

European Parliament (EP) & Online

26 October 2022

„Drinking water supply - can best practices show a way to protect drinking water or do we need the SUR banning chemical pesticides in sensitive areas?“

Wolfgang Deinlein,

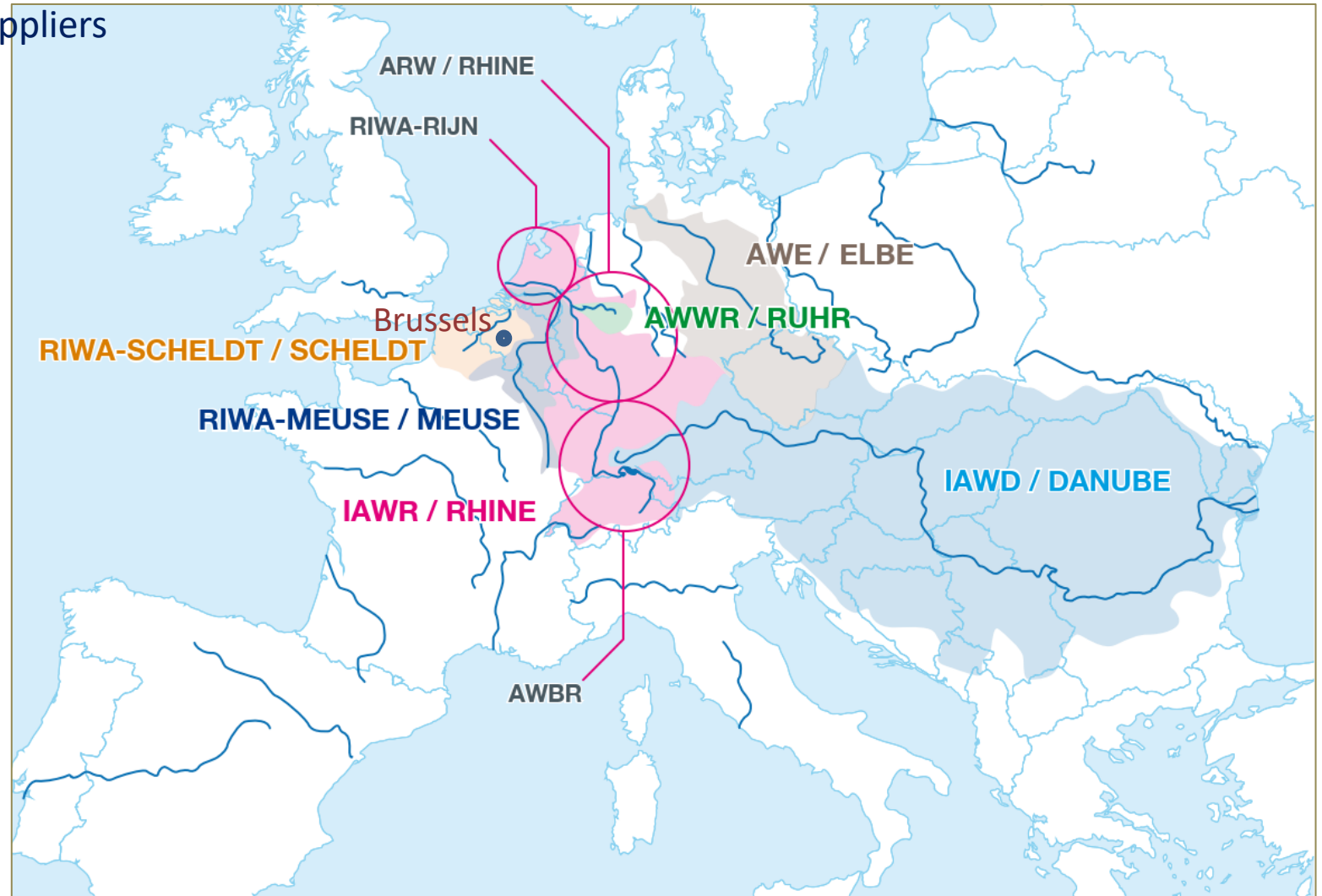
IAWR Managing Director, ERM Coalition of European Drinking Water Suppliers

ERM Coalition – Coalition of the European River Memorandum (ERM)

- ERM Coalition: 170 drinking water suppliers
- Goal: Protection of drinking water resources



- River basins: Rhine, Danube, Elbe, Meuse, Scheldt
- 188m in river basins
- In 18 States (13 EU Member States)
- 2022 Europ. Groundwater Memor.



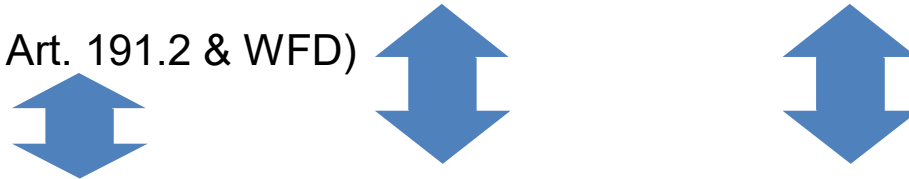
- 1) New situation: insufficient protection of drinking water supply
- 2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas
- 3) Consequences and requirements regarding SUR proposal

1) New situation: insufficient protection of drinking water supply

[WFD](#) (2000), Art. 7.3: “Member States shall ensure the necessary protection for the bodies of water identified with the aim of avoiding deterioration in their quality in order to reduce the level of purification treatment required in the production of drinking water.”

