

# XXXVIII IAH Congress

Groundwater Quality Sustainability  
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## Extended Abstracts

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The Water Framework Directive that is one of the most important legislative acts for the protection of European waters has arrived into a key phase of its implementation. EU Member States prepared their river basin management plans by the end of 2009, those containing the necessary measures for bringing waters of Europe into good status by 2015. The European Commission has already started assessing the plans and will report on the findings of its analysis in the frame of the 2012 'Blueprint to safeguard EU waters'.

**The European Commission has recently published a Report in accordance with Article 3.7 of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC (GWD) on the establishment of groundwater threshold values (TVs).** The Report is accompanied by a Commission staff working document.

The Report is based on the information provided by Member States on groundwater threshold values established for the assessment of chemical status.

26 Member States have reported on the establishment of threshold values. Some of them indicated that the information submitted was not yet final, as work on the finalisation of the river basin management plans was still ongoing. 24 MS established threshold values for substances in total for 158 different pollutants/indicators.

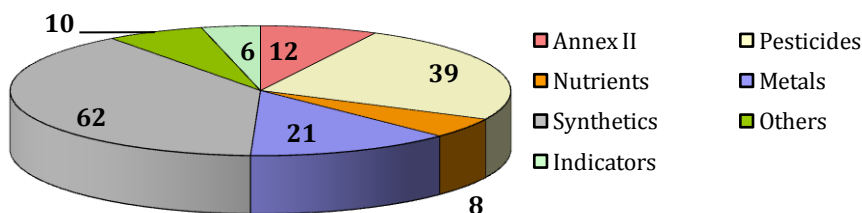


Figure 1.

## RESULTS/CONCLUSIONS

Drinking water standards were most frequently reported as basis of threshold values: 23 Member States referred to drinking water standards to be considered for TV establishment.

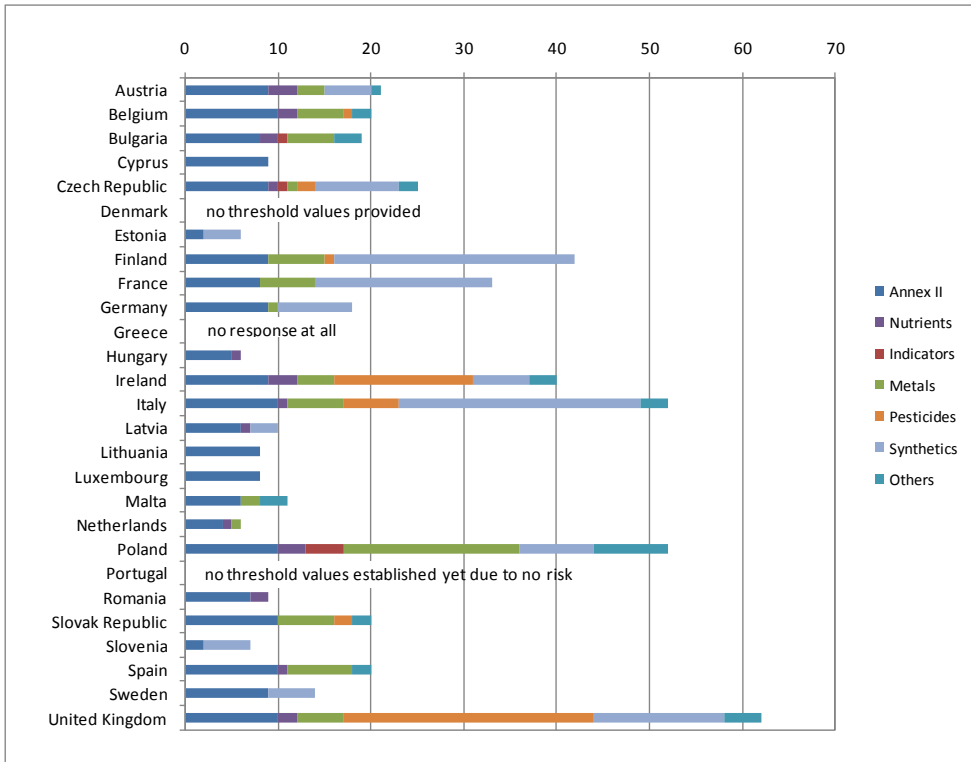
5 Member States reported TVs for nitrates and 7 Member States for pesticides that are stricter than GWD quality standards.

18 Member States established groundwater TVs for pollutants that do not pose risks to groundwater bodies.

Substances of Annex II GWD cause risk in a considerably high number of Member States

The ranges of threshold values established in Europe which is very broad for many substances

From all the pollutants considered nitrate is posing risk to and cause poor status of the highest number of the groundwater bodies in Europe



**Figure 2.** Number of pollutants/indicators for which threshold values have been established by each Member State

**REFERENCES**

European Commission, 2010: *Report in accordance with Article 3.7 of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC (GWD) on the establishment of groundwater threshold values.*  
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