

“Right to shape” decisions: closing up as
a new strategy to move forward with
high-level radioactive wastes

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Focus on the *art* of government of nuclear wastes

- **What?** Studying regimes of practices of government (Dean 2010 – analytics of government) in three different countries : France, Belgium and Canada.
- **Which period?** Since the “participatory turn” onwards (Bergmans et al. 2014)

Today's main questions :

- How public(s) and experts have been integrated so far in the different decision-making processes of HLRW?
- How, after all, geological disposal concept remains the preferred option?

Analysing the dynamics of governance

(Stirling et al. 2008, 2014)

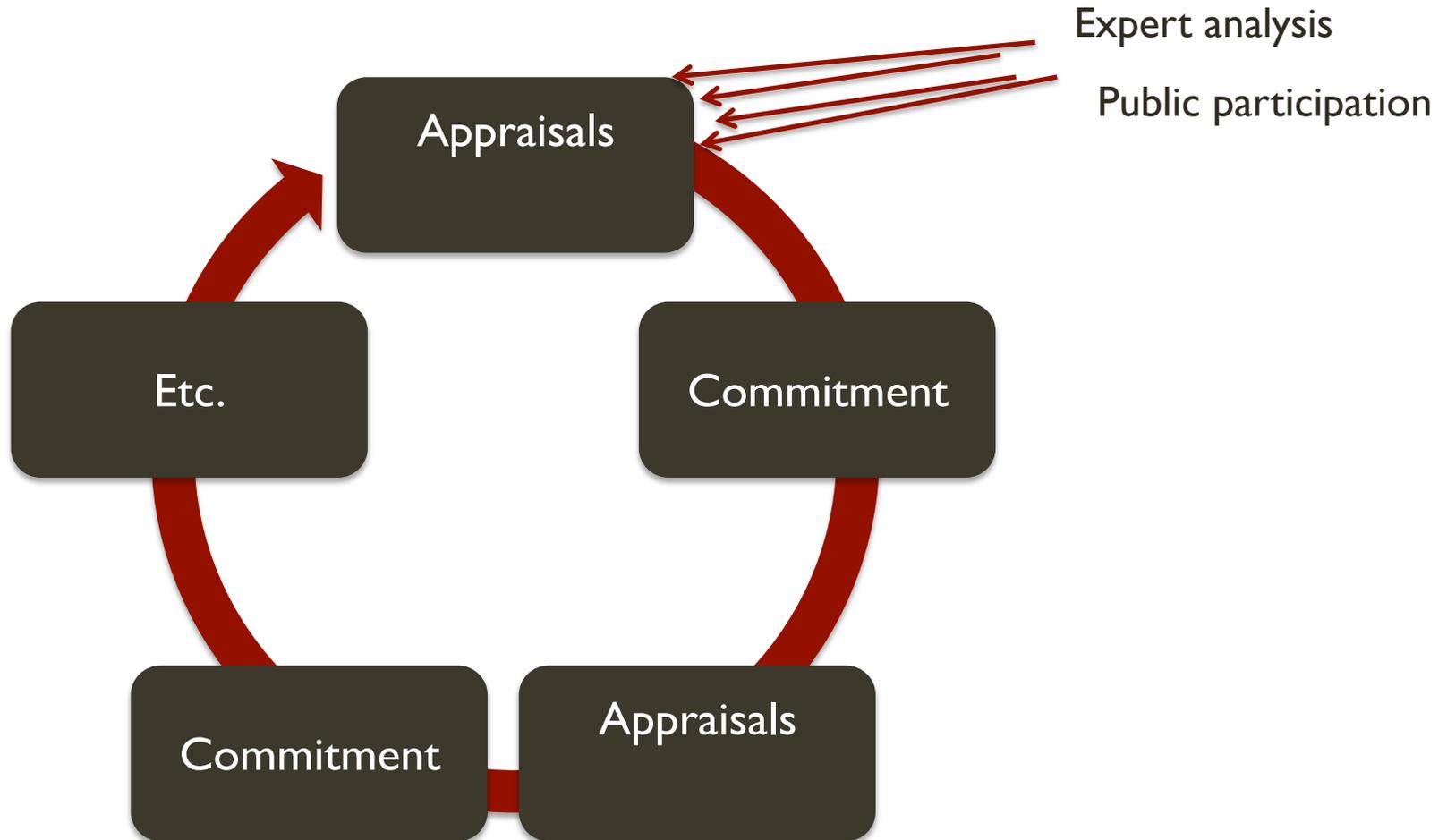


Figure “How to govern a technological system?” inspired by Stirling et al. 2008, 2014.

