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Germany: Northrhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony Regions obliged by Court judgment to amend insufficient programmes under the Water Framework Directive

For the first time, a German Court has qualified a program of measures for a river basin district as insufficient for achieving the objective. The Higher Administrative Court has North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony, to jointly improve / amend the existing program of measures under the Water Framework Directive in a way that it provides for the necessary measures

- to comply with the nitrate limit value for nitrates as quickly as possible,
- to prevent a deterioration of the chemical status by an increase in nitrate pollution, and
- to reverse all significant and sustainable trend of an increase in nitrate concentrations insofar as they are caused by human activity.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the application to the court by an environmental NGO and of the judgment.