

Thierry Guimbaud is the Director General of Voies navigables de France (VNF), whose responsibilities cover the development of river logistics, the development of territories around the waterways and the management of water resources.

Last week, we discussed the topic of river transport in a context of Covid-19 outbreak. With our IFGR member Thierry Guimbaud, we decided to broaden the focus and talk about the post-crisis period, the challenges facing VNF and the actions taken to respond to environmental and climate issues.



Water management is one of VNF's missions. You are also a key player in water management in France. How are the 6,700 km of rivers and canals for which you are responsible in France?

Yes, VNF is also a "water carrier" and hydraulic management is a central mission for the company, which must guarantee the water supply to populations, farmers and industrialists and ensure their safety through the very rigorous management of our structures that regulate the flow of water. It is also a question of meeting the needs of navigation, of course. It is therefore a strategic mission on which our employees are concentrating all their efforts during the health crisis.

"our river system (...) is more and more directly facing the consequences of climate change"



Pont-et-Massène Dam @VNF

What are your water management challenges in the fight against global warming?

It is obvious that our river network, closely connected to the hydrographic network of our country, is more and more directly facing the consequences of climate change. It is now exposed all year round to increasingly high and low water levels.