

Issue 2/2021

Upholding the law Infringement procedures update April 2021



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

- nature protection legislation (Habitats and Birds Directives),
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

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 countries:

- Cyprus
- France
- Germany
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Spain