



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT,
CLIMATE PROTECTION, AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Reactive nitrogen – Towards an integrated approach to protecting biodiversity

In January 2015 the German Advisory Council on the Environment published a report entitled “Nitrogen – Strategies for Resolving an Urgent Problem”. We wish to invite you to a presentation of the key messages of this report which will be followed by statements from relevant stakeholders.

The main focus of this report lies on the impacts of reactive nitrogen compounds on biodiversity. It calls for an integrated policy approach, which mobilizes the synergies between water, clean-air, soil, nature, climate and agricultural policies and improves the public visibility of this persistent and systemic challenge.

The report is linked to three ongoing political processes in the EU:

- The implementation of the 7th Environmental Action Programme, which gives excess nitrogen deposition a prominent place and calls for a more “sustainable and resource-efficient” management of the nitrogen cycle.
- The better implementation of EU water legislation, which requires a more consistent approach to releases from agriculture.
- The Commission proposal for a clean-air package which also aims to better protect ecosystems from excess nutrient loads (ammonia, nitrogen oxides).

Those interlinked processes pose a challenge to multilevel governance: as the EU defines environmental reduction goals and quality objectives, the federal states and regions have the duty to implement the environmental directives, frequently without getting sufficient means from the national and EU levels. Agricultural policies play a pivotal role in resolving the problem at hand.

Wednesday, 3rd of June 2015, 18.00 h
at
Minaraad
Kliniekstraat 25
1070 Brussels

Programme

5:30 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. Welcome

Jan Verheeke, Secretary General, Minaraad – Flamish Environment Council

Dr. Beatrix Tappeser, State Secretary in the Hessian Ministry of Environment, Climate Protection, Agriculture and Consumer Protection

6:10 p.m. Scientific input

“Nitrogen – the underestimated threat to biodiversity”

Prof. Dr. Heidi Foth, Council Member, SRU – German Advisory Council on the Environment

“Nitrogen losses from the agriculture sector: action needed to protect air, water and climate”

Prof. Dr. Karin Holm-Müller, Council Member, SRU – German Advisory Council on the Environment

6:50 p.m. Comments from Institutions and Stakeholders

Marianne Wenning, Director Quality of Life, Water and Air, European Commission

Martin Häusling, Member of the European Parliament

Dr. Claudia Castell-Exner, Chair EUREAU WG I “Drinking Water” – European Federation of National Associations of Water Services

Tania Runge, Senior Policy Advisor, Copa-Cogeca – European Farmers, European Agri-Cooperatives

Pieter de Pous, EU-Policy Director, EEB – European Environmental Bureau

Debate

8:00 p.m. Conclusion

Dr. Beatrix Tappeser

Reception

Presentation and debate will be held in English.

The event is free of charge.

Film and sound footage will be taken during the event. By participating you declare that these pictures (and video recordings) may be used and published.

Please register by 26th of May 2015 with name and organization to pascale.lischka@umweltrat.de

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