

## Belgium Federal Structure

Part. I



#### Part. I

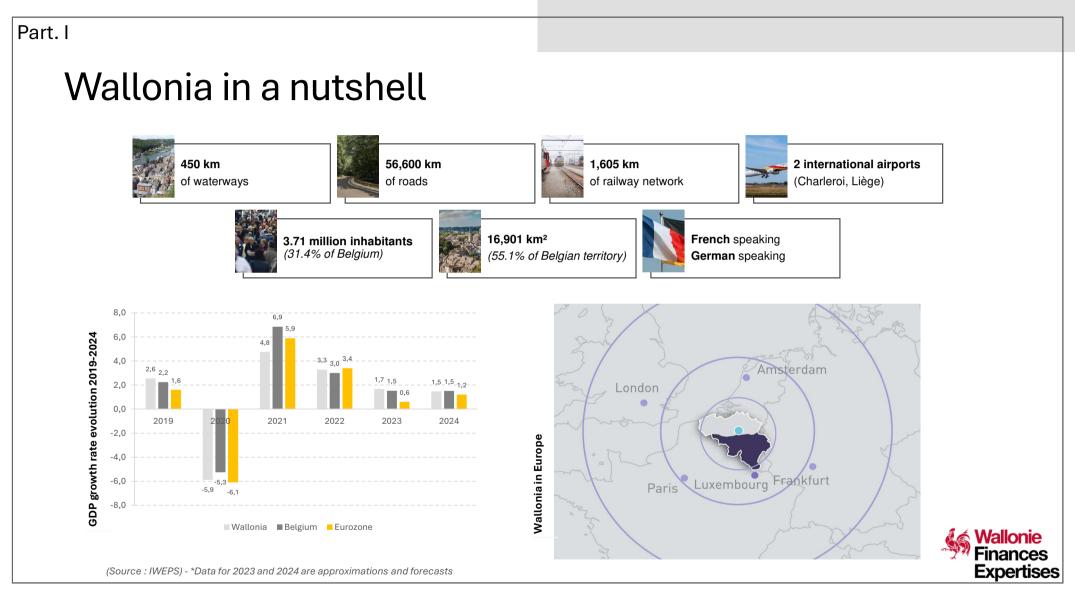
### Wallonia in a nutshell



#### **Regions Operating Framework**

- Territory
- Economy
- o Social Services
- o Local Authorities







## Wallonia Key Competencies

Part. II



### Wallonia – Competencies



## Wallonia - Institutions and Public Services Entities

#### Parliament of Wallonia

The legislative assembly of Wallonia is composed of 75 members who are directly elected by universal suffrage for a five year term.

They sit in plenary sessions and in committees with the aim to:

- □ Adopt decrees (regional laws);
- Express positions (*resolutions*) on social issues;
- **Exercise supervision** over the Government (through questions).



#### Government of Wallonia

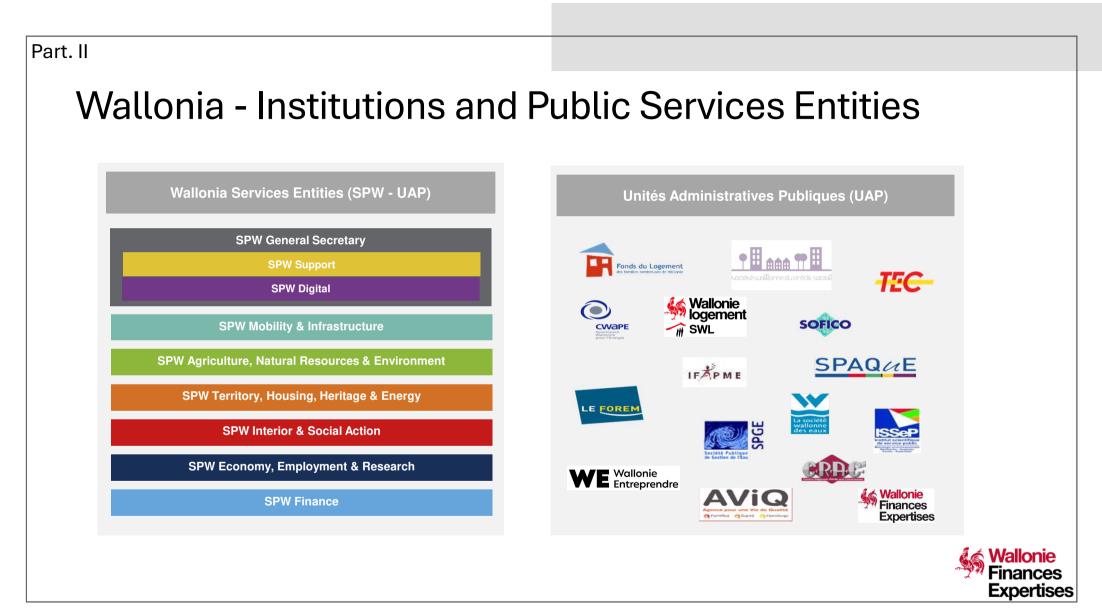
The Government is led by the Minister-President, currently supported by 7 ministers, each in charge of several domains of activity.

