European Parliament
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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2022/0345(COD)

9.5.2023

AMENDMENTS
1391 - 1409

Draft report
Nils Torvalds
(PE746.950v01-00)

on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast)

Proposal for a directive
(COM(2022)0541 – C9-0363/2022 – 2022/0345(COD))

Amendment 1391
Nikolaj Villumsen, Anja Hazekamp

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Point 3 – Table - Row 1

Text proposed by the Commission

— 1000 to ***9*** 999 p.e.:	One sample per month

Amendment

— 1000 to ***4*** 999 p.e.:	One sample per month

Or. en

Justification

As the Commission's proposal lowers the threshold from 2000 to 1000 p.e., it is also appropriate to lower the threshold from 10 000 p.e. to 5 000 p.e. for this monitoring frequency, to achieve the aim of the recast of the Directive.

Amendment 1392
Nikolaj Villumsen, Anja Hazekamp

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Point 3 – Table - Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

— ***10*** 000 to 49 999 p. e.:	Two samples per month For micro-pollutants, one sample per month

Amendment

— ***5*** 000 to 49 999 p. e.:	Two samples per month For micro-pollutants, one sample per month

Or. en

Justification

In row 1 of table of the Annex, the Commission's proposal lowers the threshold from 2000 to 1000 p.e., and the submitters argue that it is therefore also appropriate to lower the threshold from 10 000 p.e. to 5 000 p.e. for this monitoring frequency, to achieve the aim of the recast of the Directive. This amendment is needed to ensure consistency with the proposed amendment in row 1.

Amendment 1393
Ulrike Müller

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Point 3 – Table - Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

— 10 000 to 49 999 p. e.:	***Two samples*** per month For micro-pollutants, one sample per ***month***

Amendment

— 10 000 to 49 999 p. e.:	***One sample*** per month For micro-pollutants, one sample per ***three months***

Or. en

Amendment 1394
Ulrike Müller

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Point 3 – Table - Row 3

Text proposed by the Commission

— 50 000 to 99 999 p.e. :	One sample per ***week***. For micro-pollutants, ***two samples*** per ***week***

Amendment

— 50 000 to 99 999 p.e. :	One sample per ***two weeks***. For micro-pollutants, ***one sample*** per ***two months***

Or. en

Amendment 1395
Ulrike Müller

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Point 3 – Table - Row 4

Text proposed by the Commission

— 100 000 p.e. or over:	One sample per ***day*** For micro-pollutants, ***two samples*** per ***week***

Amendment

— 100 000 p.e. or over:	One sample per ***week*** For micro-pollutants ***one sample*** per ***month***

Or. en

Amendment 1396
Alessandra Moretti

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section D – Table 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Table 1:Requirements for discharges from urban waste water treatment plants subject to Articles 64 of the Directive. The values for concentration or for the percentage of reduction shall apply.			
Parameters	Concentration	Minimum percentage of reduction[1]	Reference method of measurement
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5 at 20 °C) without nitrification2 (see Note 1)	25 mg/l $O2_2$	70-90 40 under Article 4 (2)	Homogenized, unfiltered, undecanted sample. Determination of dissolved oxygen before and after fiveday incubation at 20 °C ± 1 °C, in complete darkness. Addition of a nitrification inhibitor

Chemical oxygen demand (COD) (See Note 2)	125 mg/l $O2_2$	75	Homogenized, unfiltered, undecanted sample Potassium dichromate
Total Organic Carbon (See Note 2)	37 mg/l	75	⇨EN 1484⇦
Total suspended solids	35 mg/l3 (see Note 3)	904 (see Note 3)	1. Filtering of a representative sample through a 0,45 µm filter membrane. Drying at 105 °C and weighing 2. Centrifuging of a representative sample (for at least five mins with mean acceleration of 2800 to 3200 g), drying at 105 °C and weighing

⇩ new

Note 1: The parameter can be replaced by another parameter: total organic carbon (TOC) or total oxygen demand (TOD) if a relationship can be established between BOD5 and the substitute parameter.

Note 2: Member States shall measure either the Chemical oxygen demand (COD) or the Total Organic Carbon.

Note 3: This requirement is optional.