Analysing the dynamics of governance

(Stirling et al. 2008, 2014)

- **Opening up <**

- open appraisal raises *alternative questions*, focuses on *neglected* issues, includes *marginalized* perspective, triangulates contending knowledge, tests sensitivities to different methods, considers ignored uncertainties, examines different *possibilities* and highlights *new options* (Stirling 2008, 278-280).

- **Closing down >**

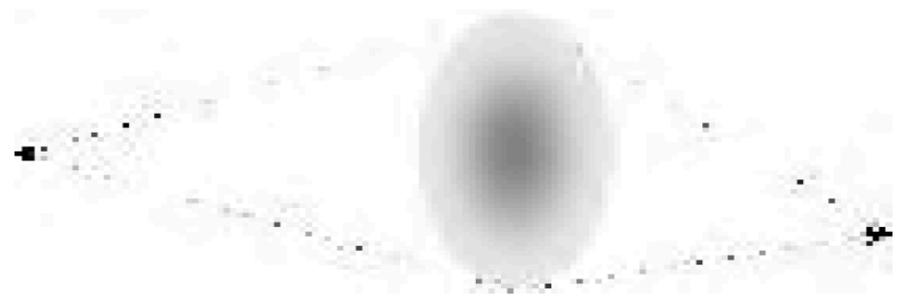
- is about defining the *right* questions, finding the priority issues, identifying salient knowledge, recruiting appropriate protagonists, to *determine the 'best' options* (Ibid).

Analysing the dynamics of governance: the necessary combination

Voß, Kemp, and Bauknecht (2006): 436

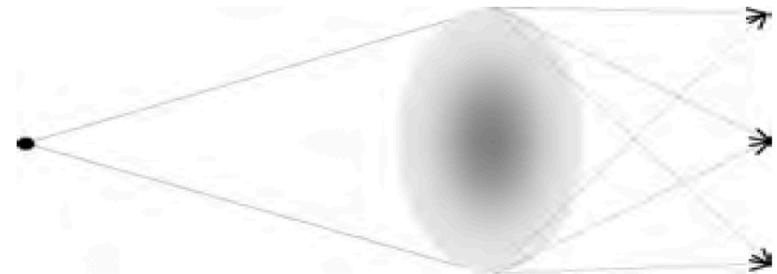
Sequential closing:
succession of opening up
and closing down