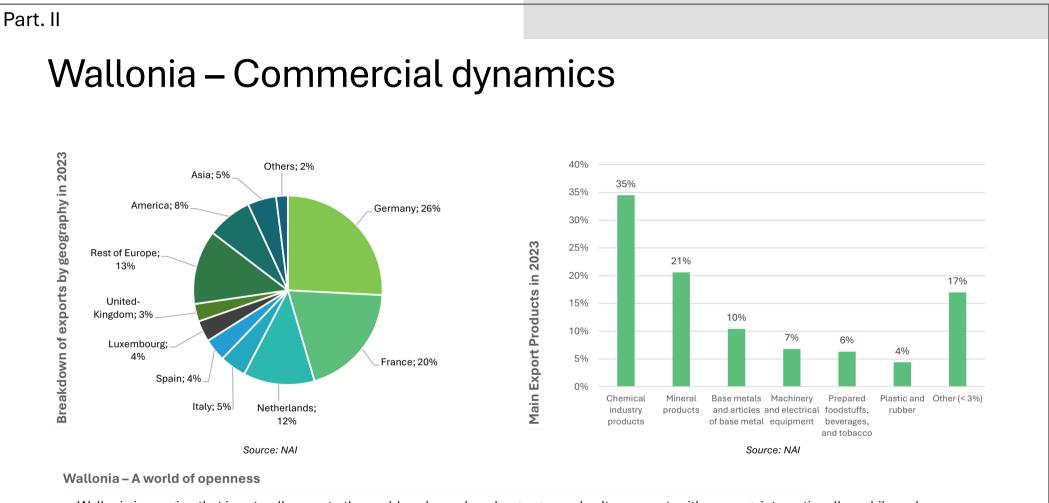
In order to execute its missions, the Government delegates the operational activities to:

- SPW (Service Public de Wallonie) the regional administration.
- **UAP** (Unités d'Administration Publiques wallonne) a number of Public Administration Units.
- Government Cells









- Wallonia is a region that is naturally open to the world, a place where languages and cultures meet, with a young, internationally mobile and increasingly multilingual population
- Fastest growing economic sectors : Mineral products & fuels, Food & Beverage, Live animals & derived product.

Expertises

# Budget Figures & Debt Management

Part. III



#### Part, III

## **Debt Sustainability Committee**

- Launched in January 2021: COVID-19 impact on public ٠ finances.
- Contribute to the definition of a multi-annual budgetary path that :
  - Allows for economic recovery; 0
  - Guarantees the Region's public service missions; 0
  - Maintains a sustainable level of debt.

(basis scenario and effort scenario, in % of 280 270 260 250 revenues) 240 230 220 210 200 190 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2027 Debt (in % of revenues, Debt (in % of revenues basis scenario) effort scenario)

Walloon Government undertakings

- Continuous monitoring of debt dynamics.
- Strengthen the integrated management of cash holdings and direct and indirect debt.
- Structural deficit reduction effort equivalent to 1% of revenues (about 150 million cumulative year on year) until 2030.

impact on the debt ratio of an annual structural

effort of 1% of total revenues until 2030

290

□ Stabilization of the debt/revenue ratio from 2025, and reduction thereafter.



