

## REPORT TO THE WALLOON PARLIAMENT

### Business parks in the Walloon Region



The Belgian Court of Audit has examined the Walloon Region's policy on business parks.

The Walloon Region defines the business parks' perimeters and subsidises the equipment and rehabilitation works carried out by certified operators.

The creation of business parks has not been part of an economic development vision for the Region. The lack of strategic steering is notably due to a number of factors such as an insufficient knowledge of the existing situation, the absence of consensus on a method for assessing needs and the obsolete spatial planning. The Court has identified several obstacles to the development of the business parks economic activity: their insufficient capacity to accommodate large companies, their low attractiveness, a lack of reactivity for adjusting the supply to the needs and the poor visibility of the supply. It has also pointed out the constraints and risks that come with the enforcement of a spatial planning policy focusing on limiting land artificialisation.

The Court considers that the efforts to promote sustainable development in business parks must be intensified. Possible improvements would be to increase park density and pool the infrastructures and services.

Finally, the Court has noted a lack of transparency in the use of the public funds allocated to the policy on business parks and has highlighted a number of irregularities in the granting of certain subsidies.