„Union policy on the environment shall aim at a high level of protection taking into account the diversity of situations in the various regions of the Union. It shall be based on the precautionary principle and on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay.”

([EU Primary law](#), [TFEU](#), Art. 191.2 & WFD)



EP „regrets the fact that the deterioration of water resources has increasingly led to additional treatment by drinking water operators in order to ensure that water intended for human consumption complies with the pesticides limits as enshrined in Council Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption, with the costs being borne by consumers, not polluters;“ (EP [resolution](#) of 12/02/2019)
+ [EP F2F Resolution](#) of 20 October 2021 → EP‘ yes to binding reduction targets

1) New situation: insufficient protection of drinking water supply

➔ „By assessing the non-relevant Metabolites monitoring data available, the {WFD CIS} Working Group Groundwater stated that there is enough evidence of a European wide presence of non-relevant Metabolites in groundwater.“

(technical report of the “Groundwater Watch List” Group of the WFD CIS Working Group, October 2021)

➔ Analytical + monitoring gap, due to intrancparency in pesticide application (→ disaggregated SUR register)

➔ Limitation of treatment processes to remove **persistent and mobile** metabolites in practice (PMT/vPvM)

1) New situation: insufficient protection

UBA/German Environmental Agency, 27/07/2022

➡ New gaps in authorization, esp. due to lost lawsuits DE

➡ Insufficient protection from hazardous pesticides in MS

➡ Conventional agriculture's "Codes of Good Practice" are insufficient and put drinking water at risk.

➤ Pesticide authorisations put our ground- & drinkingwater at risk

Pesticide authorisations put our ground- & drinkingwater at risk



Degradation products of pesticides can diminish groundwater and drinking water quality
Source: bigfoot / Fotolia.com

The quality of the drinking water in Germany is excellent. Its main source, groundwater, enjoys a high level of protection and should be as free as possible from chemical residues.

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/pesticide-authorisations-put-our-ground>

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/topics/pesticide-authorisations-undermine-environmental>

27.07.2022

★ 3

DE: <https://www.bauernstimme.de/news/details/wider-besseres-wissen>

Links

- 1) New situation: insufficient protection of drinking water supply
- 2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas
- 3) Consequences and requirements regarding SUR proposal

2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas: Leipzig



2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas: Leipzig

Kommunale Wasserwerke Leipzig GmbH (KWL) ([AWE](#)):

1992: Own organic farm „[Waterworks Canitz GmbH](#)“

in centre of water protection area (800 hectare):

Organic farming is free of chemically synthesized pesticides.

„Bioland“ (higher organic certification)

✓ Land belongs to waterworks (KWL), formerly to Stadt Leipzig

€ No funding / compensation needed (e.g. by KWL)

💧 Waterworks Canitz (water permit: 16,4m m³/a):

✓ simple purification enough.



2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas: Munich

Stadtwerke Munich GmbH (SWM):

1992 SWM initiative: „Eco-farmers“ („Ökobauern“) in inner water catchment area in Mangfall valley (today ~100 % organic) + recommendation for higher organic certification (e.g. Bioland, Naturland, ...)

2011 further extension in water catchment area: 4200 hectare (**→ one of largest organic areas in DE**)

- Land does not belong to SWM
- € Funding/compensation needed (SWM, KULAP/CAP)
- Not all farmers converted (in extended area)

💧 75 % of Munich's drinking water

✓ simple purification enough

2) Best practices of chemical pesticide-free areas: Munich



MIESBACHER
LAND

UNSERE BIO MILCH
↑ KOMMT AUS DEM
MIESBACHER LAND

Dort bewirtschaften die MIESBACHER LAND Landwirte
ihre Felder und Wiesen im Ökolandbau
ohne chemisch-synthetische Dünger und Pflanzenschutzmittel.
Sie düngen nur mit hofeigenem Naturdünger wie Gülle oder Kompost.

Unsere Trinkwasser Helden



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3) Consequences and requirements regarding SUR proposal

✓ Best practices can show the way: organic farming in water protection/catchment areas protects drinking water.

○ But voluntary model failed if ○ water suppliers do not own land +
○ conventional farmers are uninterested

→ vast majority!

! New DWD requires water authorities (& drinking water suppliers), to carry out **risk management**.

○ But the required risk management cannot be done by them (lack of authority).

→ It's the duty of Regulator: European Parliament and AGRIFISH Council

Requirement: ban chemically synthesized pesticides in sensitive areas of drinking water supply:

✓ SUR proposal, Art. 3 16. (f) (i) + Art. 18 (→ coherent with EU Organic Regulation 2018/848 & 2021/1165)

→ water protection areas (safeguard zones) for drinking water (WFD)

→ modifications of those areas following the risk assessment for drinking water abstraction (Art. 8 DWD) 13

3) Consequences and requirements regarding SUR proposal

It is the regulator's duty:

→ to get the risk under control.

