

Building resistance to water privatisation

A large number of organisations, including EPSU/PSI met to consider European and international developments specifically in the water sector on 29 and 30 June in Brussels.

A range of issues was considered: EU internal market, competition and water, EU water facility and EU water initiative, the Services Directive, water and GATS, Commission on Sustainable Development (UN) and water amongst others.

Most important were the discussions to learn from anti-privatisation campaigns in Uruguay, Philippines, Ghana and elsewhere and to consider joint actions to stop privatisation, and attempts to promote private sector participation in the running of public services. Apart from the trade unions, the impressive array of organisations included environmental and development NGOs, research orientated groups, people focusing on international financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank and World Bank, advocacy and campaign networks. The groups will support each others actions in defense of public water.

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