

**Question for written answer E-001074/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Derogations from requirements of the Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directive for several Member States

The Nitrates Directive aims to protect water quality across the EU by preventing nitrates used in farming from polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. It forms an integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures. However, several Member States have been granted derogations from the Directive's requirements.

1. Which Member States have been granted derogations from the Nitrates Directive, and what is the purpose and key content of these derogations?
2. Are other requests for derogations, or for renewal of derogations, pending?
3. If so, what is the purpose of those requests?