

### **Upholding the law Infringement procedures update November 2020**



The European Union is constitutionally designed as a Union of Law. According to the Treaties (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union), Member States are obliged to comply with EU legislation adopted by the legislator (European Parliament and Council), and the Commission has the right and the obligation to scrutinise such compliance and where appropriate take legal action.

Past weeks have seen a range of legal enforcement actions by the Commission for non-compliance with EU water-related legislation, in particular

- Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC,
- nature protection legislation (Habitats and Birds Directives),
- access to justice for citizens and non-governmental organisations (NGOs),
- Environmental Quality Standards Directive 2008/105/EC (Daughter Directive to the Water Framework Directive),
- flood risk management under the Floods Directive,
- pollution from industrial activities under the Industrial Emissions Directive,
- urban waste water treatment under Directive 91/271/EEC,
- environmental impact assessment under Directive 2011/92/EU,
- closure, sealing and restoration of illegal landfills under the Waste Framework Directive,
- bathing water quality under the Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC,
- quality of drinking water under the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

This issue presents general information on the legal background (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union) and the legal procedure, and a range of individual cases concerning these 15 countries:

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|------------|-------------|
| - Austria  | - Lithuania |
| - Bulgaria | - Malta     |
| - Croatia  | - Poland    |
| - Cyprus   | - Romania   |
| - France   | - Slovakia  |
| - Germany  | - Slovenia  |
| - Greece   | - Spain     |
| - Ireland  |             |