

Protecting waters from pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources – Evaluation

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The [Nitrates Directive](#)^[1], adopted in 1991, aims to protect water quality across Europe by reducing and preventing pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources that pollute ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices.

To achieve this, the Member States have to:

- monitor nitrates concentrations and eutrophication of water bodies,
- identify polluted waters and designate nitrate vulnerable zones,
- establish codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes to prevent and reduce water pollution from nutrients.

The Nitrates Directive forms an integral part of the overarching [Water Framework Directive](#) and is one of the key laws protecting waters against agricultural pressures.

Excess nutrients from agricultural sources is one of the main causes of water pollution in Europe. Nitrates and phosphates from fertilizer and manure enter groundwater through leaching and reach surface water through runoff from agricultural fields.

A high level of nitrate makes water unsuitable for drinking. In rivers, lakes and marine waters, nitrates and phosphates cause algae to grow excessively. This affects the natural ecosystem and can lead to depletion of the oxygen in the water. This phenomenon, known as eutrophication, has negative consequences for biodiversity, fisheries and recreational activities.

More information and Nitrates Directive can be found [here](#).

This public consultation aims to gather stakeholders' views on the experience with the Nitrates Directive since it was adopted in 1991. The evaluation will aim to assess the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value of the Nitrates Directive in the light of the EU environmental and climate objectives and the need for resilient agriculture and food security.

[1] Directive of 12 December 1991 concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources (91/ 676/EEC)

Survey instructions

The questionnaire consists of four parts:

Part 1. 'About you' collects personal information.

Part 2. 'General questions'.

Part 3. 'In-depth questions' is open to all but has more detailed questions targeted at citizens and stakeholders with some or good knowledge of the Nitrates Directive.

Part 4. 'Final remarks' allows you to make overall comments and upload documents.

Where questions are not relevant to your experience or knowledge, please respond 'Don't know' or skip the question.

Where specific questions appear more relevant to other organisation(s) you are aware of, please forward the survey to them and invite them to respond.

The estimated time of completion of this questionnaire is 20 minutes.

About you

* Language of my contribution

- ☐ Bulgarian
- ☐ Croatian
- ☐ Czech
- ☐ Danish
- ☐ Dutch
- ☒ English
- ☐ Estonian
- ☐ Finnish
- ☐ French
- ☐ German
- ☐ Greek
- ☐ Hungarian
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Italian
- ☐ Latvian
- ☐ Lithuanian
- ☐ Maltese
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Portuguese
- ☐ Romanian
- ☐ Slovak
- ☐ Slovenian
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Swedish

* I am giving my contribution as

- ☐ Academic/research institution
- ☐ Business association
- ☐ Company/business
- ☐ Consumer organisation
- ☐ EU citizen
- ☐ Environmental organisation
- ☐ Non-EU citizen
- ☒ Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- ☐ Public authority
- ☐ Trade union
- ☐ Other

* First name

Lili

* Surname

Balogh

* Email (this won't be published)

info@agroecology-europe.org

* Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

Agroecology Europe

* Organisation size

- ☒ Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- ☐ Small (10 to 49 employees)
- ☐ Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- ☐ Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

255 character(s) maximum

Check if your organisation is on the [transparency register](#). It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

* Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

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| <input type="radio"/> Afghanistan | <input type="radio"/> Djibouti | <input type="radio"/> Libya | <input type="radio"/> Saint Martin |
| <input type="radio"/> Åland Islands | <input type="radio"/> Dominica | <input type="radio"/> Liechtenstein | <input type="radio"/> Saint Pierre and Miquelon |
| <input type="radio"/> Albania | <input type="radio"/> Dominican Republic | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
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| <input type="radio"/> Bahrain | <input type="radio"/> French Polynesia | <input type="radio"/> Micronesia | <input type="radio"/> South Africa |
| <input type="radio"/> Bangladesh | <input type="radio"/> French Southern and Antarctic Lands | <input type="radio"/> Moldova | <input type="radio"/> South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Barbados | <input type="radio"/> Gabon | <input type="radio"/> Monaco | <input type="radio"/> South Korea |
| <input type="radio"/> Belarus | <input type="radio"/> Georgia | <input type="radio"/> Mongolia | <input type="radio"/> South Sudan |

