



Building on yesterday's Wallonia to create the Wallonia of tomorrow

## Stakeholder in the economic and sustainable development of Wallonia

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*Rehabilitation of the "Boch Keramis" site in La Louvière where the new town centre is being built.*





# SPAQuE sa

## Stakeholder in the economic and sustainable development of Wallonia

SPAQuE was founded in 1991 at the initiative of the Walloon government, with as mission the rehabilitation of landfills in Wallonia.

In 2001, it was also tasked by the government with the remediation of contaminated brownfields.

SPAQuE is the Walloon Region's expert in landfill and brownfield rehabilitation and contaminated soil management.

### Expertise

**SPAQuE is a commercial company** that employs around 80 people. It brings together high-level experts in engineering, chemistry, geology, biology, architecture, urban planning, law, industrial archaeology, geomatics, communication, economy, IT, etc.

SPAQuE is Wallonia's pioneer and benchmark for the rehabilitation of landfills and brownfields.

Building on its expertise, SPAQuE has :

- developed the plan for **Walloon authorised landfill site** ;
- participated in the drafting of the successive "*soil decrees*";
- drafted **Good Practice specifications** - a detailed methodology for the rehabilitation of contaminated soils - used as a basis by SPW (DGO3) for the Walloon Code of Good Practice.

### Funding

SPAQuE's main sources of funding are :

- the management contract ;
- the European structural funds (FEDER) ;
- the Marshall Plan ;
- the Marshall Plan 2.Vert ;
- the Marshall Plan 2022 (draft).

### Areas of activity

SPAQuE is active in :

- inventory of potentially polluted sites ;
- compilation and updating of lists of priority sites for rehabilitation ;
- rehabilitation of contaminated brownfields and landfills ;
- management and maintenance of rehabilitated sites ;
- environmental (air-water-soil) quality and health management ;
- environmental monitoring ;
- water management ;
- property development on rehabilitated sites ;
- use of renewable energies and fight against global warming.

## The rehabilitation process

SPAQ/E handles the entire site rehabilitation process. It undertakes its rehabilitations according to a **rigorous process : the value chain**.

For brownfields, the process is as follows :

- historical review ;
- soil investigations (exploration, characterisation, volumetric analysis) ;
- economic, technical and town planning feasibility studies ;
- analysis of existing risks ;
- rehabilitation and construction works ;
- analysis of residual risks ;
- water management.

*Soil rehabilitation works on the "LBP" site, ex-Cuivre et Zinc, in Chênée*

## Achievements

### 2001-2014 : overview of brownfield rehabilitation by SPAQ/E\*

- 310 hectares developed after rehabilitation (13 brownfields) ;
- 171 hectares under development after rehabilitation (9 brownfields) ;
- 592 hectares of projects enabling economic development after rehabilitation.

### 1991-2014 : overview of SPAQ/E interventions

Since its creation, SPAQ/E has, at various stages of its value chain, intervened at several hundreds of sites - brownfields, landfills, tyre stockpiles - spread throughout Wallonia. These interventions range from simple historical analysis for certain sites over soil investigations of potentially contaminated sites as a basis for subsequent management, to rehabilitation of polluted sites.

171 sites identified for reallocation(\*) : 74 (or 686.91 hectares) have been redeveloped and 97 (or 1315.97 hectares) are in the process of redevelopment.

(\*) These data are constantly updated.



### Emergency interventions

SPAQ//E has repeatedly assisted in the emergency response to accidental pollution. Some examples :

- the N63 in Marche-en-Famenne (road accident involving the spillage of 30,000 litres of fuel oil) ;
- Hacquegnies (road accident involving the spillage of 10,000 litres of fuel oil) ;
- Saint-Symphorien in Mons (rupture of a kerosene pipeline resulting in 22,500 tonnes of contaminated soil) ;
- SOBECA in Jemeppe-sur-Sambre (disposal of several thousand tonnes of carbonised and illegally stored waste).

### Other achievements

Between 2004 and 2007, SPAQ//E cleared up 2.5 million **tyres** illegally stored throughout Wallonia.

SPAQ//E is in charge of the management of the priority programme for the **dredging of waterways** and the treatment of dredging sludge

In collaboration with the universities, SPAQ//E has carried out the **Legumap**, **Pollusol 1** and **Pollusol 2** studies. The purpose of these studies is to establish the background context of soil pollution in Wallonia.



## Commercial activities

SPAQ $\ll$ E engages in commercial activities not financed by funds :

- holdings in companies specialising in construction and electronic waste recycling and dredging sludge treatment ;
- acquisition of sites to be rehabilitated and property development ;
- management of rehabilitated sites for their subsequent development ;
- construction on rehabilitated sites ;
- energy production on landfills in post-management ;
- support to Walloon companies in the soil remediation sector that want to develop their activities abroad.



*Soil sampling on the "Cour aux marchandises SNCB" site, Bressoux, for the Liege tramway construction project*

## Prospects for the future

SPAQ $\ll$ E has both the capacity and the expertise that enable it to develop its activities, notably in :

- rehabilitation of urban brownfields ;
- development of soil remediation plants in Wallonia ;
- design and development of projects on rehabilitated sites ;
- water management ;
- renewable energies ;

- partnerships with Walloon companies active in the sector (soil investigations, landfill rehabilitation, brownfield clean-up, renewable energies, etc.) as part of their development abroad ;
- environmental-health management.

Furthermore, the brownfield rehabilitation projects conducted by SPAQ $\ll$ E perfectly fit in with the **circular economy** principle, which may even find greater application in the future with the recovery and reuse of (raw and other) materials contained in contaminated soils.

## Projects on sites rehabilitated by SPAQ<sup>UE</sup>



*Gastronomia project, Seraing*



*Property complex "Côté Senne", Tubize*



*MICX (Congress Centre), Mons*



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