Amendment

Table 1:Requirements for discharges from urban waste water treatment plants subject to Articles 64 of the Directive. The values for concentration or for the percentage of reduction shall apply.			
Parameters	Concentration	Minimum percentage of reduction[1]	Reference method of measurement
Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD5 at 20 °C) without nitrification2 (see Note 1)	25 mg/l $O2_2$	70-90 40 under Article 4 (2)	Homogenized, unfiltered, undecanted sample. Determination of dissolved oxygen before and after fiveday incubation at 20 °C ± 1 °C, in complete darkness. Addition of a nitrification inhibitor
Chemical oxygen demand (COD) (See Note 2)	125 mg/l $O2_2$	75	Homogenized, unfiltered, undecanted sample Potassium dichromate
Total Organic Carbon (See Note 2)	37 mg/l	75	EN 1484
Total suspended solids	35 mg/l3 (see Note 3)	904 (see Note 3)	2. Filtering of a representative sample through

			a 0,45 µm filter membrane. Drying at 105 °C and weighing 3. Centrifuging of a representative sample (for at least five mins with mean acceleration of 2800 to 3200 g), drying at 105 °C and weighing
E. coli	***(See note 4)***	***(See note 4)***	***EN ISO 9308-2,*** ***EN ISO 9308-3, or alternative approved methods.***

Note 1: The parameter can be replaced by another parameter: total organic carbon (TOC) or total oxygen demand (TOD) if a relationship can be established between BOD5 and the substitute parameter.
Note 2: Member States shall measure either the Chemical oxygen demand (COD) or the Total Organic Carbon.
Note 3: This requirement is optional.

Note 4: Minimum requirements to concentration and percentage reduction will be established in a delegated act adopted by the Commission in accordance with Article 6 (2bis) by (12 months after the entry into force of the Directive).

Or. en

Justification

Given that less attention is paid to cities with fewer than 2000 inhabitants, E. coli should be considered as an indicator of faecal pollution, be controlled and monitored, particularly in smaller communities. In addition, overall, benefits to water quality could be envisaged across the board for the benefit of all water users (Bathing waters, aquaculture, drinking water production, users of reused water, etc.). For monitoring purposes EN ISO 9308-2 (2012 revised and confirmed in 2017) and EN ISO 9308-3 are both valid and available methods, approved alternative methods should also be allowed in order to avoid a barrier to innovation.

Amendment 1397
Ulrike Müller

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Table 2 - Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Total phosphorus	2 0,5 mg/L	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total phosphorus	2 0,5 mg/L ***(from 100 000 p.e.)*** ***1 mg/L (10 000 to 100 000 p.e.)***	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Amendment 1398
Nils Torvalds

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 2*Text proposed by the Commission*

Total phosphorus	***2*** 0,5 mg/L	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total phosphorus	0,5 mg/L	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Justification

Technical correction of typo.

Amendment 1399
Marek Balt

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Total phosphorus	2 0,5 mg/L	***90***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total phosphorus	2 0,5 mg/L	***95***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry ***or equivalent digital on-line sensor measurement.***

Or. en

Amendment 1400
Christian Doleschal, Christine Schneider, Jens Gieseke, Sabine Verheyen, Angelika Niebler, Norbert Lins

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Total phosphorus	***2*** ***0,5*** mg/L	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total phosphorus	***1 mg/L***	90	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Amendment 1401
Heléne Fritzon

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 2*Text proposed by the Commission*

Total phosphorus	***2*** ***0,5 mg/L***	***90***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total phosphorus	***0,5 mg/L (10 000 - 100 000 p.e)*** ***0,2 mg/L (more than 100 000 p.e)***	***85*** ***95***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry ***or equivalent digital on-line sensor measurement.***

Or. en

Justification

While embracing an extended environmental protection, especially of water bodies for abstraction of water intended for human consumption, we appeal for an approach to nutrient management that is protective of the environment, enables climate change targets to be met and for energy neutrality of the sector to be satisfied. An approach with the same standards.

For all UWWTPs regardless if the water body is sensitive to phosphorus or nitrogen or both, the size of the UWWTP, local and climatic conditions, could cause problems of in-efficiency and bring no additional benefits for the environment (for example, nutrient removal in UWWTPs in coastal locations where there is no eutrophication risk).