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| <input type="radio"/> British Virgin Islands | <input type="radio"/> Guyana | <input type="radio"/> Niger | <input type="radio"/> The Gambia |
| <input type="radio"/> Brunei | <input type="radio"/> Haiti | <input type="radio"/> Nigeria | <input type="radio"/> Timor-Leste |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Heard Island and McDonald Islands | <input type="radio"/> Niue | <input type="radio"/> Togo |
| <input type="radio"/> Burkina Faso | <input type="radio"/> Honduras | <input type="radio"/> Norfolk Island | <input type="radio"/> Tokelau |
| <input type="radio"/> Burundi | <input type="radio"/> Hong Kong | <input type="radio"/> Northern Mariana Islands | <input type="radio"/> Tonga |
| <input type="radio"/> Cambodia | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> North Korea | <input type="radio"/> Trinidad and Tobago |
| <input type="radio"/> Cameroon | <input type="radio"/> Iceland | <input type="radio"/> North Macedonia | <input type="radio"/> Tunisia |
| <input type="radio"/> Canada | <input type="radio"/> India | <input type="radio"/> Norway | <input type="radio"/> Türkiye |
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| <input type="radio"/> Cayman Islands | <input type="radio"/> Iran | <input type="radio"/> Pakistan | <input type="radio"/> Turks and Caicos Islands |
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| <input type="radio"/> Christmas Island | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Paraguay | <input type="radio"/> United Kingdom |
| <input type="radio"/> Clipperton | <input type="radio"/> Jamaica | <input type="radio"/> Peru | <input type="radio"/> United States |
| <input type="radio"/> Cocos (Keeling) Islands | <input type="radio"/> Japan | <input type="radio"/> Philippines | <input type="radio"/> United States Minor Outlying Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Colombia | <input type="radio"/> Jersey | <input type="radio"/> Pitcairn Islands | <input type="radio"/> Uruguay |
| <input type="radio"/> Comoros | <input type="radio"/> Jordan | <input type="radio"/> Poland | <input type="radio"/> US Virgin Islands |
| <input type="radio"/> Congo | <input type="radio"/> Kazakhstan | <input type="radio"/> Portugal | <input type="radio"/> Uzbekistan |
| <input type="radio"/> Cook Islands | <input type="radio"/> Kenya | <input type="radio"/> Puerto Rico | <input type="radio"/> Vanuatu |
| <input type="radio"/> Costa Rica | <input type="radio"/> Kiribati | <input type="radio"/> Qatar | <input type="radio"/> Vatican City |
| <input type="radio"/> Côte d'Ivoire | <input type="radio"/> Kosovo | <input type="radio"/> Réunion | <input type="radio"/> Venezuela |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Kuwait | <input type="radio"/> Romania | <input type="radio"/> Vietnam |
| <input type="radio"/> Cuba | <input type="radio"/> Kyrgyzstan | <input type="radio"/> Russia | <input type="radio"/> Wallis and Futuna |
| <input type="radio"/> Curaçao | <input type="radio"/> Laos | <input type="radio"/> Rwanda | <input type="radio"/> Western Sahara |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Barthélemy | <input type="radio"/> Yemen |
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Tristan da Cunha | <input type="radio"/> Zambia |
| <input type="radio"/> Democratic Republic of the Congo | <input type="radio"/> Lesotho | <input type="radio"/> Saint Kitts and Nevis | <input type="radio"/> Zimbabwe |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Liberia | <input type="radio"/> Saint Lucia | |

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. **For the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association', 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published.** Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

* Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

☐ **Anonymous**

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

☒ **Public**

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

☐ I agree with the [personal data protection provisions](#)

1.1 After completing this survey, are you willing to be contacted for any clarification (e.g., a follow-up email or interview and/or further updates on the study)?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No

1.2 If you answered 'Company/Business', please specify whether you are:

- ☐ Farmer
☐ Agricultural advisor
☐ Manufacturer/supplier of farming equipment/technologies
☐ Manufacturer/supplier of fertilisers
☐ Other

1.3 I am active in the following fields: [Check as many fields as relevant].

- ☒ Agriculture
☐ Fishing and/or aquaculture
☐ Water management (e.g., planning, developing, distributing and managing water resources)
☐ Water supply and sanitation (e.g., abstraction, supply, distribution of drinking water, wastewater management, etc.)

- ☒ Environmental protection activities (e.g., protection of water, soil, air, biodiversity, climate, etc.)
- ☐ Information and communication
- ☐ Human health
- ☐ Tourism and recreation
- ☐ Recovery of materials
- ☐ Other

1.4 If your answer was other, please specify

100 character(s) maximum

Part 2. General questions

2.1 In your opinion, is water pollution by nitrates sufficiently covered in the public debate?

- ☐ Yes
- ☒ No
- ☐ Don't know

2.2 Are you concerned about the following issues? [Please rate your answers on a scale from 1 'not concerned at all' to 5 'concerned']

Issue	Not concerned at all	Rather not concerned	Neutral	Somewhat concerned	Very concerned	Don't know
Drinking water pollution by nitrates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groundwater pollution by nitrates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eutrophication of rivers and lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eutrophication of coastal and marine waters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pollution of bathing/recreational sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.3 How do you consider the following issues of water pollution by nitrates have evolved in the last five years in your country or region?

Issue	Strong deterioration	Some deterioration	No change	Some improvement	Strong improvement	Don't know
Drinking water pollution by nitrates	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Groundwater pollution by nitrates	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eutrophication of rivers and lakes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Eutrophication of coastal and marine waters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pollution of bathing/recreational sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.4 How do you consider the actions and effort of following actors to tackle water pollution (eutrophication, pollution of drinking water and groundwater)?

Stakeholders	Doing enough	Not doing enough	Don't know
EU authorities (e.g., European Parliament, Council of the EU, European Commission)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional or local authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fertiliser industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Professional associations (e.g., farmers, fertiliser industry, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Consumer organisations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Food industry and retailers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental organisations	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water management companies	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wastewater treatment companies	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.5 [OPTIONAL] If your answer was "other", please specify.

200 character(s) maximum

2.6 In your opinion, are the existing policies and legislation effective to tackle the issues of water pollution by nitrates from agricultural sources?

	Rather yes	Rather no	Don't know
EU policies and legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National policies and legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regional and local policies and legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.7 In your view, does the Nitrates Directive sufficiently contribute to the following objectives:

	Rather yes	Rather no	Don't know

EU environmental objectives	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change mitigation and adaptation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting EU water resources and aquatic ecosystems	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Clean air	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting biodiversity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting EU soils	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable and resilient agriculture and food security	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helping farmers to adapt and increase resilience in changing climatic and environmental conditions	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Supportive of new agricultural practices	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promoting the recycling of nutrients from various sources, including processed manure	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Allowing for simplification and limitation of burdens and cost	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Coherent with other EU legislation	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Coherent with developments in farm practices and technology	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The following questions are targeted at respondents with a deeper knowledge of the issues that the Nitrates Directive aims to tackle. Would you like to reply to these questions or move on to the final section?

- ☒ Reply
- ☐ Move on to the final section

Part 3. In-depth questions

3.1 To what extent has the Nitrates Directive been effective in achieving the following? [Please rate your answer on a scale from 'not effective' to 'effective'].