2030

2028

2029

## Pluriannual Budgetary Forecast (€ million)

	Initial 2025	2026 Forecast	2027 Forecast	2028 Forecast	2029 Forecast
Total Revenues	19,123.92	17,931.19	17,311.27	17,953.36	18,857.41
Total Expenditures	22,029.42	21,002.39	19,601.70	20,054.81	20,413.57
Gross Funding Needs	-2,905.49	-3,071.20	-2,290.43	-2,101.45	-1,556.15
ESA Correction	610.06	1,056.98	1,165.58	1,505.98	1,605.62
ESA Balance	-2,286.50	-2,014.22	-1,124.85	-595.47	49.47



## Regional policy statement (2024 - 2029)

Following the elections held on 9 June 2024, the new Walloon Government was able to announce the guidelines for its future regional policy on 11 July 2024. Essential measures announced are hereunder summarized by thematic.

#### Governance

Focus on transparency, efficiency, and the streamlining of structures. Reduction in the number of ministers and their cabinets, administrative simplification, and enhancement of participatory democracy.

#### **Budget and Debt**

Implement a rigorous budget policy with a golden rule for budget management (converge the debt/revenue ratio to a level of 180%), reduce public spending, and promote sustainable investments.

#### **Fiscal policy and Tax**

Simplify and reduce taxes, align with environmental goals. No new taxes except to replace existing ones.

#### **Economy, Exports and Foreign Investments**

Support for industry, innovation, and entrepreneurship with a tightened recovery plan. Enhanced strategy for exports and foreign investment attraction, optimizing the roles of public agencies.



## Regional policy statement (2024 - 2029)

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#### Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Strengthening digital and low-carbon transitions. Highlighting success stories, promoting female entrepreneurship, and simplifying administrative procedures for businesses.

#### Employment

Aim for 80% employment rate with targeted support and training.

#### **Climate and Energy**

Development of renewable energies, energy efficiency, and tackling emerging pollutants.

#### Mobility

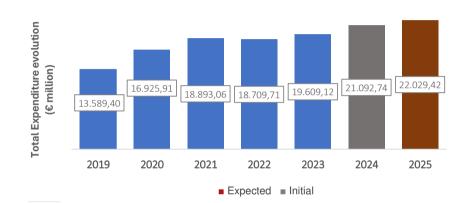
Improvement of public transport, promotion of sustainable and safe mobility, and increased charging stations for electric vehicles.

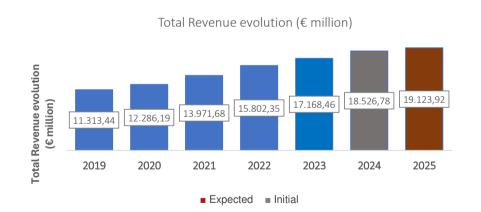
#### Social and Health

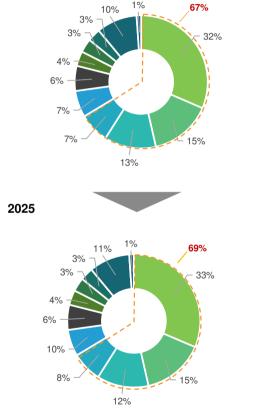
Strengthening social services, inclusion, and anti-discrimination efforts. Improving healthcare quality and prevention.



## Focus on Wallonia Budget Figures







2024

Expenditures breakdown by source (2023-2024)



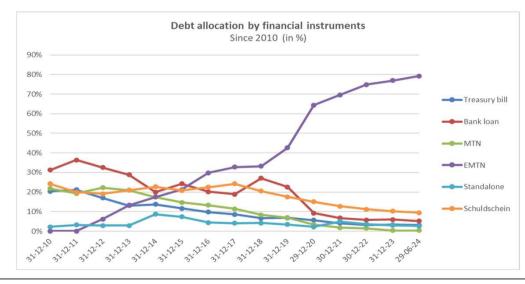


## Robust liquidity position – Strong debt and treasury management

OVERAL REGIONAL DEBT (€ million)	31 Dec. 2022	31 Dec. 2023	31 Dec. 2024
Direct Debt (1)	-21,442	-23,537	-26,206
External Debt (SPABS + SWDE* + FADELS**) (2)	-1,026	-946	-795
Long-Term Regional Debt (3) = (1) + (2)	-22,468	-24,482	-27,002
Short-Term Regional Debt (4)	-717	-805	-793
OUTSTANDING DIRECT DEBT (5) = (3)+(4)	-23,184	-25,287	-27,795
Regional Cash Balance (6)	4,459	3,343	2,228
OUTSTANDING NET BALANCE (7) = (5)+(6)	-18,725	-21,945	-25,566

