

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Correction of the date

COM(76) 118 final/2

Brussels, 27 Avril 1976

Proposal for a Council Decision  
establishing a uniform procedure for the exchange  
of information on the quality of surface fresh water  
in the Community

(presented by the Commission to the Council).

### SUMMARY

The purpose of the proposal for a decision set out below is to establish a uniform procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community.

It is based on the principles set out in the European Communities action programme on the environment, adopted by the Council on 22 November 1973 (OJ N° C 112, 1973).

To achieve this objective this proposal for a decision provides, in particular for the communication to the Commission, through a central agency, of information on the quality of water sampled by the measuring stations and selected by the Member States.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. Introduction

This Decision concerns the introduction by the Member States and the Commission of a system for the exchange of information on the data collected by the regional and national networks responsible for the surveillance and monitoring of surface fresh water pollution. The system involves a number of parameters and substances which are indicators for the quality of water.

This Decision falls within the European Communities environment programme (1), which provides for the exchange of information between the pollution surveillance and monitoring networks (part II, title I, Chapter 3, section 1).

The action programme stipulates that the purpose of Community action is :

- to organize and develop technical exchanges between the regional and national pollution surveillance and monitoring networks and to adopt all appropriate measures to improve the efficiency, accuracy and comparative value of the devices already set up.
- to investigate, when appropriate, the desirability of setting up a system of exchanges of information on the data collected by the networks and in such cases to entrust to the Commission the analysis, for the purpose of interpretation on a Community basis, of the data collected by the national networks.
- to facilitate the inclusion of the existing networks in the Community into the framework of the global monitoring system contemplated by the United Nations.

---

(1) O.J. N° C 112, 20 December 1973, p. 15.

## 2. Comments on the Decision

### 2.1. Procedure for drawing up the Decision

The Commission convened a Group of national experts to help with the technical aspects of the Decision.

The Group, which met five times, provided information on the existing sampling stations, the parameters measured and the rivers monitored in the Member States. It advised the Commission on the list of parameters to be taken into consideration at Community level and on the criteria to be adopted for the selection of sampling or measuring stations along the principal national and international rivers.

### 2.2. Objectives of this Decision

The organisation at Community level of exchanges of information on the data selected will make it possible to establish the pollution levels of the rivers and watercourses in the Community, to ascertain the temporal and spatial patterns of those levels and to assess the impact of the national and Community water pollution control regulations.

If the information on the data exchanged between the national surveillance and monitoring networks is to be comparable, the data must be accurate (1) to within 20 %.

Such exchanges of information will also lay the foundations for a Community water pollution monitoring network and could perhaps constitute a component of the global environmental monitoring system provided for in the United Nations environment programme.

### 2.3. Sampling or measuring stations and list of rivers

The sampling or measuring stations and the rivers taken into consideration for the application of this decision are listed in Annex I.

The sampling or measuring stations were selected on the basis of certain criteria the most important of which are listed below.

---

(1) The degree of accuracy is the difference between the true figure and the value obtained by using a given measuring method.

The stations are :

- in existence and already providing information periodically.
- at points which fairly represent the conditions in the vicinity and are not subject to the direct and immediate effect of a pollution source.
- capable of assessing all the parameters considered.
- in general, not more than 100 km apart on the principal rivers, excluding tributaries.
- upstream of confluences and not below the tide limit.

In a second stage more rivers could be added to the list in the light of experience and depending on whether new sampling or measuring stations have been set up.

#### 2.4. Data and parameters to be taken into consideration for the exchange of information

The parameters on which information is to be exchanged are set out in Annex II. The parameters adopted make it possible to determine the physical, chemical and microbiological properties of the water.

In an initial stage the exchanges of information referred to in this proposal will relate only to those parameters already measured in the Member States.

Other parameters may be taken into consideration in a second stage, in the light of experience.

The radioactivity parameters are excluded from this proposal. They are to be measured under the provisions in force on the Member States, in compliance with the basic standards set out in the Euratom Treaty.

The parametric data listed in Annex II are to be transmitted to the Commission through<sup>2</sup> national coordinating body.

#### 2.5. Information to be transmitted to the Commission

If a meaningful comparison is to be made between the data at Community level, the information transmitted by the agencies must include not only the numerical data on the parameters listed in Annex II but also a description :

- of the measuring methods used
- of the sampling procedures, e.g. depth at which samples are taken, distance from the bank, etc. In every case the water sample must fairly represent the quality of the water at the sampling point
- of the sampling and sample preservation methods, plus any other relevant information.

2.6. Central agency responsible for collecting information at national level

Each Member State is to designate a central agency responsible on its national territory for collecting and transmitting to the Commission the data on the parameters set out in Annex II and for receiving via the Commission the data from the other Member States. The list of central agencies is set out in Annex III.

2.7. Frequency of the transmission of data to the Commission

The Member States will inform the Commission of the results of the measurements and of the frequency of sampling. This information will be transmitted at least once every six months.

The Commission will draw up and publish an annual consolidated report based on the information sent in by each central agency. It will send a draft report to the central agencies for checking. The final version will be sent to the Member States.

3. Consultation of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee

As no provision is made in the EEC Treaty for the powers required for the adoption of this decision, Article 235 of the Treaty is invoked.

The opinion of the European Parliament is required pursuant to that Article. The Economic and Social Committee should also be consulted.

PROPOSAL FOR A  
COUNCIL DECISION

establishing a uniform procedure for the exchange  
of information on the quality of surface fresh water in  
the Community

---

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

Whereas the programme of action of the European Communities on the environment (1) provides for the introduction of a procedure for the exchange of information between the pollution surveillance and monitoring networks,

Whereas such a procedure is necessary to determine the pollution levels of the rivers in the Community and consequently to lay down guidelines for the control of pollution and nuisances, which is one of the Community's objectives in respect of the improvement of living conditions and the harmonious development of economic activities throughout the Community; whereas no provision is made in the Treaty for the specific powers required for this purpose;

Whereas such an exchange of information on pollution levels is one of the means of monitoring the long-term trends and the improvements resulting from the application of current national and Community rules;

Whereas the exchange of information provided for in this Decision would lay the foundations for a system for monitoring surface fresh water pollution at Community level and could constitute a component of the global environmental monitoring system provided for in the United Nations environment programme;

Whereas the measurements taken should make it possible to obtain values for the parameters under consideration;

Whereas to attain these objectives the Member States must transmit to the Commission through the intermediary of their central agencies certain parametric data relating to surface fresh water; whereas the Commission will draw up a consolidated report for transmission to the Member States;

Whereas technical progress requires that the technical specifications defined in Annexes I and II to this Decision be modified expeditiously; whereas, to facilitate the implementation of the measures required for this purpose, provision must be made for a procedure establishing close cooperation between the Member States and the Commission within the Committee on the adaptation of this Decision to technical progress,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION.

