

***Is it correctly understood that member states like Denmark, according to Article 5 (6) in the Nitrates Directive shall follow the trend in the extend of nitrate pollution in waters from agricultural sources?***

Article 5(6) of the Nitrates directive establishes that Member States shall draw up and implement suitable monitoring programmes to assess the effectiveness of Nitrates Action Programmes. This article specifies that Member States like Denmark, which apply the Nitrates Directive throughout their national territory, shall monitor the nitrate content of waters (surface and groundwater) at selected measuring points which make it possible to establish the extent of nitrate pollution in the waters from agricultural sources. Monitoring programmes shall allow the assessment of nitrate pollution trends to evaluate the effectiveness of the Action Programmes.

***Is it correctly understood that location and depth of monitoring points in the monitoring programme under the Nitrates Directive must be chosen in order to give a representative picture of nitrate pollution in waters from agricultural sources, and hence the aim of the monitoring under the Nitrates Directive is not to give a representative picture for all groundwater?***

As specified in the point above, Article 5(6) of the Nitrates directive sets that the water monitoring should serve the assessment of the effectiveness of the measures taken under the Action Programmes, in this context the monitoring should target the extent of nitrate pollution in the waters from agricultural sources. The establishment of other monitoring programmes covering all groundwater quantitative status, chemical status and the assessment of significant, long-term pollutant trends resulting from human activity are required by the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC).

***Is it correctly understood that it is the responsibility of the member states to adapt their monitoring network continuously in order to optimize their evaluation of the trend in nitrate pollution in waters from agricultural sources and to be better suited to assess the effectiveness of their respective Nitrates Action Programmes?***

According to the Nitrates Directive, the responsibility of establishing the water monitoring networks and running the monitoring programmes relies on the Member States.

***Is it correctly understood that the 20% of groundwater mentioned in the reply from 18th January 2017 to MEP Jørgen Dohrmann refers to that 20% of the monitoring points in the groundwater monitored in Denmark, in accordance with the Article 5(6) in the Nitrates Directive), that had a maximum nitrate concentration, exceeding 50 mg/l during the period 2008 - 2011. Hence the reference to groundwater in the answer refers to groundwater, monitored under the Nitrates Directive. This understanding explains the reference to the reporting after Article 11 and Article 10 in footnote no. 5 in the reply.***

In its answer to the above mentioned Written Question, the Commission refers to data reported to the Commission by Denmark for the period 2008-2011 in the context of the reporting exercise pursuant to Article 10 of the Nitrates Directive. In its answer, the Commission provides, in footnote 5, the specific reference: Report from the Commission to

the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of Council Directive 91/676/EEC, OJ L 375, 31.12.1991, p. 1-8; Commission Staff Working Document Accompanying COM(2013) 683 final, SWD(2013) 405 final; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52013SCo405&from=EN> In this context, the percentage of 20% referred to in the Commission answer corresponds to 20% of groundwater monitoring points in the monitoring network established by Denmark for the purpose of the Nitrates Directive