Sequential closing

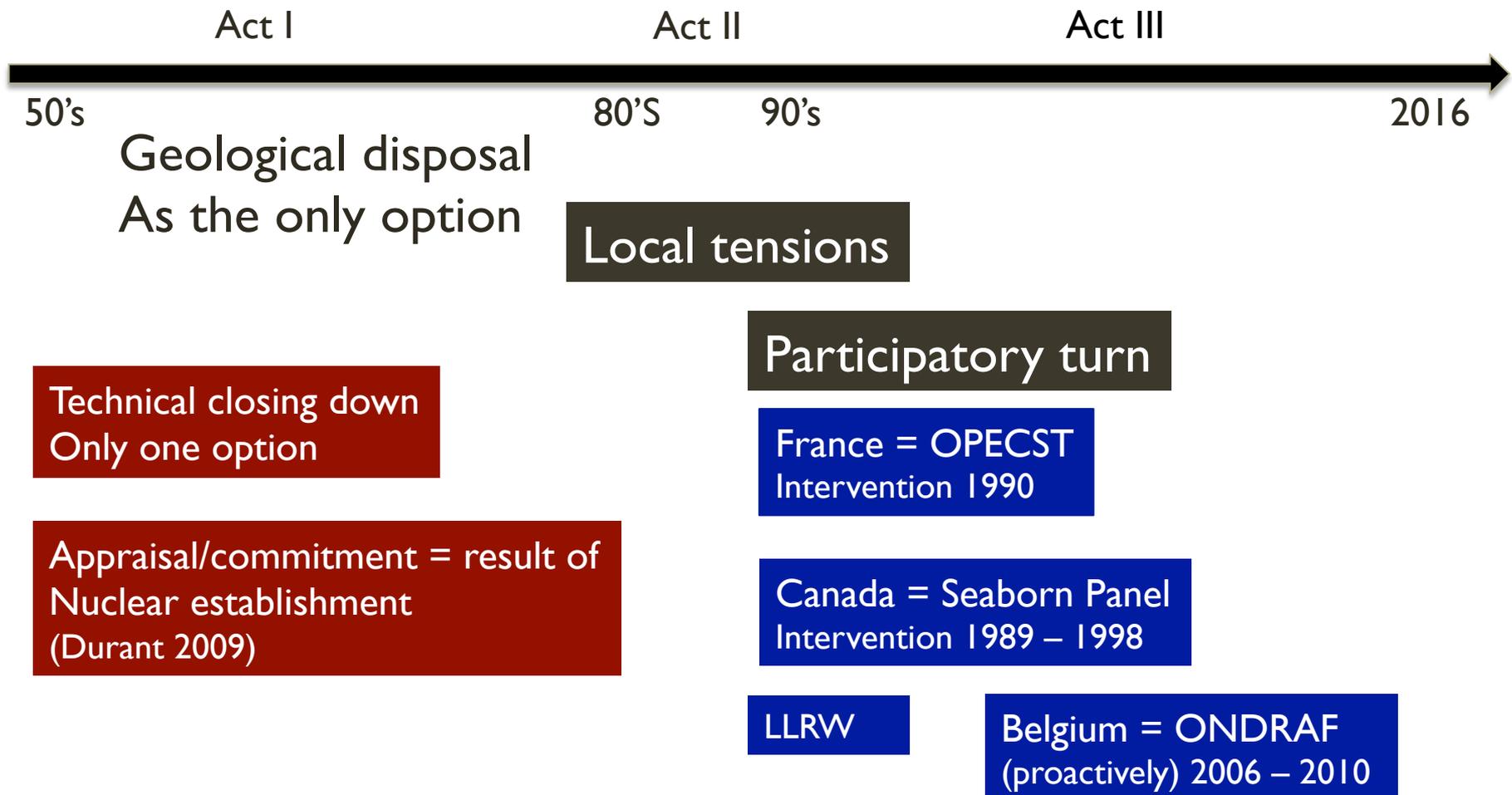


**Subsidiarity/
experimental closing :**
test a closing to identify the
best option

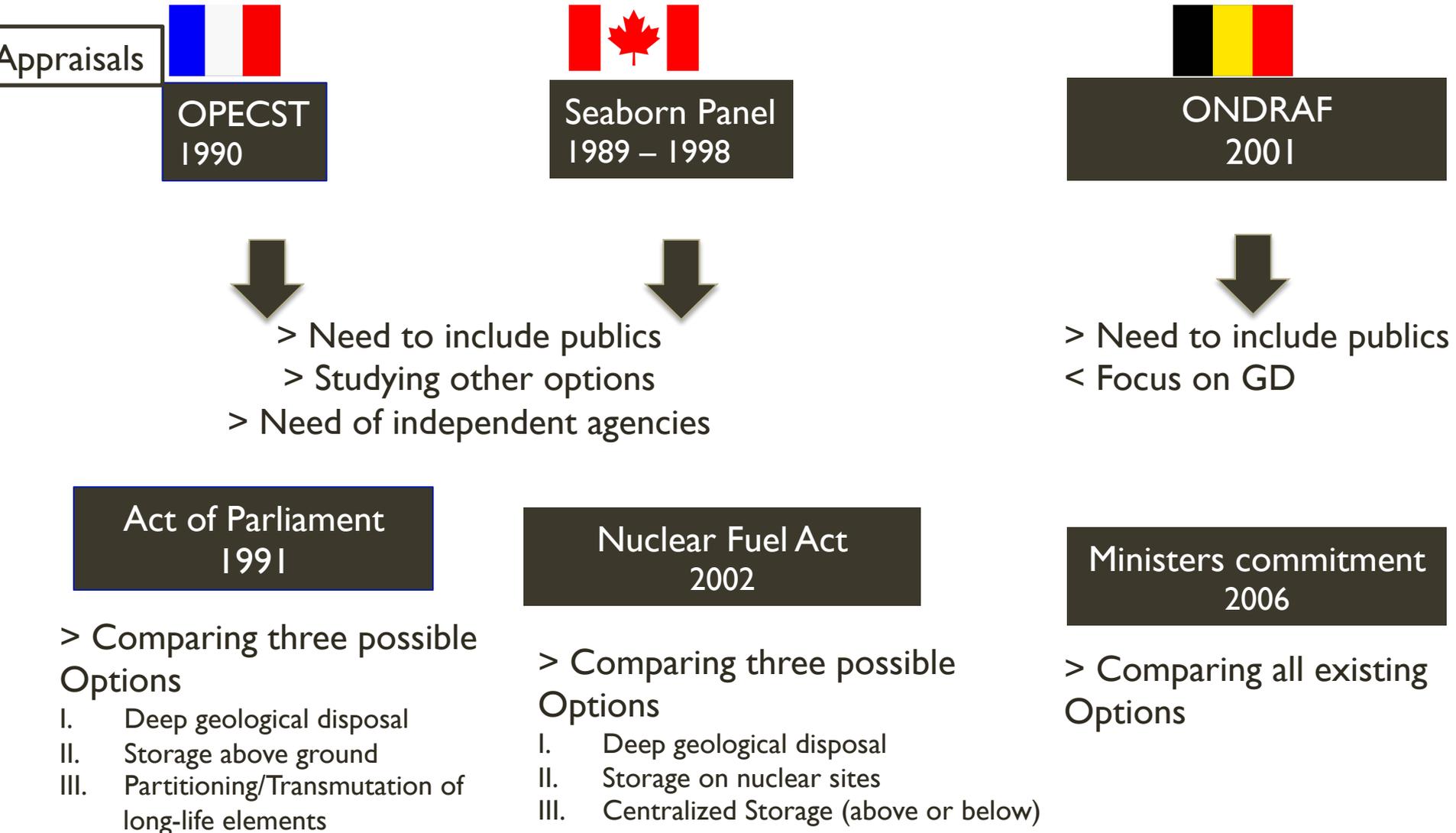
Subsidiarity/experimental closing



Art of government over the years



Art of government since 90's: *first* opening up moments after the crisis



Art of government since 90's: succession of appraisals towards *an political decision on the option*



OPECST
1996, 2001,
2005

GD with reversibility
P/T as alternative for
futures wastes

CEN
1996, 2005

< GD

CNDP
2005

> Eternal storage
above the ground



NWMO
2002 – 2005

GD with
Procedural
conditions
“*adaptive phase
management*”



ONDRAF
2006-2011

< GD

Consensus
conference
2009

< GD with reversibility

Publics consultations
2009

> Several options

Art of government in France and in Canada : *political decision on the option as closing up moment*



Act of Parliament
2006

< Geological disposal as preferred option
BUT with reversibility
& keep going partitioning/
transmutation researches

“ (...) to select the technical safest option and at the same time keep choices open” (OPECST 2005)



Federal Commitment
2007

< Geological disposal as Preferred option
BUT with Adaptive Phase Management

“APM allows flexibility in the pace and manner of implementation through phased decision making” (NWMO 2005)



NO commitment

Discussion - Conclusions

- Both Canadian and French made **closing up** commitment
 - Neither closing down, nor opening up
 - GD = the chosen option (**closing of** the options)
 - **&** [reversibility] or [APM] = negotiations spaces (**opening of** new possibilities)
- The closing is made possible **because of** the “up”