---

(1) O.J. n° C 112, 20 December 1973, p. 15.



- 7 -

Article 1

A uniform procedure for the exchange of information on the quality of surface fresh water in the Community is hereby established.

Article 2

1. For the purpose of this Decision :

- a) the term "surface fresh water" means all running or stagnant fresh water within the territory of one or more Member States;
- b) the term "sampling or measuring stations" means the stations listed in Annex I.

2. The parametric data listed in column 1 of Annex II and to be the subject of the exchange of information shall be :

- a) the results of the measurements effected by the sampling or measuring stations;
- b) the description of the sampling, sample preservation and measuring methods and any other information useful for the purposes of a significant comparison between the information to be exchanged.

The information comprising these descriptions shall be transmitted on standard forms drawn up by the Commission after consulting the Member States.

Article 3

1. The data referred to in Article 2 (2) shall be transmitted to the Commission through the intermediary of the central agency in each Member State, as listed in Annex III.
2. The data shall be presented according to the modes of expression and the significant figures contained in columns 2 and 3 of Annex II.
3. The data shall be transmitted to the Commission at least twice a year and in any case within six months of the measurements being effected.
4. The Commission shall draw up an annual consolidated report containing these data. The draft of this report shall be sent to the central agency in each Member State for verification purposes. The final version shall be transmitted to the Member States.

Article 4

1. Member States shall transmit the data referred to in Article 2 (2) through the intermediary of their central agencies for the first time within the twelve months following the notification of this Decision.

2. The first data to be exchanged shall be that available in the twelve months preceding the notification of this Decision.

#### Article 5

Annexes I, II and III to this Decision shall form an integral part of the Decision.

#### Article 6

The amendments required to adapt the following to technical progress :

- the list of sampling or measuring stations contained in Annex I
- the parameters, their modes of expression and their significant figures set out in Annex II

shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure prescribed in Article 8.

#### Article 7

1. A Committee for the adaptation of this Decision to technical progress (hereinafter called the "Committee"), is hereby set up and shall consist of representatives of the Member States with a representative of the Commission as Chairman.
2. The Committee shall adopt its own rules of procedure.

#### Article 8

1. Where the procedure laid down in this Article is to be followed, the matter shall be referred to the Committee by its Chairman, either on his own initiative or at the request of a representative of a Member State.
2. The representative of the Commission shall submit to the Committee a draft of the measures to be taken. The Committee shall give its Opinion on that draft within a time limit set by the Chairman having regard to the urgency of the matter. Opinions shall be delivered by a majority of 41 votes, the votes of the Member States being weighted as provided in Article 148 (2) of the Treaty. The Chairman shall not vote.
3. a) Where the measures envisaged are in accordance with the Opinion of the Committee the Commission shall adopt them.

- b) Where the measures envisaged are not in accordance with the Opinion of the Committee, or if no Opinion is delivered, the Commission shall without delay submit to the Council a proposal on the measures to be taken. The Council shall act by a qualified majority.
  
- c) If within three months of the proposal being submitted to it the Council has not acted, the proposed measures shall be adopted by the Commission.

Article 9

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Council

The President.

ANNEX I

LIST OF SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS INVOLVED  
IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

—oOo—

- 1) The number in parenthesis after the name of the sampling or measuring station shows the geographical location of the station in the plan of the national network.
- 2) The name of the river on which the station is located is given after the name of the sampling or measuring station.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS	LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Treia</u> (1) : 37 km upstream of the confluence with the Elber	TREIENE
<u>Geenthacht</u> (2) : 585,9 km downstream of the entry of the river into the Federal Republic of Germany	ELBE
<u>Veckerhagen</u> (3) : 11 km downstream of the confluence of the Fulda and the Werra	WESER
<u>Intschedeel</u> (4) : 331.2 km downstream of the confluence of the Fulda and the Werra	
<u>Maxau</u> (5) : 362.3 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance	RHINE
<u>Koblenz</u> (6) : 592,6 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance	
<u>Emmerich</u> (7) : 865.4 km downstream of the Rhine bridge at Constance at the point where the river leaves the Federal Republic of Germany	
<u>Mainberg</u> (8) : 343 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	MAIN
<u>Kosteln</u> (9) : 0.5 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	
<u>Bug</u> (10) : 8 km upstream of the confluence with the Main	REGNITZ
<u>Bad Vilbel</u> (11) : 22 km upstream of the confluence with the Main	NIDDA
<u>Bingen</u> (12) : 1.5 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	NAHE
<u>Koblenz</u> (13) : 1.2 km upstream of the confluence with the Rhine	MOSELLE
<u>Goch</u> (14) : 21.4 km upstream of the confluence with the Meuse	NIERS
<u>Frenckofen</u> (15) : 2.203 km upstream of the mouth	DONAU
<u>Jochenstein</u> (16) : 2.352 km upstream of the mouth	

BELGIUM

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS		LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Warneton</u>	(1) : downstream of the confluence with the Doule	LYS
<u>Leers-Nord</u>	(2) : at the point where the river enters Belgium	ESPIERRE
<u>Leers-Nord</u>	(3) : at the point where the river enters Belgium	CANAL ESPIERRE
<u>Bléharies</u>	(4) : at the point where the river enters Belgium	ESCAUT
<u>Antoing</u>	(5) : a few kms downstream of the point where the river enters Belgium	
<u>Erquelines</u>	(6) : at the point where the river enters Belgium	SAMBRE
<u>Heer-Agimont</u>	(7) : at the point where the river enters Belgium	MEUSE
<u>Visé</u>	(8) : at the point where the river leaves Belgium	
<u>Martelange</u>	(9) : at the point where the river leaves Belgium	SURE
<u>Zelzate</u>	(10) : at the point where the river leaves Belgium	OIDENT-TERNEUZEM Canal

DENMARK

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS		LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Lellinge</u>	(1) _____	KØGE
<u>Lille Linde</u>	(2)	TRYGGEVÆLDE
<u>Nrby</u>	(3)	SUSA
<u>Nr. Broby</u>	(4)	ODENSE
<u>Hovedvej</u>	(5)	SPANG
<u>Tvilum bro</u>	(6)	GUDEN