- **SPABS:** Société Publique d'Admnistration des Bâtiments Scolaires
- SWDE: Société Wallonne des Eaux
- FADELS: Fonds d'Amortissement des Dettes du Logement Social

\* SWDE & FADELS loans were reimbursed on 2024

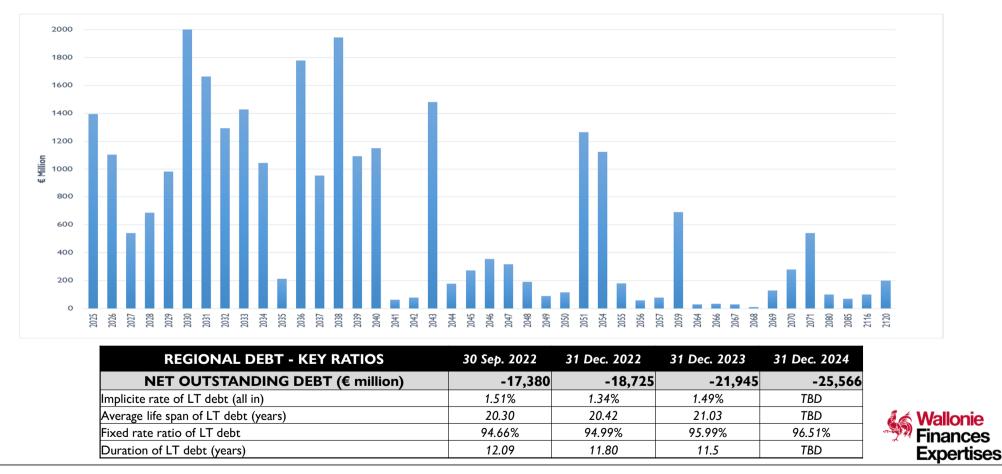


Wallonia has secured and committed facilities that allow fast and continuous access to capital markets

- > one European Medium-Term Notes program (EMTN)
- > two Medium-Term Notes programs (MTN)
- > A standard Schuldschein documentation (SSD)



## Part. III Outstanding Debt – Annual redemption profile and Ratios



## 2025 Funding Needs

The 2025 funding needs are estimated at EUR 3.434 billion. These funding needs will be fulfilled through benchmarks and Private Placement (EMTN/SSD).

FUNDING PLAN 2024 (€ million)	
Amortizations	-1,396.60
Funding gap (adjusted)	-2,896.55
GROSS FUNDING NEEDS	-4,293.15
Budget buffer (2025)	609.00
2025 Estimated pre-financing	250.00
AJUSTED FUNDING NEEDS	-3,434.15
FUNDING COMPLETED IN 2025	110.00
EMTN	110.00
of wich Private placement	110.00
of which Benchmark	00.00
Schuldschein	00.00
Expected 2024 Remaining needs	

2025 Funding details – 15 Jan. 25						
Number of issuances	3					
Weighted average rate (all-in)	2.731%					
Average life span (years)	4.54					
Weighted average duration (years)	2.44					
Weighted average spread vs OLO (all-in)	32.09					
Fixed rate ratio	9,09%					



## Key ratings considerations

#### CREDIT OPINION

6 November 2024

#### Walloon Region (Belgium)

Update following outlook change to negative

The Walloon Region's debt and debt burden will remain permanently very high

#### Update

#### Summary

Exhibit 1

650

The credit profile of the <u>Walloon Region</u> (A3 negative) reflects a mature and robust legislative background, sophisticated but prudent debt management, unquestioned market access, and tax autonomy. Our assessment of the Walloon Region's creditworthiness also takes into account the recurring financing deficits we expect the region to post going forward, and our expectation that the region's debt burden will remain very high. The Walloon Region benefits from a high likelihood of support from the Government of <u>Belgium</u> (Aa3 negative) if it were to face acute liquidity stress.

