



PRESS RELEASE
Brussels, 15 March 2022

Spadel's efforts in favour of biodiversity recognized with a Belgian Business Award for the Environment

Brussels, 15 March 2022 - The Spadel Group and its SPA brand are proud to announce that they have just been granted a Belgian Business Award for the Environment in the "Business & Biodiversity" category. These awards are given every other year by the Federation of Enterprises in Belgium (FEB). They honour companies that combine innovation and economic viability with environmental protection. The award won by Spadel is in recognition of the efforts made by the group for decades to protect the environment and biodiversity, particularly at its Spa Monopole site. A recent study shows that the biodiversity in the Spa mineral water protection zone is better today than it was 100 years ago.

The Belgian Business Award for the Environment won by Spadel on 14 March 2022 in the "Business & Biodiversity" category is no accident. The protection and restoration of nature and biodiversity have been deeply embedded in the DNA of the Spadel Group and its various brands (including SPA and Bru) for decades. The Belgian company is one of the European pioneers in sustainability and the preservation of natural resources. Last November, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Spa Monopole and SPA Reine, a quantitative and scientific study carried out by Arcadis showed surprisingly that the company has had a net positive impact on local biodiversity thanks to the measures taken for decades to protect and restore biodiversity in the Spa mineral water protection zone.

In Spa, these measures include the preservation of wetlands, the maintenance of a good balance between coniferous and deciduous trees to protect the water table and improve overall biodiversity, and the prohibition of all agricultural and industrial activities in the watersheds, as well as the use of road salt, pesticides and fertilizers. In recent years, the company has also been involved in the *LIFE Ardenne liégeoise* programme, in the co-creation of the *Parc Naturel des Sources* and in a project for the preservation of the Black Grouse, an emblematic bird of the Fens.

"All these initiatives are part of our determination to implement increasingly ambitious actions to preserve and even restore the nature that surrounds us," underlines Marc du Bois, CEO of the Spadel Group. "We are obviously very happy that our efforts have been recognized with this Belgian Business Award for the Environment, but the road does not end here. On the contrary, we want to continue and even accelerate this positive impetus, in order to inspire other companies to follow the same path. After the very positive results achieved in Spa in terms of biodiversity, the Spadel Group is committed to achieving a positive impact on biodiversity for all its sites in Europe by 2025."

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