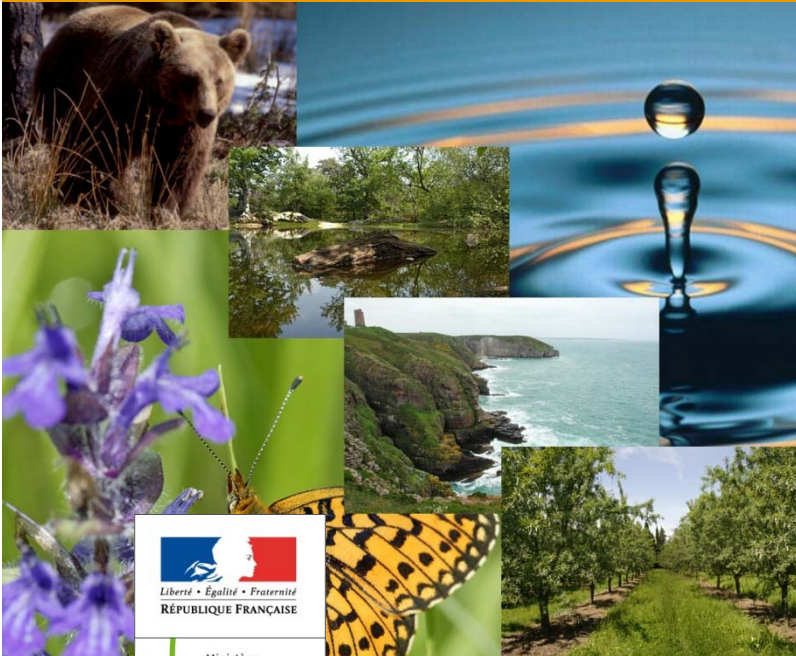
MEEDDM, 2004

The average price of water in European countries



Overall average price in € / m3

# French International Cooperation



Resources, territories and habitats  
Energy and climate  
Prevention of risks  
Development durable  
Infrastructure, transports and sea

Présent  
pour  
l'avenir



# **Main objective:** **Help achieve the Objective of Millennium n° 7** **(access to water and sanitation)**

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- **France: 4th financial backer in the water sector on a global scale**
- **Government aid (French Development Agency):**  
**600 M€/year in 2010-2012 (400/year in 2007-2009),** *supply drinking water to 800 000 people/year and sanitation for 500 000/year, improve the drinking water service to 2.5 million people/year and sanitation service to 1.5 million/year*
- **Aid for Water Agencies and Local and Regional Authorities: in 2009,**  
**13M€ deducted from the water bill (Oudin-Santini law) + 5 M€ from the general budget for local authorities**
- **Geographic priorities (outside the EU): Africa and the Mediterranean**

## ***France is organising the 6th World Forum on water to be held in Marseille in March 2012***

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**The Forum's aim is based on the following architecture:**

- multi-stakeholders discussions in each major region of the world to prepare for global discussions at the Forum, focusing on solutions to be implemented;**
- a political process helping these multi-stakeholders discussions;**
- participation in these discussions of players out of the water sector, playing a key role relative to the quantities of water used and very concerned by the quality of water;**
- a limited number of strategic themes as the basis for these discussions;**
- solid "commitments" made during or at the end of the Forum by different player groups, particularly within the framework of the political process;**
- a set of indicators on the "commitments" made;**
- a Forum which respects sustainable development.**

*Thank you for your attention*



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[www.lesagencesdeleau.fr](http://www.lesagencesdeleau.fr)

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