

## Report to the Walloon Parliament

### Archaeology in the Walloon Region – Follow-up audit

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The Belgian Court of Audit carried out a follow-up audit regarding archaeology in the Walloon Region. The audit focused on the same topics as the initial audit published in 2007 in the 19<sup>th</sup> Report of Findings to the Walloon Parliament: preventive archaeology and monitoring of the allocation and use of grants.

As far as preventive archaeology is concerned, the Court's initial audit pointed out the lack of consistency in the archaeological inventory causing important disparities between departments. The lack of communication, with land use planning departments among others, was also emphasised. Lastly, the Court observed that the scientific evaluation of the archaeological discoveries was not commensurate with the deployed resources.

The follow-up audit revealed that the inventory is now complete and consistent for the whole Walloon Region. However, given that the archaeological map has not been published in the Belgian Official Gazette, the formal link with the land use planning administration is still unclear. The works following archaeological digs lag somewhat behind, which has a direct impact on the number of scientific publications which remains low. Similarly, despite the awareness-raising effort made by the Walloon Heritage Agency (AWaP), too few collection points for archaeological properties comply with the regulations on the matter.

The monitoring of the allocation and use of grants revealed an improved situation compared to the initial audit. It was then found that many expenses did not match the subject of the grant and that some role confusion generated conflicts of interest in the administration. The internal control is now carried out satisfactorily. The Court mainly recommends that the AWaP intensifies the standardisation of project cards, enforces the requirements resulting from budgetary modifications and further verifies the VAT liability of subsidised institutions.