FRANCE

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS		LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Méry</u>	(1) : upstream of the confluence with the Aube (St 6.000)	SEINE
<u>Montereau</u>	(2) : upstream of the confluence with the Yonne (St 14.000)	
<u>Melun</u>	(3) : (St 47.000)	
<u>Paris</u>	(4) : Toliao Bridge (St 81.000)	
<u>St Rambert</u>	(5) : Andrezieux Bridge downstream of St Rambert (St 9.000)	LOIRE
<u>Roanne</u>	(6) : Villecrest Bridge upstream of Roanne (St 13.000)	
<u>Roanne</u>	(7) : Pouilly Bridge downstream of Roanne (St 15.000)	
<u>Orléans</u>	(8) : downstream of Orléans (St 51.000)	
<u>Nantes</u>	(9) : upstream of Nantes (St 137.000)	
<u>Toulouse</u>	(10) : downstream of Toulouse (St 161.000)	LA GARONNE
<u>Lamagistère</u>	(11) : downstream of the confluence with the Aveyron (St 117.000)	
<u>Couthures</u>	(12) : near Couthures, downstream of the confluence with the Avance (St 81.000)	
<u>Auxonne</u>	(13) : France Bridge (St 11.000)	SAONE
<u>Mulatière</u>	(14) : upstream of the confluence with the Rhône (St 59.000)	
<u>Pont Carnot</u>	(15) : downstream of Lake Geneva and upstream of the Génissiat Dam (St 67.000)	RHONE
<u>Lyon</u>	(16) : upstream of the confluence with the Saône at the Poincarré Bridge (St 93.000)	
<u>Chasse</u>	(17) : downstream of Lyon and of the confluence with the Saône (St 98.000)	
<u>St Vallier</u>	(18) : upstream of the confluence with the Isère (St 104.000)	

I R E L A N D

<u>SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS</u>		<u>LIST OF RIVERS</u>
<u>Slane Bridge</u>	(1): Approximately 12 km of NAVAN (N 9674)	BOYNE
<u>Corofin Bridge</u>	(2): Approximately 19 km downstream of TUAM (M 4243)	CLARE
<u>Graiguenamanagh Bridge</u>	(3): Approximately 29 km downstream of Bagenalstown (S 7144)	BARROW
<u>Killavullen Bridge</u>	(4): Approximately 13 km downstream of Mallow (W 6599)	BLACKWATER (Munster)

I T A L Y

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS		LIST OF RIVERS
Torino	(1) : ___ upstream of Torino	PO
	(2) : ___ downstream of Torino	"
Province of Alessan-	(3) :	"
dria		
"	<u>Pavia</u> (4)	"
"	Cremona (5)	"
"	Mantova (6)	"
"	Ferrara (7)	"
"	Rovigo (8)	"
"	Bolzano (9)	ADIGE
"	Trento (10)	"
"	Verona (11)	"
"	Rovigo (12)	"
"	Arezzo (13)	ARNO
	Firenze (14) : upstream of Firenze	"
	(15) : downstream of Firenze	"
"	Pisa (16)	"
	Perugia (17) : upstream of Perugia	TEVERE
	(18) : downstream of <u>Perugia</u>	"
"	Orte (19)	"
"	Roma (20) : upstream of Roma	"
	(21) : downstream of Roma	"
"	Pesaro (22) : Vasca S. Lazzaro	METAURO
"	" (23) : Piobbico	"



GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS	LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Wasserbillig</u> : upstream of the confluence with the Moselle	SURE

NETHERLANDS

SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS	LIST OF RIVERS
<u>Lobith</u> (1)	DOVEN RIJN
<u>Kampen</u> (2)	IJssel
<u>Gorinchem</u> (3)	BOVEN MERWEDE
<u>Vreeswijk</u> (4)	LEK
<u>Alblasserdam</u> (5)	NOORD
<u>Eijsden</u> (6)	MEUSE
<u>Lith</u> (7)	MEUSE
<u>Koizersveer</u> (8)	BERGSCHE MAAS
<u>H 9</u> (9)	HARINGVLIET
<u>H 12</u> (10)	
<u>IJ 17</u> (11)	KETELDIEP
<u>IJ 10</u> (12)	Lake IJssel

UNITED KINGDOM

<u>SAMPLING OR MEASURING STATIONS</u>		<u>LIST OF RIVERS</u>
<u>Chollerford</u>	(1) : 6 km upstream of the confluence (NY 919 706)	N TYNE
<u>Warden Bridge</u>	(2) : 800 m. upstream of the confluence (NY 910 660)	S TYNE
<u>Wylam Bridge</u>	(3) : immediately upstream of the tide limit (NZ 119 645)	TYNE
<u>Above Derwenthaugh</u>	(4) : 1.3 upstream of the tide limit (NZ 187 607)	DERWENT
<u>Whitford Bridge</u>	(5) : 3 km upstream of the tide limit (SY 262 953)	AXE
<u>Tregony Gauging Station</u>	(6) : 6 km upstream of the tide limit (SW 921 445)	FAL
<u>Devoran Bridge</u>	(7) : immediately upstream of the tide limit (SW 791 394)	CARNON
<u>Above Forge Weir Halton</u>	(8) : 1.5 upstream of the tide limit (SD 514 648)	LUNE
<u>Above St Michael's Weir</u>	(9) : immediately upstream of the tide limit (SD 462 411)	WYRE
<u>Samlesbury</u>	(10) : 1.5 km upstream of the tide limit (SD 589 304)	RIDDLE
<u>Teddington Weir</u>	(11) : (TQ 171 714)	THAMES
<u>Chetwynd</u>	(12) : (SK 187 138)	TAME
<u>Nottingham</u>	(13) : (SK 581 383)	TRENT
<u>Yoxall</u>	(14) : (SK 131 177)	TRENT
<u>Doat o'Brig</u>	(15) : 11 km upstream of the tide limit (NJ 318 517)	SPEY
<u>Craigiehall</u>	(16) : 3 km upstream of the tide limit (NT 165 752)	ALMOND
<u>Renton Footbrige</u>	(17) : immediately upstream of the tide limit (NS 389 783)	LEVEN

ANNEX II

PARAMETERS IN RESPECT OF WHICH INFORMATION IS TO BE EXCHANGED.

Modes of expression and significant figures for the parametric data

Parameter	1)	How expressed	Significant figures	
			Before the decimal point	After the decimal point
Physical	Instantaneous rate of flow	m <sup>3</sup> /sec	x x x	
	Temperature	°C	x x	x
	pH	pH	x x	x
	Conductivity	µS cm <sup>-1</sup> at 20°C	{ < 100 } x x { > 100 } x x x	
Chemical	Chlorides	Cl mg/l	{ < 100 } x x { > 100 } x x x	
	Nitrates	NO <sup>3</sup> mg/l	x x x	x x
	Ammonia	NH <sub>4</sub> mg/l	x x x	x x
	dissolved O <sub>2</sub> (instantaneous)	O <sub>2</sub> mg/l	x x	x
	B O D <sub>5</sub>	O <sub>2</sub> mg/l	x x x	x
	C O D	O <sub>2</sub> mg/l	x x x	x
	Total phosphate	P mg/l	x x	x x
	Surfactants reacting to methylene blue	Sodium lauryl sulphate eq. mg/l	x x	x x
	Substances extractable with chloroform	S.E.C. mg/l	x x x	x x
Dissolved cadmium	Cd mg/l	x	x x x x	

1) Other parameters, in particular those relating to the biological quality of the water, may be added to those set out in this Annex, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 8 of this Decision.

