

**Question for written answer E-008558/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: Denmark's agriculture package

Under Denmark's agriculture package, the use of fertiliser in Danish farming will in future be governed on the basis of the 'economic optimum' in line with the principle of balance laid down in the Nitrates Directive (the strictest set of rules in the EU). In the Commission's EU Pilot note, the legality of Denmark's agriculture package is called into question. On page 5 of that note, the Commission makes vague references to existing problems with Danish groundwater.

Is the Commission aware that the proportion of Danish groundwater that contains more than 50 mg of nitrates per litre is most probably lower than 1%?

Which existing groundwater problems is the Commission referring to, and where did it find evidence thereof?

Is the Commission aware that 90-95% of the nitrates found in Danish coastal waters come from Baltic countries, and Russia in particular, taking up to 50 years to reach the Danish coast? Is the Commission aware of the impact in terms of cost-effectiveness of imposing additional requirements on Danish farmers when, by and large, Danish agriculture makes no actual contribution to the total concentration of nitrates in coastal waters?