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## Advice on reporting for 'nitrate in groundwater' indicator

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By order of dhr. Daniel Decharleroy.

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## Introduction

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The EEA indicator on nitrates in groundwater is an 8th EAP headline indicator. It examines whether the EU will be reducing nutrient losses by at least 50 % in safe groundwater resources by 2030 in line with the 8th EAP monitoring communication of the European Commission.

## Advice

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INBO Comments (Flanders, Belgium)

- **Summary:**
  - o Some clarifying specifications on the Green Deal target of nutrient losses would be helpful here to assess the distance to target. E.g. how will the 50 % reduction by 2030 be assessed? What is the 100 % reference? Is this a EU level goal or a goal for each individual member state?
  - o 'Projections show substantial reductions in nutrient losses': It would be nice to get a reference to these projections.
- **Figure 1:**
  - o There is a very high variability in number of waterbodies per member state. Some clarification is needed on how MS data are aggregated to conclude results on EU level. E.g. are the shown results biased by the disproportionate number of groundwaterbodies per member state or was a correction factor applied?
  - o From a biodiversity and ecosystem functioning point of view the 50mgNO<sub>3</sub>/l drinking water treshold is still an unacceptably high level. For most EU habitattypes this level does not correspond to a favourable state of conservation. We suggest to add a short note stating that for biodiversity detrimental effects of elevated nitrate concentrations in groundwater are likely to occur at concentrations (far) below this 50 mgNO<sub>3</sub>/l drinking water treshold.