#### Belgium

Belgium
A3
LT Issuer Rating - Dom Curr
Negative

Please see the <u>ratings section</u> at the end of this report for more information. The ratings and outlook shown reflect information as of the publication date.

#### Contacts

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#### CLIENT SERVICES

Americas	1-212-553-1653
Asia Pacific	852-3551-307
Japan	81-3-5408-4100
EMEA	44-20-7772-5454

250% €40 200% €30 150% £20 100% €10 €0 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024F 2025F 20265 F: forecast Source: Walloon Region, Moody's Ratings

300%

#### Credit strengths

- » A mature and robust legislative background with well-defined responsibilities amid a complex Belgian institutional system
- » Sophisticated but prudent debt management underpins unquestioned market access
- » Revenue flexibility is supportive of the region's credit profile

#### Credit challenges

- » The region's debt burden will remain very high on the back of recurring financing deficits
- » An economy which compares unfavorably with national and European peers

Last credit opinion update : November 2024 Long Term Rating: A3 – Negative Outlook Prime-2 short-term rating of its Treasury notes

Following the Belgian federal government's change of outlook (Aa3 – negative), all Belgian's federated entities also had their outlook downgraded



# Wallonia & Sustainability

Part. IV



#### Part. IV

## Région wallonne – Sustainability & Social Bonds Milestones

As part of the Belgian Federal State, Région Wallonne is partaking in the Belgian climate plan, in-line with the shared European ambitions.

#### July 2012:

Creation of a Sustainable Development Department by the Walloon Government

#### April 2018:

Vigeo attributes the score of 55/100 to Région wallonne, ranking the region in the  $4^{\rm th}$  position (out of 30) among European local authorities

#### April 2019:

- •Publication of Sustainability Bond framework, validated by the Second Party Opinion (SPO) provided by Vigeo Eiris, and fully compliant with ICMA green bond principles, social bond principles and sustainability bond guidelines
- •Inaugural Sustainability Bond Issuance (40% Green 60% Social)

#### 2020 onwards:

- Finetuning of current framework to accommodate new EU Taxonomy and EU Green Bond Standards
- •September 2020 : publication of the fist 2019 Sustainability Bond budget allocation report and impact reports

#### May 2020:

- Inaugural Social Bond Issuance
- •Extension of eligible expenditures to finance dedicated 2020 measures against COVID-19 pandemic and related socio-economic crisis.

#### April 2020:

• Second Sustainability Bond Issuance (48% Green – 52% Social)

2021:

• Publication of the Framework and SPO update

#### 2023

February: Région Wallonne issued a Social bond
June: Inaugural Green Bond Issuance

#### 2024:

February: Région Wallonne issued a Social bondMay: Région Wallonne issued a Social bond



#### Part. IV

### Wallonia Sustainable Strategy

Wallonia is committed to a sustainable development approach and to achieving the 17 SDGs. Since 2013, it has implemented three successive sustainable development strategies which have served as frameworks to encourage initiatives in this area by all Walloon actors - public and private. To support and accompany these actors in their transition towards sustainable development, the Region offers, among other measures, tools on the 17 SDGs and has launched, since 2020, "personalized coaching" for organizations of various kinds.

Third Walloon Sustainable Development Strategy (September 2022)

Commitment of all the Ministers of the Government to accelerate the implementation of the Global Agenda for Sustainable Development by 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Wallonia. The aim is to mobilize all Walloon stakeholders throughout 89 quantified objectives which are monitored with 91 indicators to evaluate progress. 16 transversal actions are therefore adopted by different groups of actors: local authorities, businesses and young people. Walloon Climate Change Adaptation Plan (April 2022)

The climate change adaptation plan in Wallonia aims to achieve several key objectives:

- Improve the region's resilience to the impacts of climate change by taking measures to reduce risks and vulnerabilities.
- Facilitate the transition to carbon neutrality by 2050, ensuring a just and socially equitable transition.
- Contribute to international climate financing, supporting global efforts to combat climate change.



