Flanders Environment Agency (VMM), Belgium, is participating in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour. The Dutch approach to the nitrogen problem is the focus of this study tour, which takes place from 23 to 25 November. What are the Flemish participants’ expectations of the Tour?

What does your organisation do?
"VMM works in the Flanders region in Belgium. One of the topics that our organisation has been involved in since 2002 is the acid deposition monitoring network. This measures and calculates wet and dry deposition. We report the results annually. The AN2000 project complements the acid deposition monitoring network, measuring ammonia in 105 Natura 2000 sites. In addition, we are using the Flemish OPS model (Operational model for Priority Substances). We can use this to estimate the total ammonia for the whole of Flanders, for example. In April 2014, Flanders started a Programmatic Approach to Nitrogen (PAS)."

PAS
"We are optimising the inventory of nitrogen emission for the PAS. We are doing this by optimising the existing EMAV model (Ammonia Emission Model for Flanders). In addition, we are working on linking the existing Flemish OPS model to the IFDM model. This will be the calculation model for permit authorisation. VMM also contributes to the monitoring of the PAS."

What are your expectations of the Dutch Nitrogen Tour?
"Participation in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour will be very useful for the PAS activities in Flanders. We hope to gain further insight into how the Dutch approach works and how its implementation is progressing. Tips are welcome."

European Union
"VMM considers cooperation with other EU Member States to be very important. It is interesting to learn what other countries plan to do about the nitrogen problem. There may be a lot of information exchange on this topic."
Bo van den Bril and Dominique Meremans
Bo van den Bril is responsible for VMM’s acid deposition monitoring network. She is also a member of the Programmatic Approach to Nitrogen (PAS) coordination office and the PAS Administrations steering committee, and chair of the PAS working group on monitoring and measurement techniques. Dominique Meremans is her replacement in the PAS. She has been involved in VMM’s work on measuring acidification and eutrophication since it started in 2002. She has also conducted a great deal of research on ammonia, such as lichen biomonitoring of ammonia in 2008. She is currently supporting the AN2000 project.

For more information on the Flanders Environment Agency (VMM) visit the [website](http://www.vmm.be).