



European
Commission

THE WATER CHALLENGE EVERYDROPCOUNTS



Green Week - Brussels, 22-25 May 2012

Green Week 2012

STATE OF EUROPE'S WATER

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European Commission
Environment Directorate General

URBAN WASTE WATER

- Directive adopted in 1991
- Aims to protect environment from waste water discharges from households and biodegradable industrial waste water
- 27 Member states and almost 500 million inhabitants generate considerable quantities



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WASTE WATER COLLECTION

In the EU 15 Member States, towns and cities over 2,000 population equivalent (p.e) must have in place waste water collecting systems by end 2000 for larger towns and by end 2005 for smaller ones.

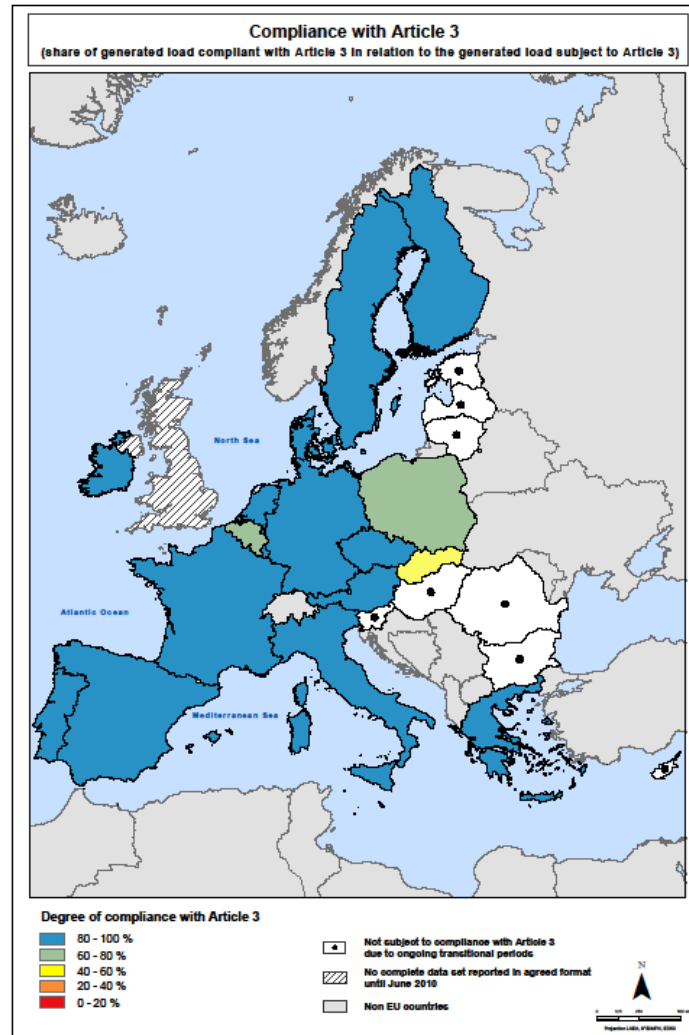
For EU 12 – individual negotiated deadlines in Accession Treaties



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Compliance with collection requirement