Objectives	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Effective	Don't know
Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to protect human health and living resources (including drinking water)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to protect aquatic ecosystems (eutrophication)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to safeguard other legitimate uses of water (for example tourism)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Address the problems arising from intensive/intensifying livestock production	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Address the environmental risks of excessive and inappropriate use of fertilizers including manure	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tackling transboundary pollution with nutrients in water bodies shared by more than one Member State	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist farmers implement the requirements of the Directive	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help farmers to adapt to scientific and technological developments	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Help farmers to adapt and increase resilience in changing climatic and environmental conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.2 To what extent have the following measures of the Nitrates Directive been effective in reducing and preventing water pollution by nutrients from agricultural activities? [Please rate your answer on a scale from 'not effective' to 'effective'].

	Not effective	Somewhat effective	Effective	Don't know
Identification of water affected and at risk of being affected by nitrates pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designation of Nitrates Vulnerable Zones (NVZ)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Establishment of a voluntary code of good agricultural practices for farmers outside Nitrates Vulnerable Zones	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Promotion of the application of the voluntary code(s) of good agricultural practice, including through the provision of training, skills development and information for farmers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Development of action programmes to reduce and prevent nitrates pollution in Nitrates Vulnerable Zones	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reinforcement of action programmes' measures where and when necessary to achieve the Nitrates Directive objectives	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures concerning the storage of animal manure	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measures on the application on land of fertilisers and animal manure (closing periods, slopes, buffer zones,...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Measures concerning land management practices (crop rotation, vegetation cover,...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The limit (170 Kg/ha) for the application of nitrogen from manure and processed manure in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall limits to the application of fertilisers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fertiliser plans	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring of nutrients pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Derogations allowing to apply manure and processed manure above 170 Kg N/ha	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.3 [OPTIONAL] Please provide further explanation and additional comments on the previous question if relevant.

500 character(s) maximum

The derogations from the 170 kg N/ha limit were granted to one-third of Member States in the most recent reporting period. This extensive use of this derogation has undermined the effectiveness of the Directive. Member States should be required to align livestock numbers with the manure application limit, redesigning the livestock systems according to agroecological principles, leading to the extensification of livestock systems for ruminants and monogastrics.

3.4 How significant are in your opinion the costs related to the following aspects of the Nitrates Directive's implementation in the Member States? [Please rate your answer on a scale from 'not significant' to 'significant'].

National measures	Not significant	Somewhat significant	Significant	Don't know
Manure storage	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disposal of excess manure (transport to other farms, biogas plants, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Procedures for the land application of fertilisers and manure (fertiliser rates and uniformity etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restrictions on application of fertilisers and manure (closing periods, buffer strips, slopes etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Land cover and management (catch crops, crop rotation, etc.)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Planning and recordkeeping (administrative costs for farmers)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Administrative costs for public authorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monitoring groundwater and surface water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Other (please specify)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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3.5 [OPTIONAL] Place for comments, if you would like to add something on the previous question:

500 character(s) maximum

The overall environmental costs of all reactive nitrogen losses in Europe are estimated at EUR 70–EUR 320 billion per year, much beyond the costs of reducing pollution at source (European Commission, 2021). For comparison, the annual European budget for the Common Agricultural Policy is EUR-56 billion during the current period. In other words, the costs of inaction and non-implementation of the Nitrate Directive and Water Framework Directive are much higher than the costs of implementation.

3.6 How significant are the costs of nitrates pollution in terms of the following:

Costs	Not significant	Somewhat significant	Very significant	Don't know
Costs to human health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs of drinking water treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs to commercial fishing and aquaculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs for cleaning bathing sites and other degraded sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs to tourism and recreational activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Cost of degradation of natural areas and nature protected areas (biodiversity loss)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.7 In your opinion, has the Nitrates Directive contributed to reduce these costs? [Please rate your answer on a scale from 'no' to 'significantly']

Costs	No	Somewhat	Significantly	Don't know
Costs to human health	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs of drinking water treatment	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs to commercial fishing and aquaculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs for cleaning bathing sites and other degraded sites	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Costs to tourism and recreational activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cost of degradation of natural areas and nature protected areas (biodiversity loss)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.8 How proportionate are in your opinion the costs of implementation of the Directive in view of the objectives to be achieved?