	Parameter	How expressed	Significant figures	
			Before the decimal point	After the decimal point
Microbiological	Fecal coliforms	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Total coliforms (1)	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Fecal streptococci (1)	/ 100 ml	xxxxxx	
	Salmonella (1)	/ 1 l.		

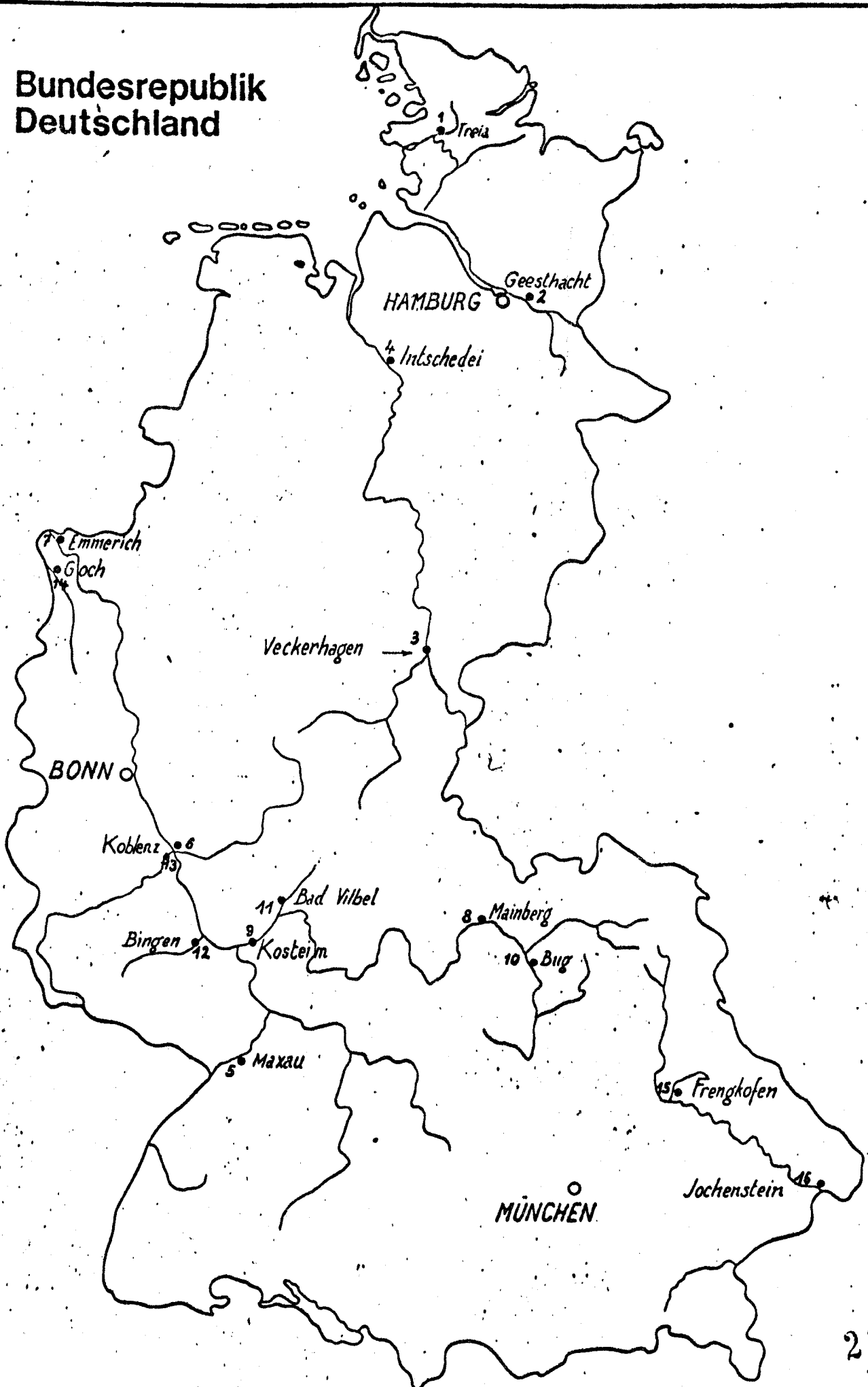
(1) The data relating to total coliforms, fecal streptococci and salmonella are exchanged between the networks if they are measured by the sampling stations.