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WASTE WATER TREATMENT

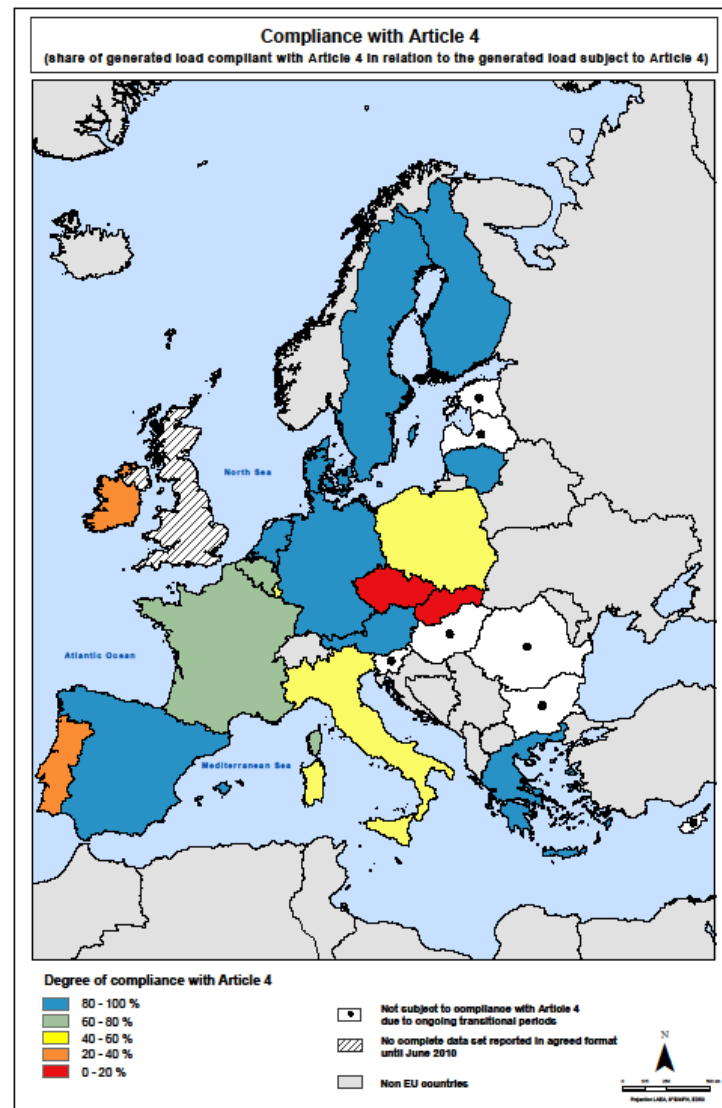
- Member States to ensure waste waters collected are given secondary or equivalent treatment before discharge.
- For EU 15 – by end 2000 for larger towns and end 2005 for smaller ones
- For EU 12 – staged implementation according to individual Accession deadline



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Article 4 secondary treatment compliance



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TREATMENT IN SENSITIVE AREAS

- Waste water discharges from treatment plants into water bodies that are designated as sensitive to be given additional treatment.
- For EU 15 – deadline end 1998
- For EU 12 – individual negotiated deadlines in Accession Treaties



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EUTROPHICATION

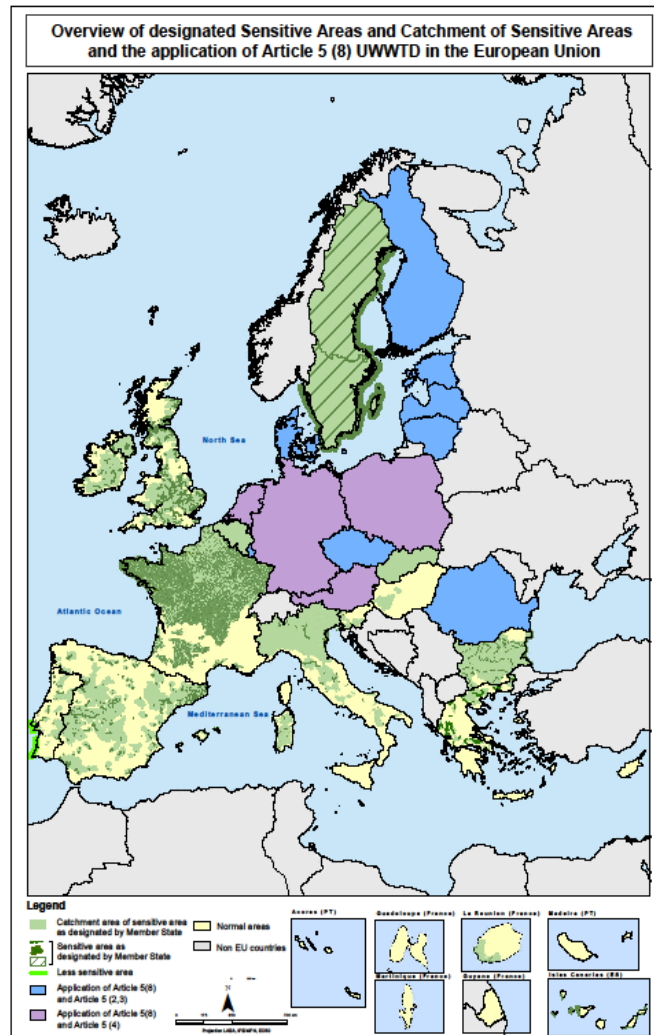
- Removal of phosphorus and nitrogen to reduce eutrophication.
- Excessive nutrients cause accelerated plant growth and negative impact on water body such green algae slicks, fish death, oxygen depletion, change species composition



