

European River Symposium –
Water Users and Water Quality

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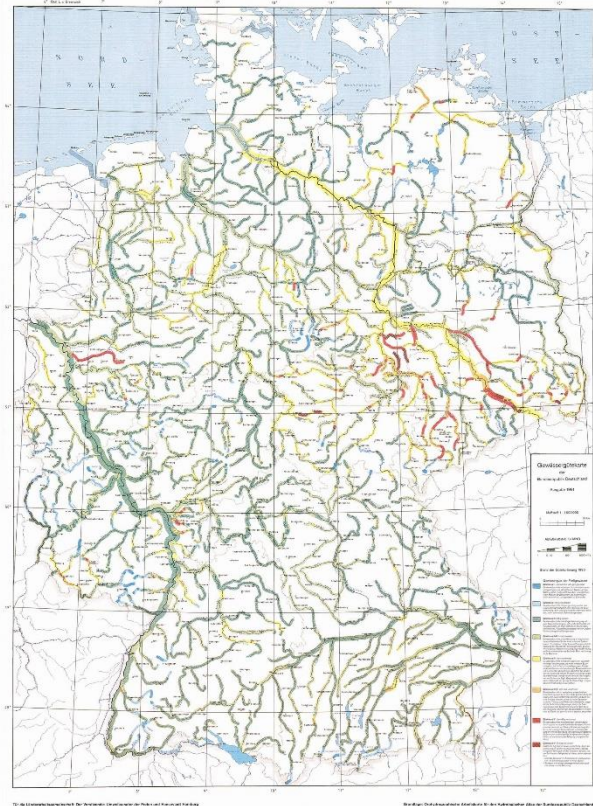
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The chemical industry endorses: „The Treasure of Water“

- ◆ Water has been always of special significance for the chemical industry - all major chemical sites were founded along rivers
 - ◆ Transport route for raw materials, goods, etc.
 - ◆ Supply of raw material „water“
 - ◆ Cooling water and discharge for effluents
 - ◆ Great effort by the chemical industry led to a reduction in:
 - ◆ the amount of water used
 - ◆ the released substances (heavy metals, organic substances, phosphates, etc.)
- ◆ Chemical industry is committed to a sustainable use of our water resources
- ◆ Significant improvement in water quality in Germany since the 1970s

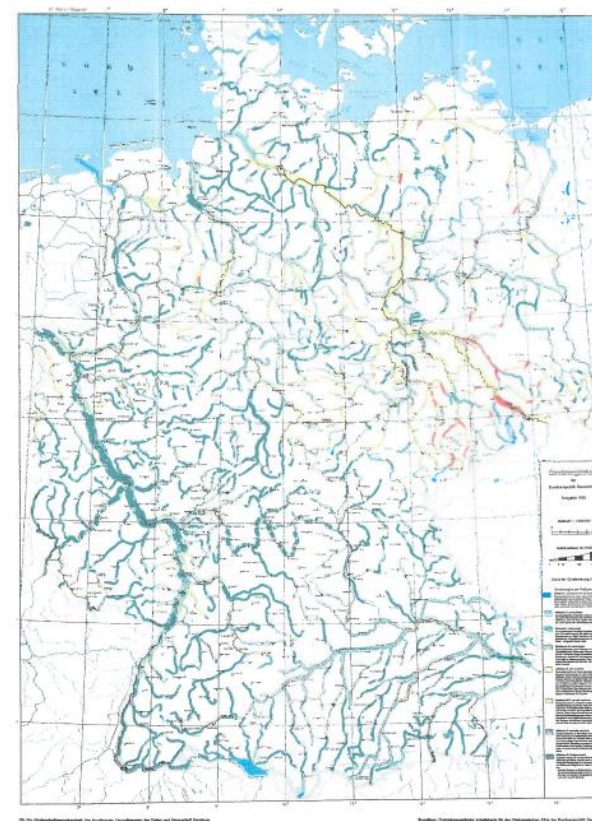


Surface Water Quality, Germany



Map 1990

[\(gwaesserguetekarte_der_bundesrepublik_deutschland_1552565947.jpg \(3344x4447\) \(lawa.de\)\)](#)



Map 2000

Bericht [\(W_2225_KM-20160630134829 \(lawa.de\)\)](#)

Overall increase in river water quality (yellow => green)

Chemical Substances and Modern Living

In a modern world, large numbers of chemical substances are used in daily routine:

- ◆ Cleaning agents
- ◆ Food additives
- ◆ Hygiene products and disinfectants
- ◆ Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Plant protection products (agriculture)
- ◆ Electromobility
- ◆ And many other items



Trace Substances Strategy of the German Government

A stakeholder dialogue to reduce the release of trace substances into the aquatic environment has been implemented

- ◆ Over a period of several years, strategies and options for action were developed in a multi-stage process on four topics:
 - ◆ development of a “filter concept” to identify relevant substances
 - ◆ information campaign for the public on relevant topics (i.e. correct disposal of “out of date” pharmaceuticals)
 - ◆ development of concrete measures to reduce the input of relevant substances in the aquatic environment
 - ◆ treatment of waste water in municipal/ industrial waste water treatment plants



Our Conclusions

- ◆ Chemical industry is committed to a sustainable use of our natural water resources
- ◆ Chemical industry is committed to provide sustainable strategies to society by providing innovative solutions and technologies
- ◆ We do not have problems with trace substances viewed on a national level in Germany
- ◆ There are local problems, especially when the receiving water is small and there is a high population density
- ◆ Existing local problems must be solved with concrete local measures

To conclude, industry is interested in a constructive dialogue on substances that may cause a challenge to our drinking water resources