ANNEX III

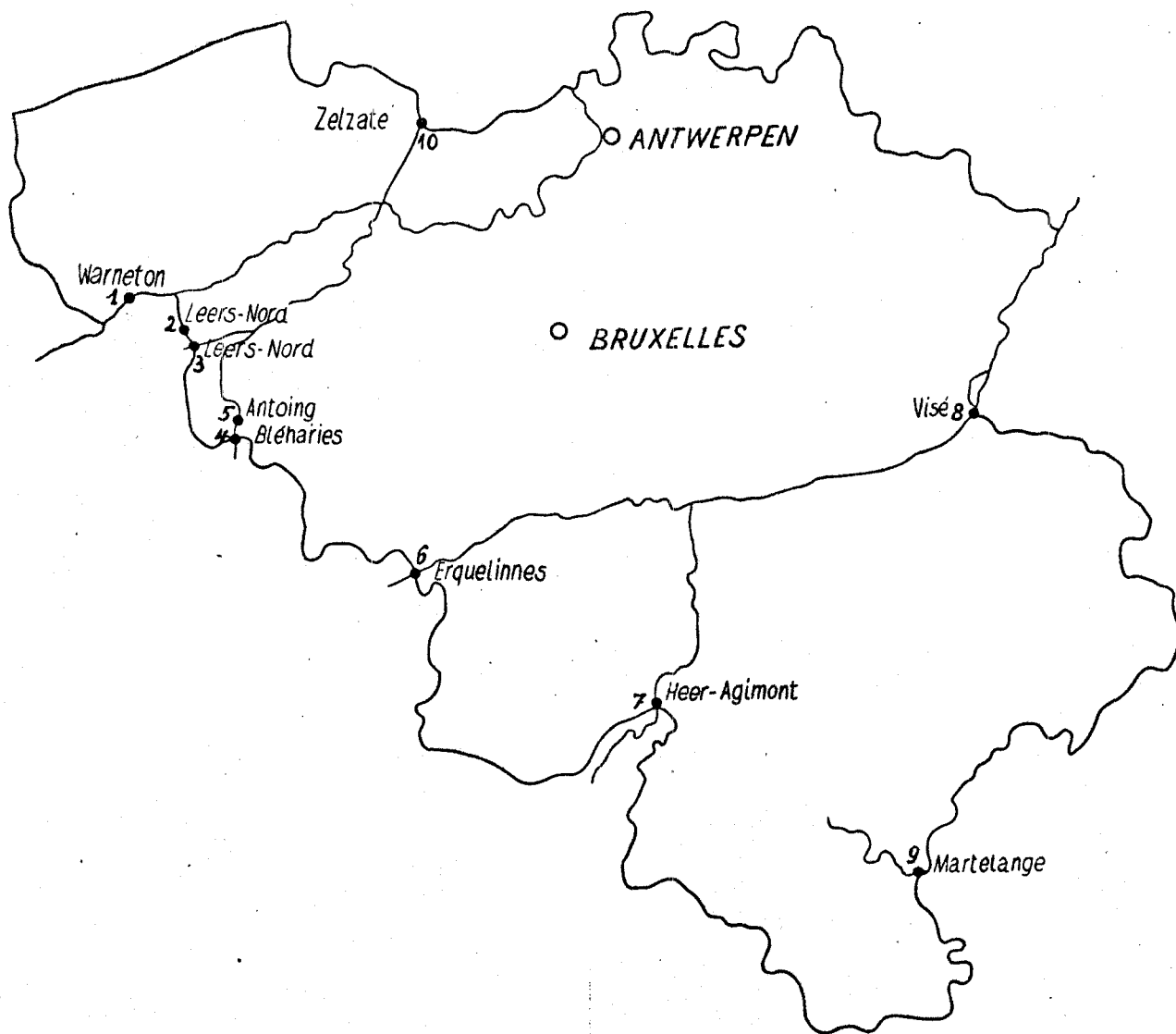
CENTRAL AGENCIES IN THE MEMBER STATES

- Federal Republic of Germany** : Bundesministerium des Innern  
: 198, Rheindorferstrasse  
D 53 Bonn
- Denmark** : Agency of Environmental Protection  
Kampmannsgade 1  
1604 Copenhagen V.
- Belgium** : Institut d'Hygiène et d'Epidémiologie  
Département de l'Environnement  
14, rue Juliette Wytsman  
1050 Bruxelles
- France** : Ministère de la Qualité de la Vie  
Direction de la Prévention des Pollutions  
et Nuisances - Service des problèmes de l'eau  
14, Bd du Général Leclerc  
92.200 Neuilly
- Ireland** : An Foras Forbartha Teoranta  
St Martin's House  
Waterloo Road  
Dublin 4
- Italy** : Ministero della Sanità  
via Liszt, 34  
Roma
- Grand Duchy of Luxembourg** : Institut d'Hygiène et de Santé Publique  
: Laboratoire des eaux  
1a, rue Auguste Lumière  
Luxembourg
- Netherlands** : Rijksinstituut voor Zuivering van afvalwater  
Maarlant, 5  
Lelystad
- United Kingdom** : Department de l'Environnement  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1.P. E EB

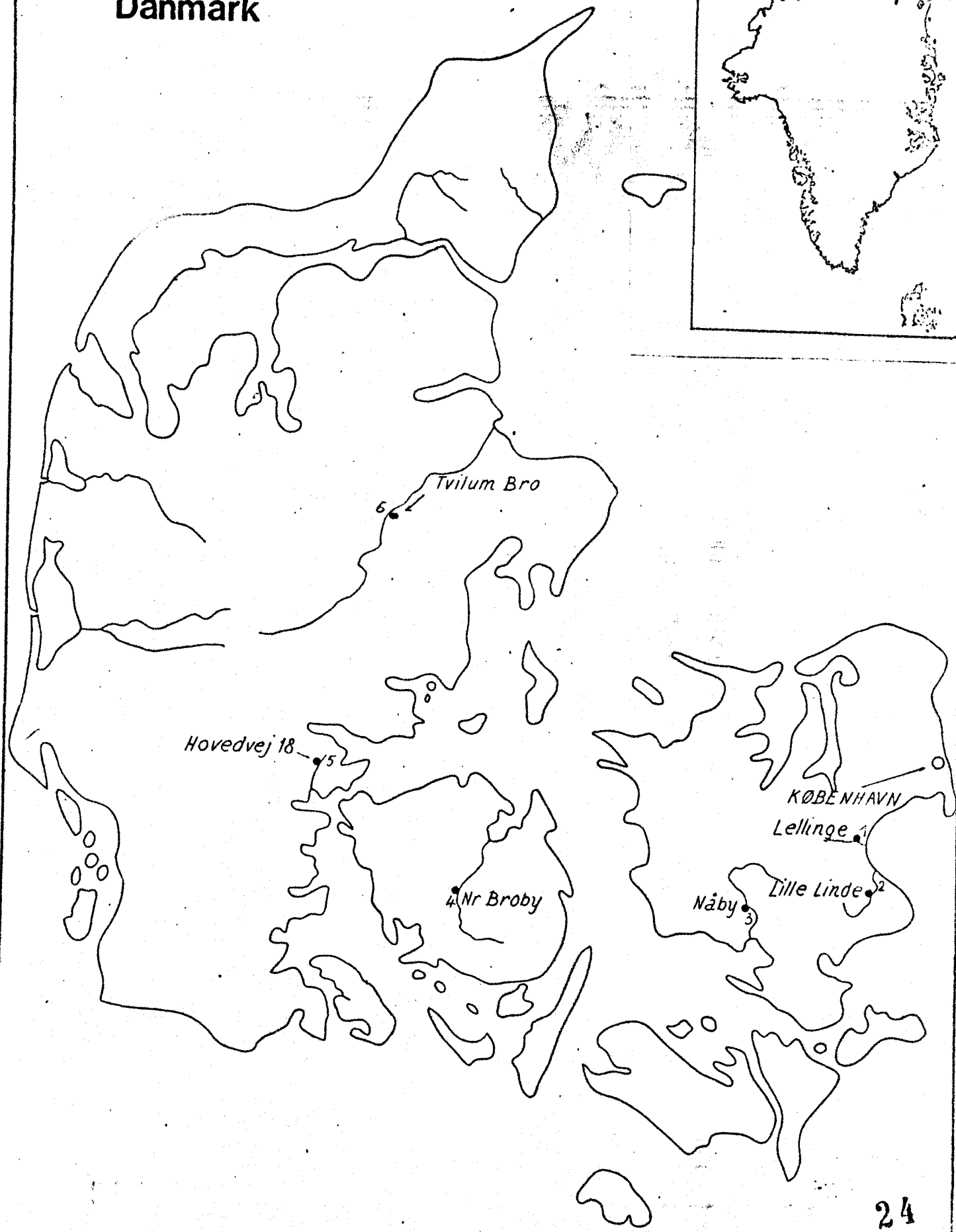
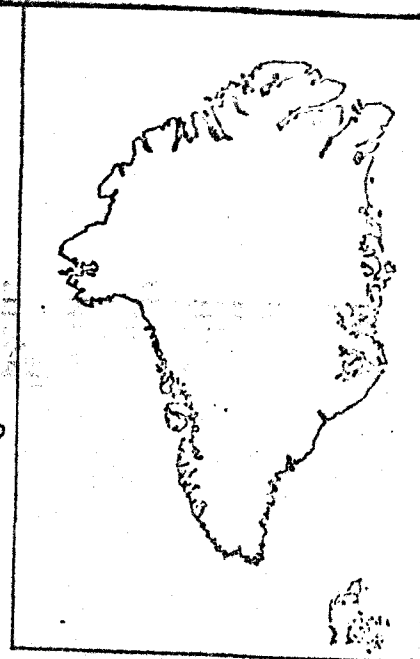
Bundesrepublik  
Deutschland