Costs	Proportionate	Somewhat disproportionate	Disproportionate	Don't know
For the agriculture sector	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
For Member State authorities	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.9 To what extent are the following objectives linked with the Nitrates Directive still relevant? [Please rate your answer on a scale from 'Not relevant' to 'relevant'].

Objectives	Not relevant	Somewhat relevant	Relevant	Don't know
Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to protect human health and living resources (including drinking water)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to protect aquatic ecosystems (eutrophication)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce and prevent water pollution by nutrients from agricultural sources to safeguard other legitimate uses of water (for example tourism)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Address the problems arising from intensive livestock production	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Address the environmental risks of excessive and inappropriate use of fertilizers including manure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tackling transboundary pollution with nutrients in water bodies shared by more than one Member State	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Assist farmers implement the requirements of the Directive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help farmers to adapt to scientific and technological developments	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help farmers to adapt and increase resilience in changing climatic and environmental conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.10 Overall, is the Nitrates Directive sufficiently coherent with the following policies and legislation?.

Policy/legislation	Rather yes	Rather no	Don't know
Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Organic Farming Regulation (EU) 2018/848	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drinking Water Directive (EU) 2020/2184	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sewage Sludge Directive 86/278/EEC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EU	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
National Emissions Reduction Commitments Directive (EU) 2016/2284	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fertilising Products Regulation (EU) 2019/1009	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Birds Directive 2009/147/EC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Air quality Directive 2008/50/EC	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.11 [OPTIONAL] If your answer was “rather no”, please provide explanation if relevant. Please also indicate if you see scope for simplification.

500 character(s) maximum

More consistency should be achieved between the CAP and the Nitrates Directive by instituting funding criteria within the CAP that align strictly with the goals outlined in the Nitrates Directive and the Water Framework Directive. Moreover, supporting actively farmers in their transition towards more sustainable farming practices - through relevant independent farm advisory systems - could further reinforce this coherence.

3.12 How important is the Nitrates Directive in achieving EU environmental objectives? [Please rate your answers on a scale from ‘not important’ to ‘important’].

Goal & Strategy	Not important	Somewhat important	Important	Don't know
Sustainable and resilient agriculture and food sector	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing nutrient losses by at least 50% by 2030	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Achieving the goal of good ecological status by all water bodies	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Achieve the good environmental status of marine waters	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reducing ammonia emissions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable consumption and a circular economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Zero pollution	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate neutrality	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organic farming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.13 [OPTIONAL] If your answer was "others", please specify.

200 character(s) maximum

3.14 To what extent has the Nitrates Directive contributed to a more harmonised and ambitious approach of the Member States to addressing pollution by nutrients from agriculture?

- ☐ No contribution
- ☐ Limited contribution
- ☒ Some contribution
- ☐ High contribution
- ☐ Don't know

Part 4. Final remarks

4.1 [OPTIONAL] You have the possibility to provide any other comment or suggestion you would like to share regarding the evaluation of the Nitrates Directive.

500 character(s) maximum

The Nitrates Directive is a crucial tool for reducing nitrate pollution, benefiting water quality, ecosystems, public health, and sustainable farming. However, its implementation falls short in achieving environmental goals and nutrient loss reduction targets outlined in the Green Deal. Therefore, there is a need for proactive implementation, with a focus on robust support for the adoption of agroecological practices, and measures to limit derogations.

4.2 [OPTIONAL] You have the possibility to upload one or more documents if you wish to share a more extensive contribution or any background materials that will help us to understand your answers [option for uploading files].

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

Contact

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