

Council Directive of 21 May 1991 concerning  
urban waste water treatment (91/271/EEC)

*Article 8*

1 Member States may, in exceptional cases due to technical problems and for geographically defined population groups, submit a special request to the Commission for a longer period for complying with Article 4.

2 This request, for which grounds must be duly put forward, shall set out the technical difficulties experienced and must propose an action programme with an appropriate timetable to be undertaken to implement the objective of this Directive. This timetable shall be included in the programme for implementation referred to in Article 17.

3 Only technical reasons can be accepted and the longer period referred to in paragraph 1 may not extend beyond 31 December 2005.

[<sup>F1</sup>4 The Commission shall examine that request and take appropriate measures in accordance with the regulatory procedure referred to in Article 18(2).]

5 In exceptional circumstances, when it can be demonstrated that more advanced treatment will not produce any environmental benefits, discharges into less sensitive areas of waste waters from agglomerations of more than 150 000 p.e. may be subject to the treatment provided for in Article 6 for waste water from agglomerations of between 10 000 and 150 000 p.e.

[<sup>F1</sup>In such circumstances, Member States shall submit beforehand the relevant documentation to the Commission. The Commission shall examine the case and take appropriate measures in accordance with the regulatory procedure referred to in Article 18(2).]

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**Textual Amendments**

- F1** Substituted by [Regulation \(EC\) No 1137/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2008 adapting a number of instruments subject to the procedure laid down in Article 251 of the Treaty to Council Decision 1999/468/EC, with regard to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny](#)  
[Adaptation to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny — Part One.](#)