Regarding the treatment requirements, we welcome the flexibility of choosing the application of concentration or percentage of reduction set in Table 2. However, the Nitrogen removal requirements set in the Proposal (85% or 6 mg N/l) will need advanced treatment with full

denitrification (external sources of carbon may be needed if the nitrogen requirements are stricter than 10-12 mg N/l), which will increase GHG emissions (primarily N2O). Nutrient removal requirements will be difficult to reconcile with the requirement on energy neutrality.

In this regard, we encourage nutrient treatment requirements to be redefined as suggested and adjusted to the size of the agglomeration (as is currently in the Directive 91/271), establishing two thresholds (one for 100 000 p.e and above and another for between 10 000 and 100 000 p.e) to allow for a more cost-efficient implementation of nutrient removal requirements.

To achieve efficient and environmentally sound investment, the requirements of the WFD at the water body level and of the MSFD regarding connected marine water bodies should be considered, as well as local climate conditions. Nitrogen removal under cold climate conditions requires more energy but also more volume of treatment capacity at the UWWTP. Nitrogen processing bacteria are highly temperature-dependent. When temperature is below 12 °C, bacterial activity is significantly reduced. Compliance with discharge thresholds requires higher sludge ages and therefore larger capacity structures and more energy as shown in the table below (Nitrogen treatment in biological treatment plants in small communities – FNADE).

Amendment 1402
Ulrike Müller

Proposal for a directive
Annex I – Section 1 - table 1

Text proposed by the Commission

Total nitrogen	6 mg/L	85	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total nitrogen	6 mg/L ***(from 100 000 p.e.)*** ***10 mg/L (10 000 to 100 000 p.e.)***	85	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Amendment 1403
Christian Doleschal, Christine Schneider, Jens Gieseke, Sabine Verheyen, Angelika Niebler, Norbert Lins

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Total nitrogen	**6 mg/L**	85	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total nitrogen	***13 mg/L***		Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Amendment 1404
Heléne Fritzon

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 3*Text proposed by the Commission*

Total nitrogen	***6 mg/L***	***85***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total nitrogen	***12 mg/L (10 000 - 100 000 p.e)*** ***6 mg/L (more than 100 000 p.e)***	***70*** ***85***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Or. en

Amendment 1405
Marek Balt

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 2 - Row 3*Text proposed by the Commission*

Total nitrogen	6 mg/L	***85***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry

Amendment

Total nitrogen	6 mg/L	***80***	Molecular absorption spectrophotometry ***or equivalent digital on-line sensor measurement.***

Or. en

Justification:
Today, digital sensors have reached a sufficient quality and economic feasibility which can support a more advanced and more efficient operation of the wastewater treatment process. Real time monitoring of pollution level allows for much shorter response time and a more efficient use of resources. Furthermore, water authorities will have better and prompt access to compliance data and the environmental performance of the national water sector. On the other hand, operators will be able save time and effort through the reduction of manual sampling and lab work.

Amendment 1406
Nils Torvalds

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 3

Text proposed by the Commission

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % (see Note 2)

Amendment

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal*** [1]
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % (see Note 2)

Or. en

Justification

Technical correction necessary for the internal logic of the text.

Amendment 1407
Andreas Glück

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 3 – Row 2

Text proposed by the Commission

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % (see Note 2)

Amendment

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % ***calculated on dry weather flow*** (see Note 2)

Or. en

Amendment 1408
Günther Sidl

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 3 - Row 2

[1] ***Removal in relation to the load of the influent.***

Text proposed by the Commission

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % (see Note 2)

Amendment

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	80 % ***calculated on dry weather flow*** (see Note 2)

Or. en

Amendment 1409
Nikolaj Villumsen, Anja Hazekamp

Proposal for a directive
Annex I - Table 3 - Row 2*Text proposed by the Commission*

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	***8***0 % (see Note 2)

Amendment

Indicators	***Minimum percentage of removal***
Substances that can pollute water even at low concentrations (see Note 1)	***9***0 % (see Note 2)

Or. en