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Germany to face EU court over water pollution and nitrates

Stockholm, Sweden, April 29, 2016 – The European Commission is taking Germany to the Court of Justice of the EU for failing to take stronger measures to combat water pollution caused by nitrates. Nitrates are essential for plants to grow and they are widely used as fertilizers.

“The big problem for the environment, farm animals, fish and humans is that excess levels of nitrate can cause severe water pollution, with consequences for people’s health, the economy and the environment,” said Mr. Bengt Rittri, founder of Sweden’s leading residential point-of-source water purification

company, [Bluewater](#), which offers advanced solutions to tackle tap water contamination.

Mr. Rittri added that the European Commission in making its decision notes that the latest figures submitted by Germany in 2012 and several recent reports from the German authorities show worsening nitrate pollution in groundwater and surface waters, including the Baltic Sea.

According to a [press release](#) issued by the Commission, Germany has not taken sufficient additional measures to effectively address nitrates pollution and revise its relevant legislation to comply with the EU rules on nitrates (Council Directive 91/676/EEC). Since the Commission considers that the water pollution by nitrates is also not sufficiently addressed in the framework of the ongoing revision of the national action programme, it has decided to refer Germany to the Court of Justice of the EU.

Background

- The Nitrates Directive (Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991) aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources, polluting ground and surface waters, and by promoting the use of good farming practices. It requires member states to monitor their waters and identify those affected by pollution as well as establish appropriate action programmes to prevent and reduce such pollution.
- Excess levels of nitrates can damage freshwater environments and the marine environment by promoting the growth of algae which chokes other life. This process, known as eutrophication, entails a serious deterioration of water quality and loss of biodiversity. The presence of nitrates in drinking waters above 50 mg/l can have considerable health impacts on populations, especially on pregnant women and babies.
- Bluewater point-of-use residential and light commercial reverse osmosis water purifiers such as the [Bluewater Spirit](#) that harnesses the company's patented [SuperiorOsmosis](#) technology have proven to be efficient at removing most traces of nitrates from tap drinking water.

For more information, please contact:

David Noble, Bluewater Head of PR & Communication
T. +44 7785 302 694
E. dn@bluewatergroup.com

www.bluewatergroup.com

Founded 2013 in Stockholm, Sweden, Bluewater has set its sights on being the world's most planet-friendly water purification and beverage company by innovating and marketing disruptive hydration solutions for home, work, and play. Bluewater products are available globally to consumers, hotel and catering operations, event and venue organizations, and educational institutions. www.bluewatergroup.com^[IG1]

Contacts



David Noble

Press Contact

PR & Communications Director

Public relations and corporate communications

david.noble@bluewatergroup.com

+44 7785 302 694