

Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and  
of the Council of 12 December 2006 on the protection  
of groundwater against pollution and deterioration

*Article 2*

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this Directive, the following definitions shall apply in addition to those laid down in Article 2 of Directive 2000/60/EC:

- 1) 'groundwater quality standard' means an environmental quality standard expressed as the concentration of a particular pollutant, group of pollutants or indicator of pollution in groundwater, which should not be exceeded in order to protect human health and the environment;
- 2) 'threshold value' means a groundwater quality standard set by Member States in accordance with Article 3;
- 3) 'significant and sustained upward trend' means any statistically and environmentally significant increase of concentration of a pollutant, group of pollutants, or indicator of pollution in groundwater for which trend reversal is identified as being necessary in accordance with Article 5;
- 4) 'input of pollutants into groundwater' means the direct or indirect introduction of pollutants into groundwater as a result of human activity;
- 5) 'background level' means the concentration of a substance or the value of an indicator in a body of groundwater corresponding to no, or only very minor, anthropogenic alterations to undisturbed conditions;
- 6) 'baseline level' means the average value measured at least during the reference years 2007 and 2008 on the basis of monitoring programmes implemented under Article 8 of Directive 2000/60/EC or, in the case of substances identified after these reference years, during the first period for which a representative period of monitoring data is available.