→ to ensure public health

→ to adopt an ambitious SUR, protecting sensitive areas of drinking water supply.

„Vulnerable group“: the public (drinking water consumers)

Safe drinking water is basis of prosperity and essential for the right to water/social justice.

Member States are requested to allocate budgets to support conventional farmers for transition to sustainable farming esp. in sensitive areas (→ see EU [Commission's Organic Action Plan](#))

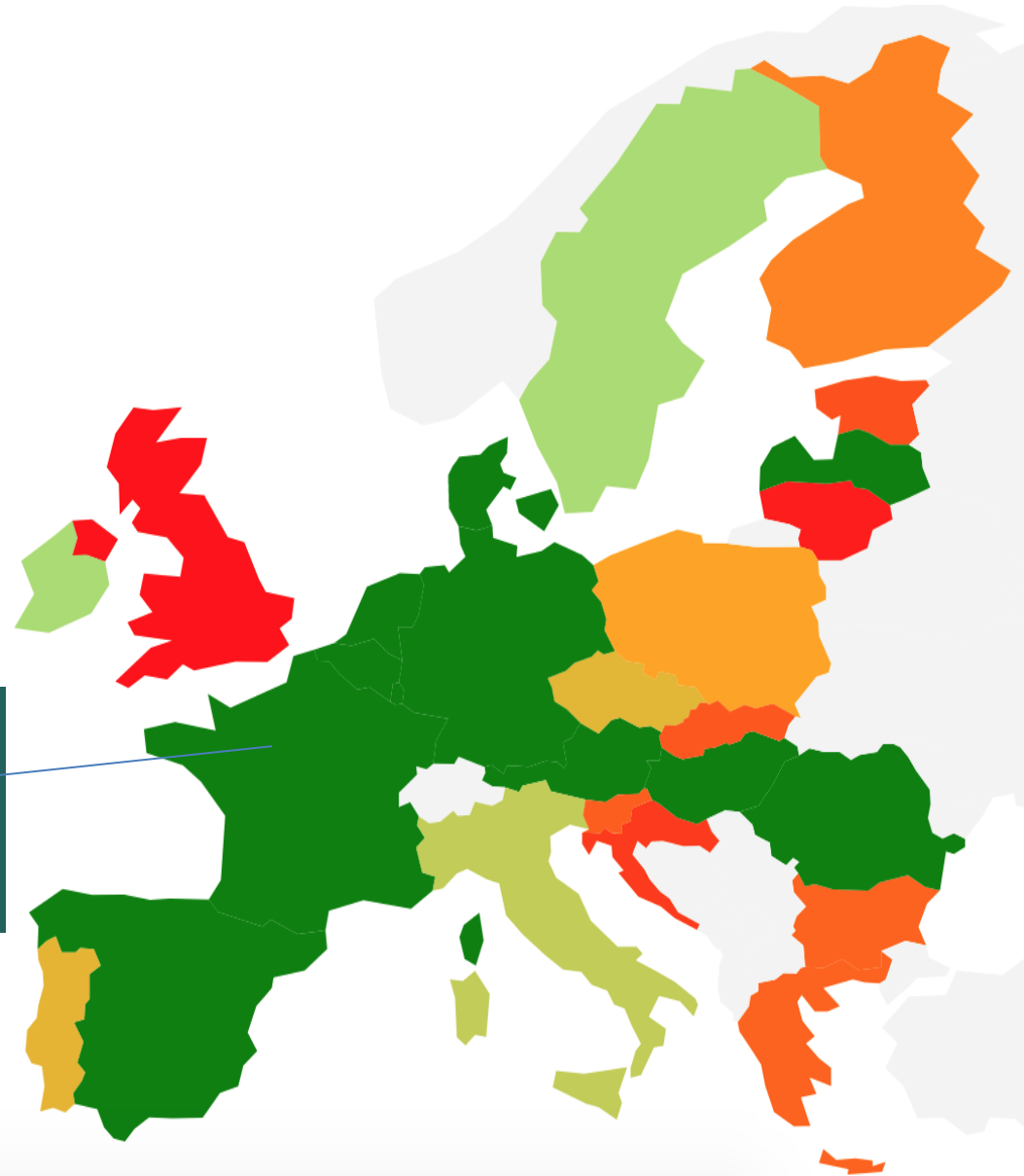
Backed by 1.1m EU citizens:



successful ECI [SaveBeesandFarmers.eu](https://www.savebeesandfarmers.eu)



Dark green:
In 11 EU Member states
ECI signatory threshold
was exceeded.



*„Drinking water supply - can best practices show a way to protect drinking water OR
do we need the SUR banning chemical pesticides in sensitive areas?“*

Answer:

Best practices on a voluntary basis DO NOT provide effective drinking water protection.

*Best practices can show a way to protect drinking water **AND***

we do need the SUR banning chemically synthesized pesticides in sensitive areas of drinking water supply.

→ Transition to certified organic farming.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH

FOR SAVING NOW OUR DRINKING WATER.