

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - Evaluation



Waste water treatment plant Antwerpen-South (Belgium), source: Wikipedia NL edition

The European Commission has evaluated the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive to see whether the existing rules have reached their objectives, and whether they still serve their purpose. The assessment confirms that the Directive has proved very effective overall when fully implemented. The reduction of organic matter and other pollution in treated waste water has improved water quality throughout the European Union. Though implementing the Directive has been expensive, benefits clearly outweigh costs. Moreover, implementing the Directive remains crucial to meeting the objectives of other EU legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.