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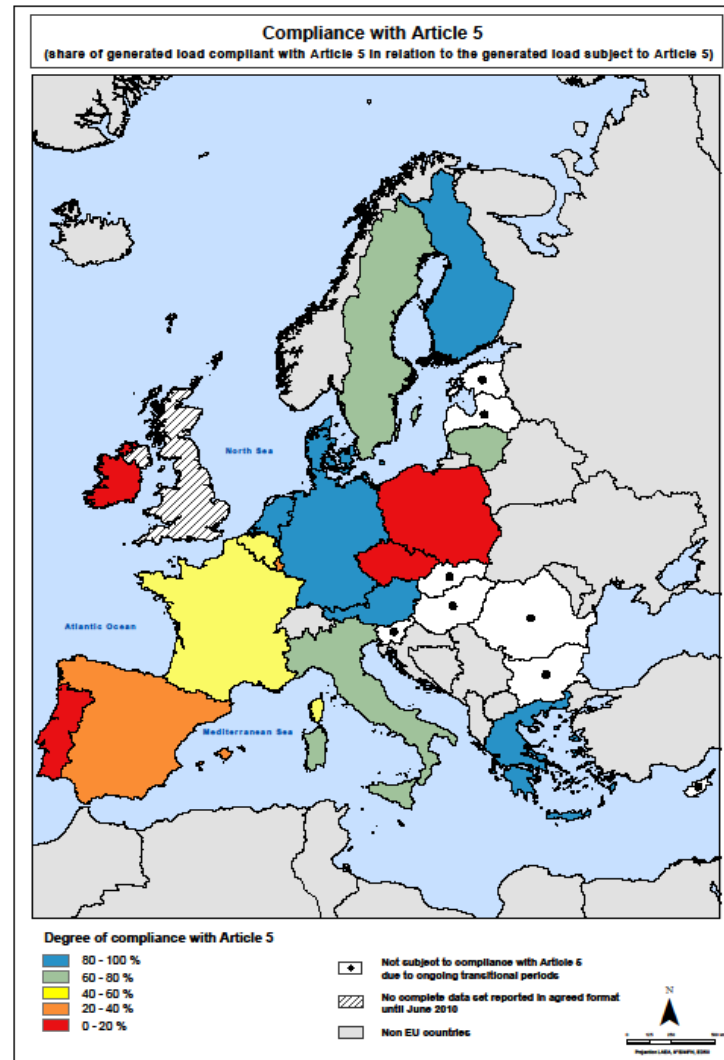
Designated sensitive areas and catchments



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Compliance with Article 5 – additional treatment



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IMPACT OF DIRECTIVE

- Significant improvement in bathing water quality
- Decrease in phosphorus and nitrogen
- Improvement in sanitation & water quality
- Still work to do for some EU 15. Considerable effort still required for EU 12



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NITRATES DIRECTIVE

- Adopted in 1991
- Objective to reduce water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and prevent further such pollution