# Belgique

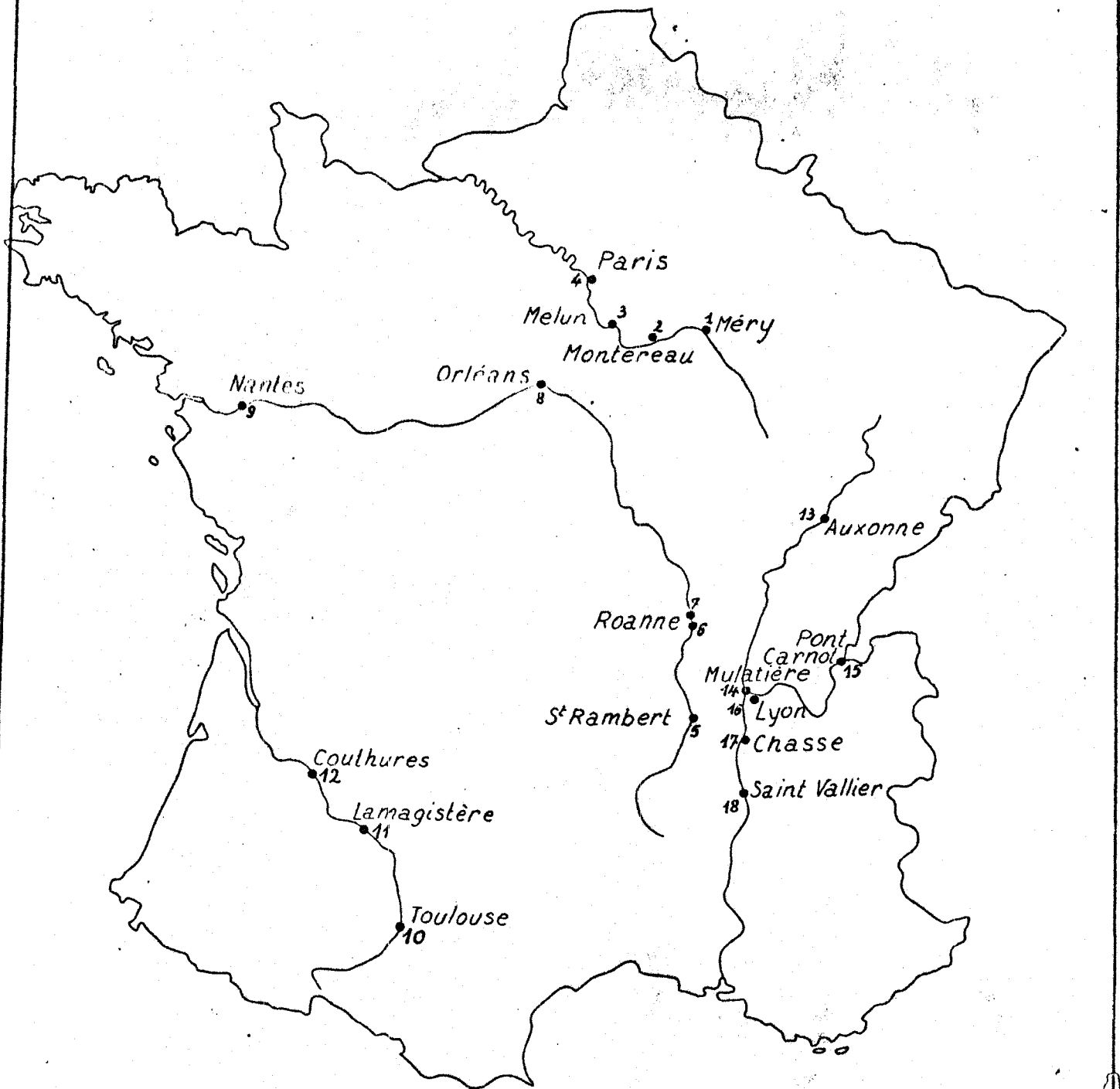


# Danmark

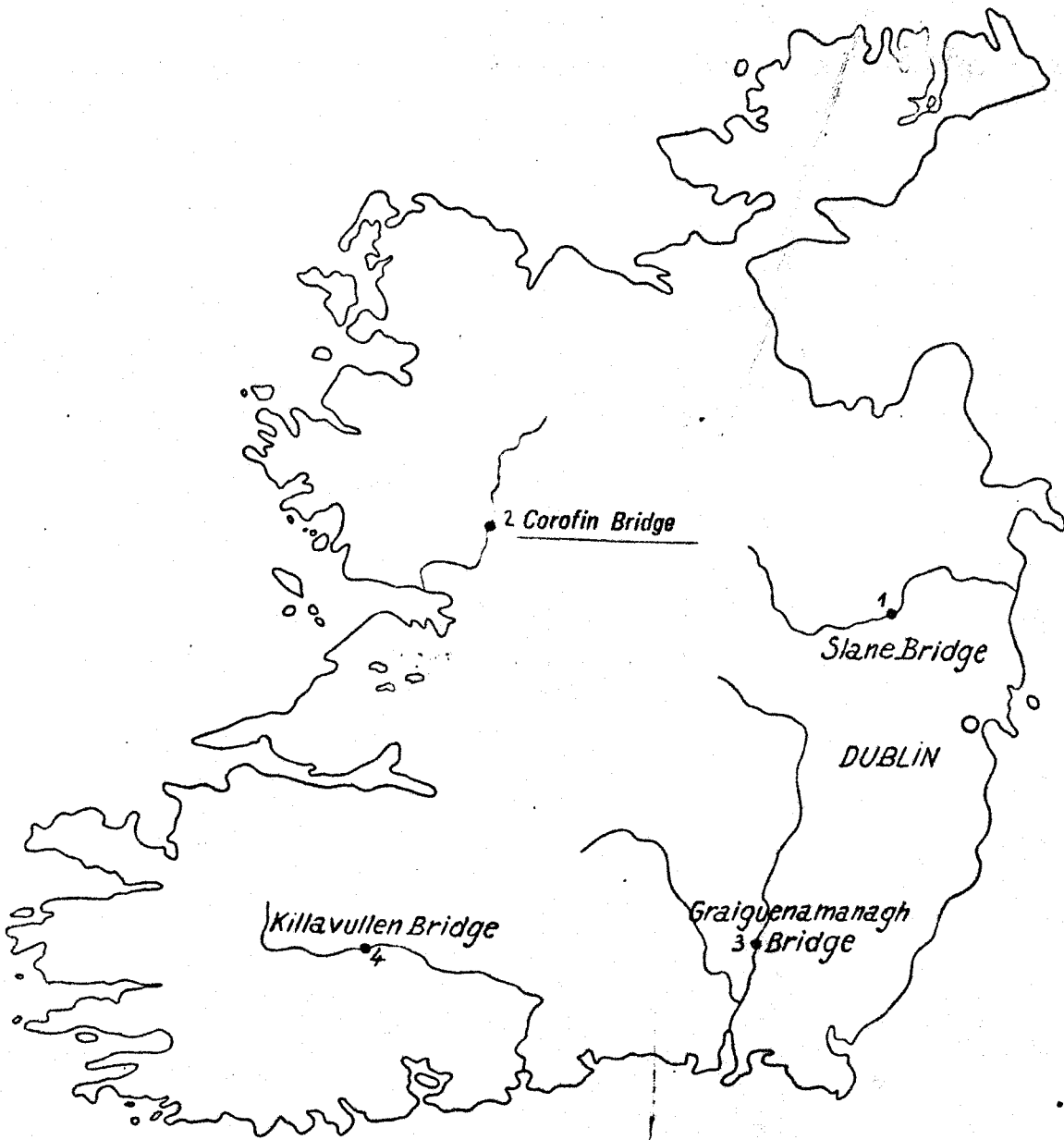