#### Part. IV

## Sustainability Bond Framework overview

- The framework is aligned with ICMA, Green Bond Principles, Social Bond Principles and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (2021 edition)
- Initial versions of the Framework and Second Party Opinion are available on Wallonia website
  - ➢ <u>Framework</u>
  - > <u>SPO</u>
  - Funds Allocation & Impact Analysis Reports



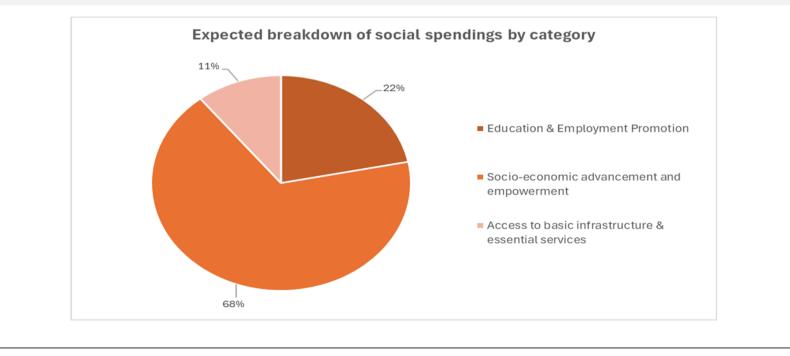
Use of Proceeds	Eligible Green and Social Expenditures related to a large number of assets, in line with the role of the Region, and targeting different beneficiaries: public entities, companies, communities, households and individuals
	Six Eligible Green Categories: Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency & Low Carbon Buildings, Sustainable Mobility, Sustainable Food & Consumption, Pollution Prevention and Control and Protection of Resources, Land and Biodiversity
	Four Eligible Social Categories: Education and Employment Promotion, Socioeconomic Advancement and Empowerment, Affordable Housing and Access to Essential Services and Basic Public Infrastructure
	Investment expenditures, operating expenditures, tax expenditures and R&D are eligible
	Nuclear and armament activities will all be excluded, without any exception.
	The selection of Eligible Green and Social Expenditures is annually managed and approved by the Sustainability Bond Committee (Inter-Ministerial working group)
Process for Project Evaluation and	Each time required, the Committee will request expertise support from Walloon administration (SPW) and public agencies (UAP) in charge of key environmental and/or social expenditures
Selection	The Committee is responsible for i) selecting and reviewing the pool of Eligible Green & Social Expenditures, ii) validating the effective disbursed amounts of Eligible Expenditures at the end of each fiscal year, iii) updating the framework (when necessary) & iv) deciding for new issuances under the framework
	Tracking the allocation of the bond proceeds will be done by an operational team reporting to the Sustainability Bond Committee.
Management of	Eligible Green and Social Expenditures are related to the current year (Current Expenditures) and the previous year (Recent Expenditures)
Proceeds	In order to avoid any possible double counting, the Committee will make sure that only expenditures net of any EU programs, Belgian Federal State grants, or other revenues earmarked for specific purposes, are eligible
	Budget allocation and impact report
Reporting	Annually until full allocation
	An independent auditor (EY) is appointed by Région Wallonne to ensure that the (re)allocation of net proceeds and the reporting commitments are compliant with the Framework and avoid any double accounting in this programmatic approach across the various issuances and budget exercises

## January 2025 Issuance

The Waloon region will issue a new conventional 10-year benchmark and a new social long-term benchmark.

The use of proceeds of the social long-term will be dedicated to Education & Employment promotion, Socio-economic advancement and

empowerment, and Access to basic infrastructure & essential services.





