



From yesterday's Wallonia, we are creating tomorrow's

SAFEA

La Louvière

The SAFEA site is located at Houdeng-Goegnies, within the limits of the city of La Louvière. It is close to two major motorways, the E42 and the E19, as well as an important waterway, the Central canal. It has been rehabilitated by SPAQuE as part of the Marshall Plan. The greater part of the site will be devoted to activities linked to logistics with the development of Garocentre, a multi-modal logistics platform developed by IDEA. On the former confined slag heap, SPAQuE has built a photovoltaic power plant.



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The rehabilitation work lasted from 2005 to 2011. It first comprised cutting down trees, then selectively dismantling the infrastructure still present. The materials from this dismantling, that could not be reused on-site were removed to approved processing centres.

Then the contaminated soil (essentially poly and monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, mineral oils as well as cyanides) were excavated from the "factory area" and removed to approved processing centres. The excavations were refilled. The "waste area" was rehabilitated : a waterproof surface capping was laid, a drain dug to recover polluted ground water, a water treatment plant built and the landscape redeveloped.



Prior to rehabilitation

A number of derelict buildings and equipment still remain on-site and abundant vegetation has overgrown it.



Two areas

The site was split into two separate areas: The "factory area" to the North-West and the "waste area" to the west. The latter being confined.



The "waste area"

Starting in 1978, a part of the site was used as a waste dump. Three hundred thousand cubic metres of industrial waste (slag and smelting waste, scrap, tar coated waste, roll scale, etc.) were dumped there during the 1980s and 1990s.



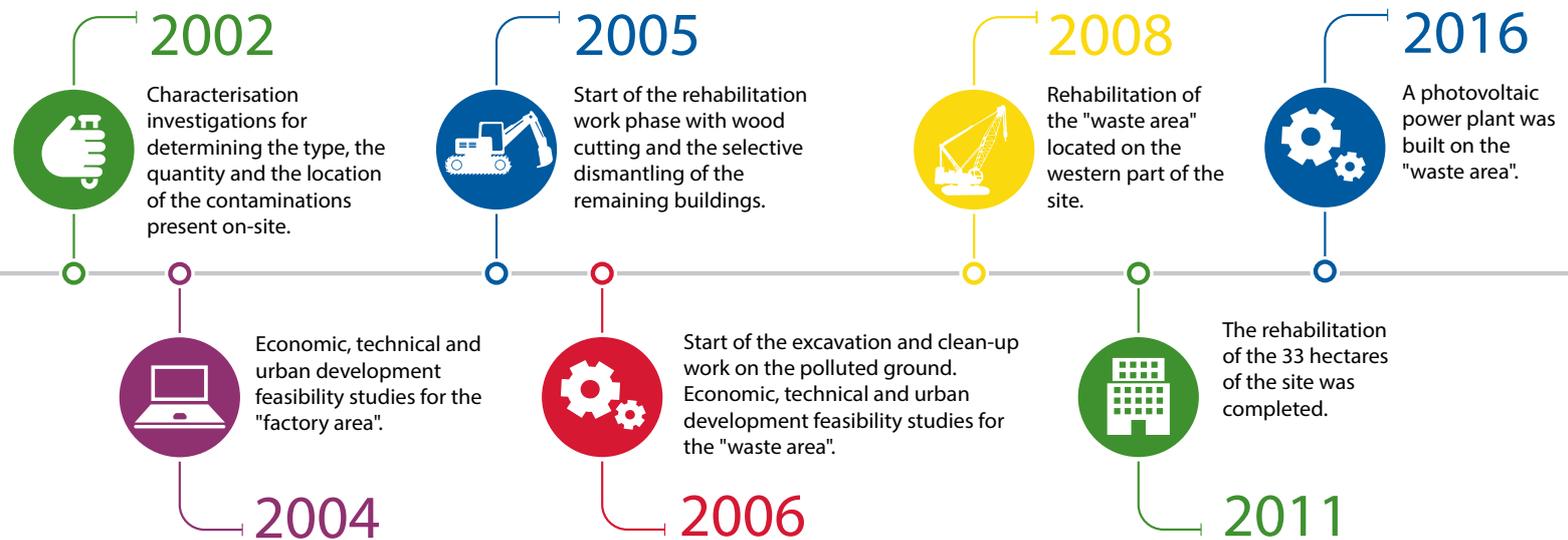
Pollution

The characterisation studies highlighted, the presence essentially of poly and monocyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, mineral oils as well as cyanides in the soil and the water, with additionally the levels for sulphates and ammonium being exceeded.

A short history

In 1929, a factory manufacturing nitrogen-based fertiliser was set up on the site. Whereas in the 1930s the SAFEA factory only handled cleaning gas from coke ovens. Fertiliser production restarted during the second half of the 1940s, stopping in 1978. Part of the installations were still used to produce oxygen and for storing gas. The remainder of the site (western section) was converted into an industrial waste dump. In 1991, a new 50.000 m³ capacity gasholder was constructed.

Several reference points...



SPAQuE's assignment

Rehabilitating the 64.2 hectares of this site allows extending Garocentre, a multi-modal logistics platform developed by IDEA, a local authority.

For its part, SPAQuE has built a photovoltaic power plant on the "waste area" that has the potential to produce more than 1,000 MWh per year.





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The rehabilitation of the 64.2 hectares of this highly polluted brownfield industrial site – where chemical fertilisers were produced until the end of the 1970s – was undertaken thanks to Marshall Plan finance. From an economic retasking point of view, this site is ideally located close to the E42 (Wallonia) and E19 (Brussels-Valenciennes-Paris) motorways and the Canal du Centre (Brussels-Charleroi-Mons) canal.

The site in figures

- Total surface area : 64.2 hectares
- Owner : SPAQuE
- Financing : Marshall Plan
- Duration of the rehabilitation work : 9 years
- Category : Disused industrial estate (Site d'activité économique désaffecté or SAED)
- City : La Louvière (Houdeng-Goegnies)
- Province : Hainaut

Project for economic development

In the sector plan, the site is to be taken over as an industrial estate.

The greater part of the site will be devoted to activities linked to logistics with the development of Garocentre (a multi-modal logistics platform developed by IDEA). SPAQuE has used the potential of the “waste area” for producing solar power.



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