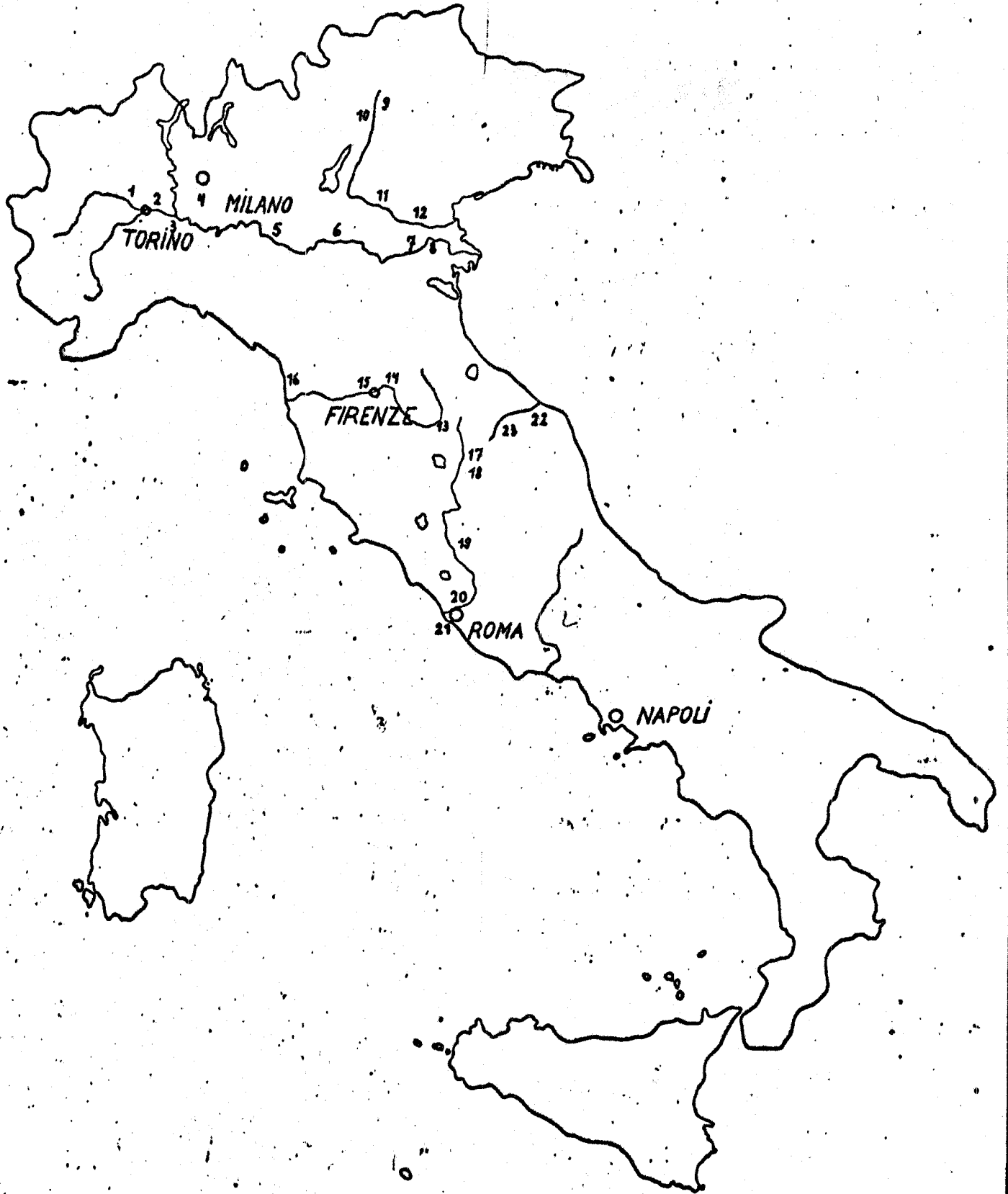
# France



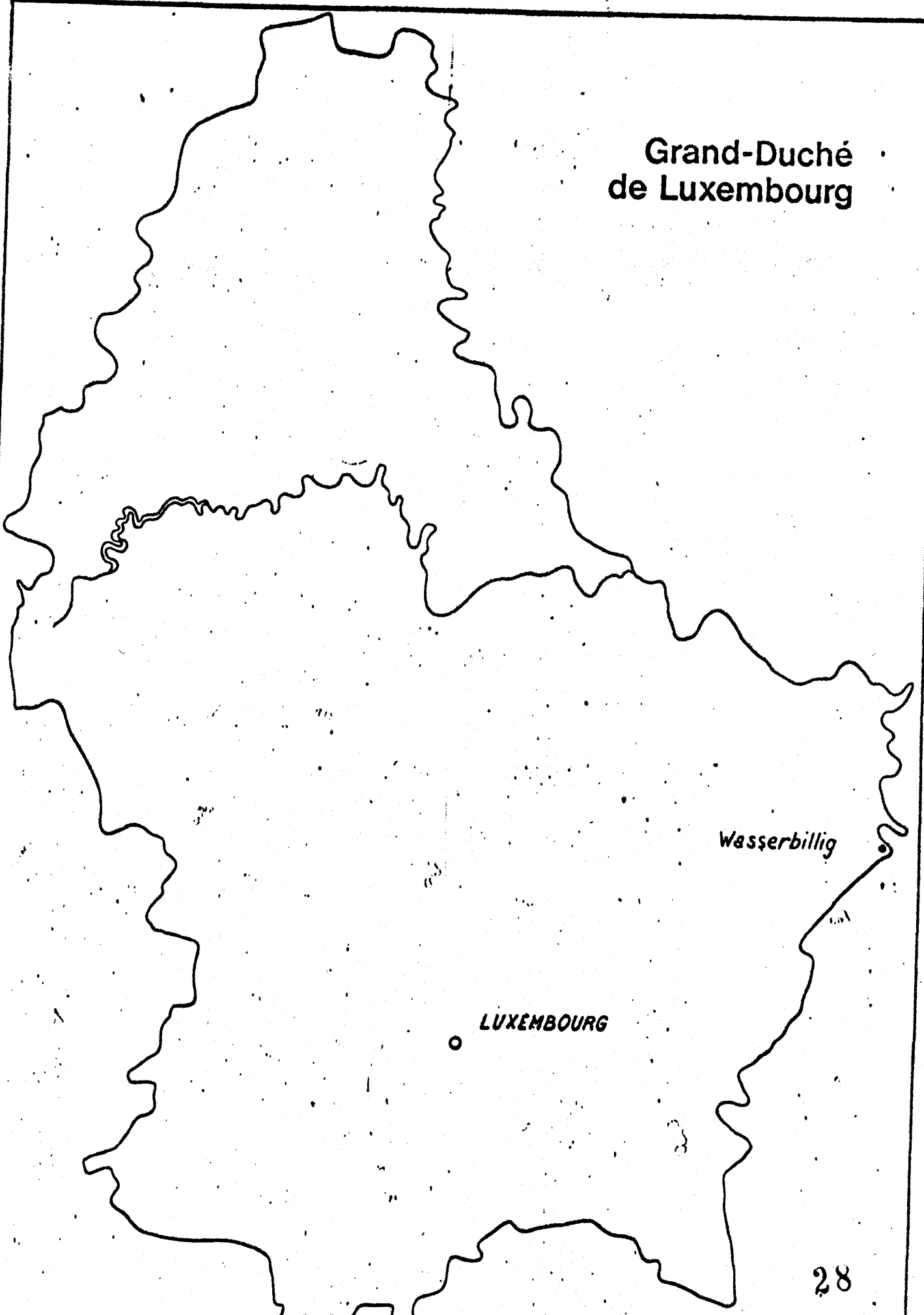
# Ireland



# Italia