Discussion - Conclusions

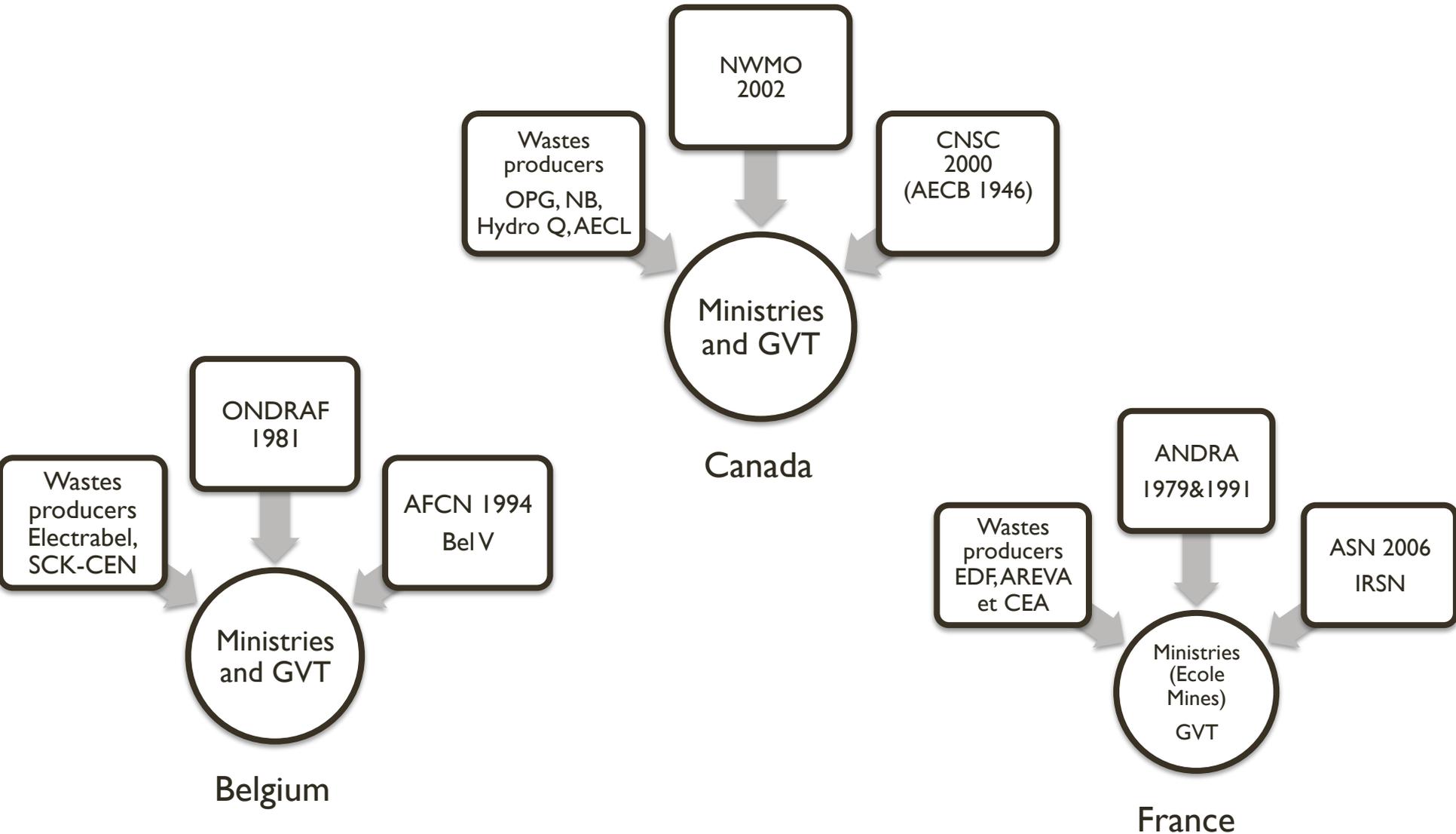
- Closing *up* as new strategy to move forward with HLRW
 - The “up” as a way to legitimate the already-chosen option
 - It’s a strategic instrument to sustain continuity of the program provided by NWM actors (giving partially “the right to shape” decision)
- Underestimating performative effect of the “up”

Thanks for your attention!