## Timeline Bond Issuances

Part. V



#### Part. V

### Summary of Wallonia outstanding benchmark size issues

#### SUSTAINABILITY, SOCIAL & GREEN BONDS

	WALLOO 0.250%	WALLOO 1.250%	WALLOO 0.500%	WALLOO 1.250%	WALLOO 1.050%	WALLOO 3.250%	WALLOO 3.500%	WALLOO 3.750%	WALLOO 3.000%	WALLOO 3.500%	WALLOO 3.900%	WALLOO 3.000%
THEMATIC ISSUES	SUSTAINABILITY 2026 Bond (7y)	SUSTAINABILITY 2034 Bond (15y)	SUSTAINABILITY 2030 Bond (10y)	SUSTAINABILITY 2034 Bond Tap	SOCIAL 2040 Bond (20y)	SOCIAL 2033 Bond (10y)	SOCIAL 2043 Bond (20y)	GREEN 2043 Bond (20y)	SOCIAL 2030 Bond (6y)	SOCIAL 2043 Bond (19y)	SOCIAL 2054 Bond (30y)	SOCIAL 2030 Bond (6y)
ISIN	BE6313645127	BE6313647149	BE0001795492	BE6313647149	BE0002709906	BE0002922038	BE0002923044	BE0002923044	BE0390103662	BE0002923044	BE0390135011	BE0390103662
Amount	€ 500 million	€ 500 million	€ 500 million	€ 200 million	€ 1 000 million	€ 1 000 million	€ 500 million	€ 700 million	€ 700 million	€ 800 million	€ 750 million	€ 300 million
Launch Date	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	25 <sup>th</sup> April 2019	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 2023	21 <sup>st</sup> June 2023	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2024	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2024
Maturity Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2026	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2034	8 <sup>th</sup> April 2030	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2034	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2040	22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2026	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2043	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2039	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2030	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2043	22 <sup>th</sup> June 2054	6 <sup>th</sup> May 2030
Coupon	0.250%	1.250%	0.500%	1.250%	1.050%	3.250%	3.500%	3.750%	3.000%	3.500%	3.900%	3.000%
Rate (all-in)	0.382%	1.265%	0.540%	0.797%	1.118%	3.376%	3.632%	3.786%	3.052%	3.714%	3.962%	3.072%
Spread vs OLO (all-in)	OLO + 32.3 bps	OLO + 37.6 bps	OLO + 47 bps	OLO + 50 bps	OLO + 56.4 bps	OLO + 45.9 bps	OLO + 46.65 bps	OLO + 45.7 bps	OLO + 47.5 bps	OLO + 44.8 bps	OLO + 35.6 bps	OLO + 41.3 bps
	Total in 2019 : € 1 000 million Total in 2020 : € 1 700 million				Total	in 2023 : € 2 200	million	Total in 2024 : € 2 550 million				
												Vallonie Finances Expertises

#### Part. V

### Summary of Wallonia outstanding benchmark size issues

#### **CONVENTIONAL BONDS**

	WALLOO 0.050% 06/22/2025	WALLOO 0.650% 01/16/2051	WALLOO 0.500% 06/22/2037	WALLOO 1.250% 06/22/2071	WALLOO 0.375% 10/22/2031	WALLOO 1.375% 04/06/2032	WALLOO 2.875% 01/14/2038
Conventional Issues	2025 Bond (5 year)	2051 Bond (30 year)	2037 Bond (16 year)	2071 Bond (50 year)	2031 Bond (10 year)	2032 Bond (10 year)	2038 Bond (15 year)
ISIN	BE0002708890	BE0002754357	BE0002778596	BE0002779602	BE0002816974	BE0002849306	BE0002877588
Amount	€ 1 000 million	€ 1 000 million	€ 700 million	€ 500 million	€ 1 000 million	€ 1 000 million	€ 1 000 million
Launch Date	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2020	25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	7 <sup>th</sup> Sep. 2022
Maturity Date	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2025	16 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2051	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2037	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2071	22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct. 2031	6 <sup>th</sup> April 2032	14 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2038
Coupon	0.050%	0.650%	0.500%	1.250%	0.375%	1.375%	2.875%
Rate (all-in)	0.061%	0.703%	0.629%	1.261%	0.405%	1.478%	2.937%
Spread vs OLO (all- in)	OLO + 43.00 bps	OLO + 38.00 bps	OLO + 32.5 bps	OLO + 35.0 bps	OLO + 29.00 bps	OLO + 34.9 bps	OLO + 40.6 bps
	Total in 2020 :	€ 2 000 million	т	otal in 2021 : € 2 200 millic	Total in 2022 :	€ 2 000 million	



## Debt Cell Walloon Region

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https://wfe.wallonie.be/fr/documentationinvestisseurs/

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