

Municipality of Dessel

Local participation in radioactive waste management



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Mayor of Dessel, Flanders-Belgium
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How old is Belgium?

⦿ A 1585

⦿ B 1815

⦿ C 1830

The name of the first king?

- A Leopold I van Habsburg
- B Leopold I van Saksen Coburg
- C Leopold I van Orange Nassau

How many official languages?

- A Two: Dutch, French
- B Three: Dutch, French, German
- C Three: Dutch, French, English

The name of the Belgium soccerteam?

- A The Red Devils
- B The Red Lions
- C The Red Angels

They once played a European Final. It was in Italy in 1980

- A Against Italy
- B Against Spain
- C Against Germany

Dessel municipality



- 9.527 inhabitants
- 27 km²
- 352 inhabitants / km²
- 2 communities:
 - centre Dessel
 - Witgoor



Dessel municipality



Nuclear activities



- nuclear region Dessel-Mol-Geel 9 km²
- nuclear activities since 1952
- 7 nuclear companies
- 1950 people employed in 2003
1450 people employed in 2016
- total economical impact in the region:
1 billion euro
- population is used to nuclear presence



Tecnubel

BELG 
PROCESS





Profits for the municipality and people living in Dessel:

- Employment for local people which increases prosperity and welfare
- Local tax on the temporary storage of all the Belgian nuclear waste
 - = 1,9 million euro yearly only for Dessel
- total budget of municipality
 - = 14 million euro yearly

- Two other main taxes people have to pay in every municipality:
 - a percentage on the tax they have to pay to the national government
 - average = 8 % 680 eur
 - Dessel = 6 % 507 eur
 - additional percentage on the value of your house, your property
 - average = 1.600 add.% 528 eur
 - Dessel = 900 add.% 300 eur

People living in Dessel pay less tax !
400 euro yearly for a family

Belgian low level waste



- Until 1982 dumped in the ocean
- 80's and 90's search for a location
- 1998 federal government asked those municipalities with nuclear facilities to start a partnership
- 1999 Dessel was first to start
- 2000 Mol also started
- 2004 Fleurus-Farciennes
- Doel and Tihange (power plants) didn't

Local participation



- 1999: set up partnership « STOLA »
- large representation of Dessel community:
all active social, economical and
political organisations are member
- STORA: total of 62 members
 - > 52 represent a local organisation
 - > 10 individuals

Who is represented?



- local **social** organisations:
 - environmental council
 - jouth council
 - sports council
 - cultural council
 - family association
 - rural association
 - several Christian inspired associations
(women, workers, 55+)

Who is represented?



- local **economical** organisations:
 - self-employed
 - syndicate organisations
 - large companies

Who is represented?



- local **political** parties:
 - active in the municipal council
 - division conforming local elections
- municipal council takes final decision
 - decision to participate in partnership
 - decision to be candidate for disposal

- political changes in Dessel:

1995-2000	CD&V	7 seats	
	N-VA	5 seats	<i>mayor</i>
	D'82	7 seats	
2001-2006	CD&V	6 seats	<i>mayor</i>
	D'82	5 seats	
	N-VA	8 seats	
2007-2012	N-VA	11 seats	<i>mayor</i>
	CD&V	5 seats	
	D'82	3 seats	
2013-2018	N-VA	13 seats	<i>mayor</i>
	CD&V	5 seats	
	D&W	2 seats	
	SP	1 seat	

Who is represented?



- **inhabitants** of Dessel:
 - interested individuals
 - active in 4 working groups STORA:
 - siting & design
 - local development
 - environment & health
 - safety

Involving larger population

- newsletter door to door
- article in municipal information booklet
- website www.stola.org
- information campaigns at local events
- small-scale polls
- debates



Why Dessel participated?

- temporary storage of radioactive waste is already in Dessel
- no disposal site = no solution for waste
- power of the locals to abort the process
- possibility to impose local conditions (yet to be elaborated)

The result of the partnership

- 2004 STOLA finished her report
- 2005 municipality council agreed
- 2006 federal government decided:
 - surface disposal site in Dessel
 - local conditions (Dessel and Mol) will be met
 - continued local participation
- 2007 STOLA became STORA
Working out the plans (cAt-project)
and conditions made by STOLA



www.stora.org

www.dessel.be