

Announcement of new book: *Treatment of a EU Directive. Compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in Germany, Spain, England and Wales, and the Netherlands* (edited by René Kemp).

The book investigates how Member States responded to a significant piece of European water legislation: the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), requiring a total investment in sewage collecting and treatment works of 130.3 billion Euro. It describes implementation of this Directive in four Member States: Germany, Spain, England and Wales, and The Netherlands.

It is shown that implementation was uneven and non-uniform, with water authorities in England and Wales initially exploiting all kind of derogations, keeping in with their quality-based tradition, and Spain being behind in meeting the Directive's requirement but making reforms to meet European requirements.

The book finds evidence that Member States in some cases invested in overly expensive works. Reasons for this are civil engineering preferences for collective treatment works and national and EU funding arrangements, which led to a poor use of the flexibility afforded by the Directive. In Germany there was a game of blame.

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The Implementation and Technological Impact of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in Germany, Spain, England and Wales and The Netherlands: Synthesis Chapter

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