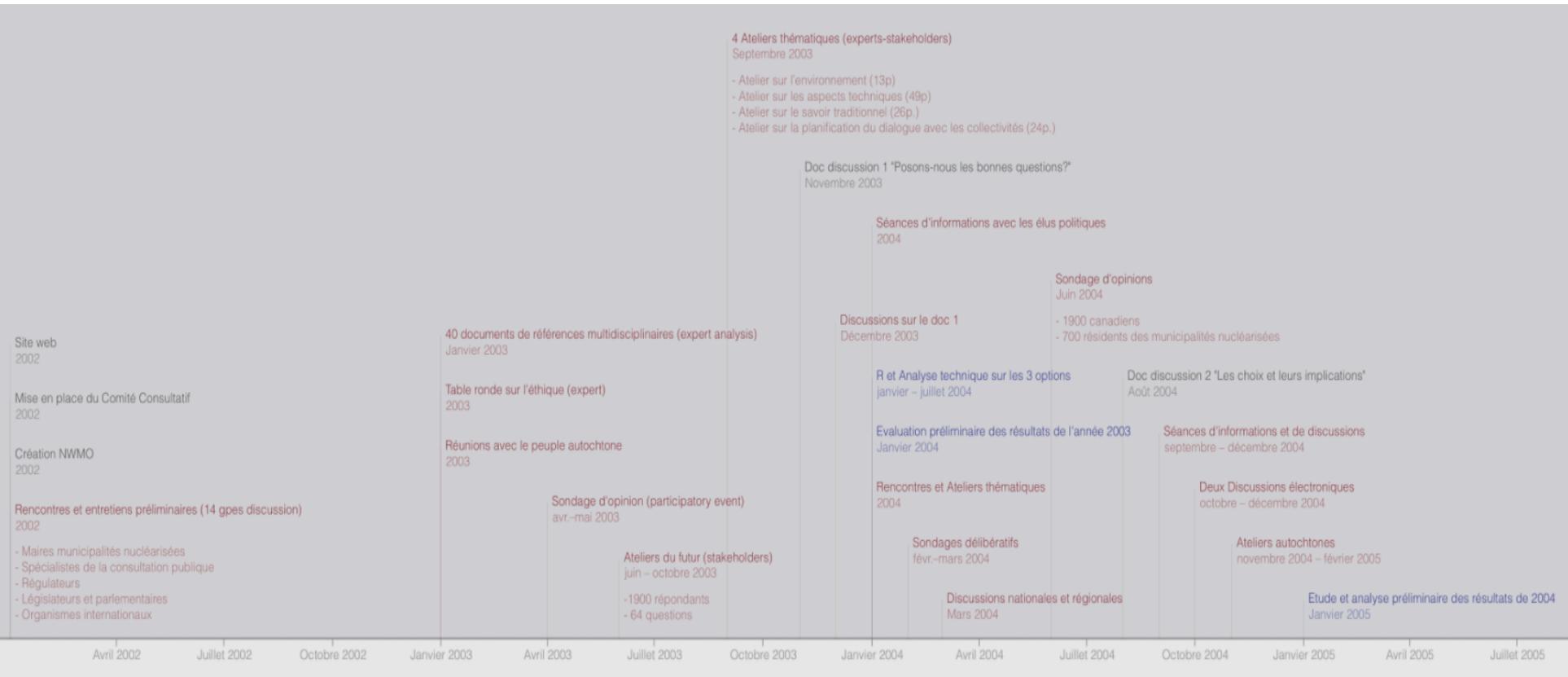
Celine.parotte@ulg.ac.be

Classical actors of NWM

« nuclear establishment » (inspired by Durant 2009)



NWMO's consultations



NWMO's consultations

Figure 8-1 Plan de l'étude: un processus itératif d'engagement

