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### **Freshwater management in the Scheldt basin and consequences for discharges in the Zeeschelde**

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The rivers Scheldt and Meuse are the main water bodies of the major river catchment area in Flanders. Both have international dimensions having their origin in France and flowing into the North-Sea in the Netherlands. Therefore, an important part of the water supply in Flanders depends on upstream water management. The catchment areas are linked by a network of channels, supplying the Scheldt Estuary with a considerable amount of Meuse water. Links also exist between several subcatchment areas of the river Scheldt.

Balanced internal water management implies, among other things, an efficient set of measures (permanent and operational) necessary for intervention during low flows. In order to substantiate the choice of strategy, knowledge of the quantitative aspects of supply (water balance), demand (users and consumers) and potential measures is necessary.

The final step is to translate those aspects into a concrete, practical and acceptable low flow scenario.

The lecturer will handle briefly several aspects of water supply and distribution in the catchment area of the river Scheldt. An overview will be given of the way in which the Flemish Administration deals with the existing bottle-necks, currently and in the future.