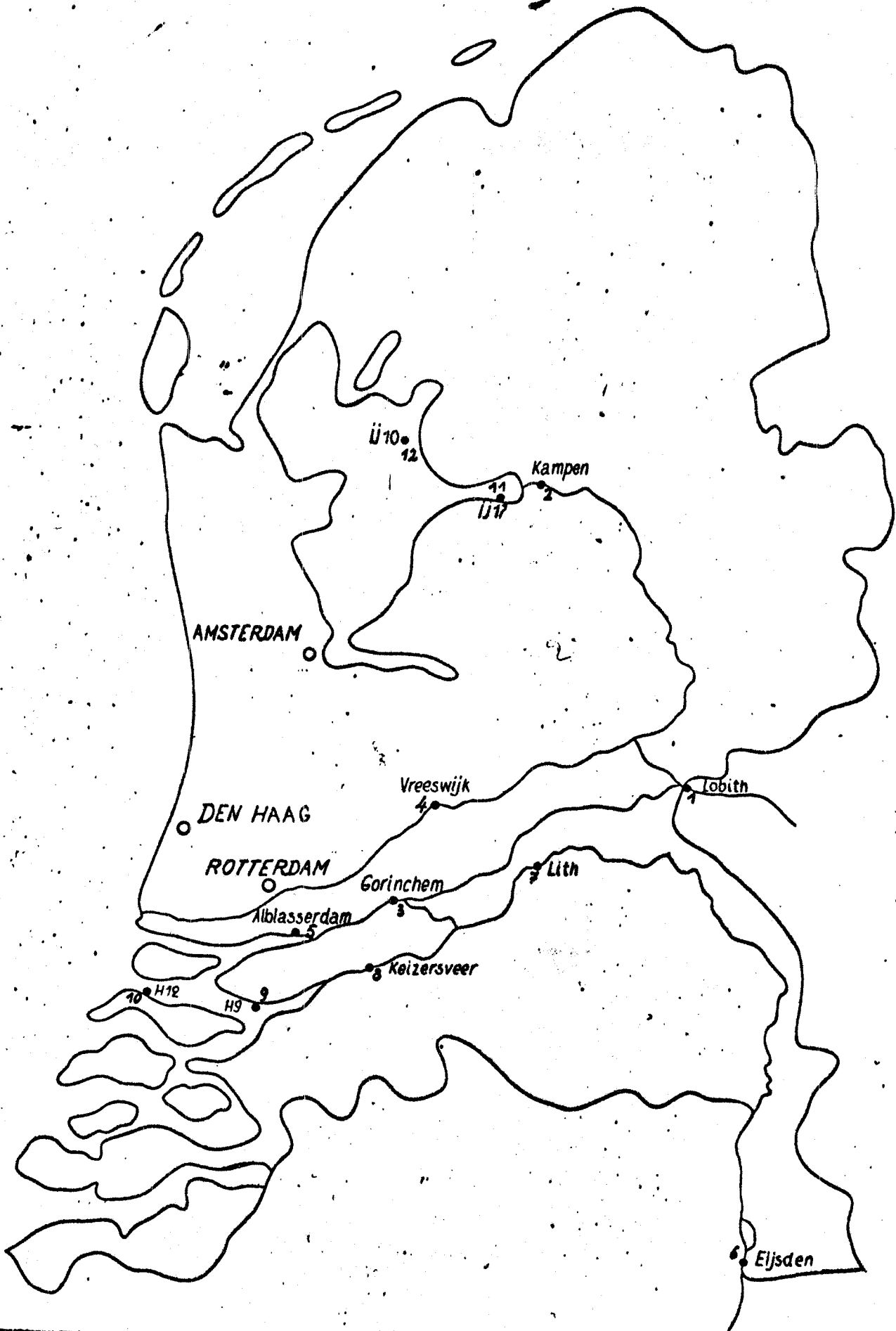
**Grand-Duché  
de Luxembourg**



*Wasserbillig*

**LUXEMBOURG**

# Nederland



# United Kingdom