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OBLIGATIONS

- Monitor ground and surface waters (nitrate concentration and trophic status)
- Designate Nitrate Vulnerable Zones
- Establish Code of Good Agricultural Practice
- Establish mandatory Action Programme
- Review Zones and Programmes (min. 4 years)



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IDENTIFYING POLLUTED WATERS

- Nitrate concentrations 50mg/L or above in ground or surface waters
- Upward trends which could reach 50mg/L if action not taken
- Eutrophication or trend towards if no action
- Designate individual zones or whole territory



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NVZ Designations – situation on 18/05/2009



NITRATES DIRECTIVE EU-27

NITRATE VULNERABLE ZONES (NVZs)
Situation on 18/05/2009

Legend

Vulnerable zones 2009

Year of official publication

- Designated zone before 2000
- Designated zone 2000-2003
- Designated zones 2004-2007
- New designated zones (since 2008)

Undesignated vulnerable zones

Year of official publication

- Undesignated zones before 2000
- Undesignated zones 2000 - 2003
- Undesignated zones 2004 - 2007
- Undesignated zones after 2007

Source : DG ENV, Member States reports on Nitrates Directive Implementation
Coordinate Reference System: ETRS89 Lambert Azimuthal Equal Area
Cartography : JRC, 05/2009
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Extracted from ELISA (European Land Information System for Agriculture and Environment)



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ACTION PROGRAMMES

- Closed periods for fertilizer application
- Minimum requirements for storage of manure
- Rules on distance from water sources, steeply sloping land application, restrictions when apply to flooded, frozen, saturated or snow covered ground
- Max 170kg N/hectare manure application



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IMPACTS

- In EU 15 groundwater nitrate concentrations stable or decreasing at about 2/3 of monitoring stations
- Surface waters 70% of monitoring stations show stable or decreasing concentrations
- Relative N contribution from agriculture remains high. Responsible for over 50% total N discharged to surface water in most MS



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FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION

- For Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive the focus will be on ensuring compliance by the EU 12 MS and a handful of remaining EU 15 MS
- For Nitrates Directive EU 12 also a focus. Coordination between MS authorities crucial



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IMPLEMENTATION COMMUNICATION

COM(2012) 95

- Future implementation of water legislation does not only focus on legal action
- The new Implementation Communication combines two themes:
 - Knowledge about implementation
 - Responsiveness



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IMPLEMENTATION KNOWLEDGE

- Commission keen to make knowledge more accessible through national information systems. Especially relevant to Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- Promote use of spatial reporting formats translated into publicly accessible national information systems on compliance levels



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Agglomeration of Bourbourg in the WISE-UWWD viewer, based on 2008 date

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Viewer

Urban waste water treatment directive viewer

Urban Waste Water Treatment Agglomerations

Layers and legend

Selection

Waste water treatment agglomerations by size

Waste Water Treatment pathways in agglomerati...

Country: France
Agglomeration ID: FR010000159094
Agglomeration Name: BOURBOURG
Reference year: 31/12/2008
Deadline of UWWTD: 31/12/1978
Agglomeration total generated load (p.e.): 7139

100% of the generated load collected in collecting system and treated by more stringent treatment (N-removal and/or P-removal or other more stringent treatment)
* BOURBOURG SE (100 %)

page 1 of 1

Full screen

If the map application above does not provide an integrated full screen feature (usually in the upper right corner), then you can try

Solve PC issues: 1 message

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Source:



MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉCOLOGIE, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE,
DES TRANSPORTS ET DU LOGEMENT



Portail d'information sur l'assainissement communal

<http://assainissement.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

RESPONSIVENESS

Improvements in national mechanisms for responding to implementation problems:

- Better inspections and surveillance
- Better national complaint-handling
- Improved access to justice in MS
- Partnership implementation agreements



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COMMUNICATION FOLLOW UP

- Follow up will be provided in the 7th Environmental Action Programme
- Stakeholder consultation until June 2012
- Some initiatives may have a water focus



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