

World Water Day: 22 March 2006

(22 February 2006) The Standing Committee on Public Utilities considered a number of developments in the European Water sector at its meetings on 7 April 2005 and 7 October 2005 in Luxembourg. It decided it would be worthwhile for EPSU to actively participate in the activities organized around World Water Day, 22 March 2006. This participation can take the form of public action to raise the awareness of citizens and politicians about threats to water services from the growing commercialisation of an essential service. The action we are considering can include the following:

1. To organise a public action in front of the relevant Ministry and/or EU delegation in as many European countries as possible on 22 March. Key demands are:

- * Recognise safe and reliable drinking water and waste water services as a human right.
- * No liberalization of water services. The action would demonstrate our concerns regarding the Commission plans to promote competition in water services.
- * Stop promoting the private sector (through PPPs) in developing countries. Priority is to be given to the public sector (95% of water services worldwide are publicly provided).
- * Water and other public services should remain outside of the scope of the Services/ Bolkestein Directive.
- * The Commission should withdraw its request to developing countries to open water services as part of the negotiations on GATS.

2. We are not requesting a mass mobilisation. The strength of the action will be in the number of countries it covers. It will be important to ensure action in all EU member states and if possible the EU applicant and candidate countries, to practice and demonstrate our trade union strength in the sector. Colleagues in Belgium (Commission and European Parliament, Austria and Finland (EU Presidencies) are considering specific actions.

3. Please be imaginative and creative to attract attention of the media.

4. It will also be an opportunity to work with other groups that stand for water as a public service. Trade unions in several countries are working with such groups in coalitions.

Proposed headings for the actions: - Our Water is Not for Sale - Water is a Human Right - Hands off our public water - Water and other Public Services out of the Bolkestein Directive.

We kindly ask you to consider these suggestions and indicate if your union will be able to participate. Attached is a sheet with an indication of a number of actions that could be possible. We would appreciate if you could send that sheet back to us, indicating what your union will be able to do. {{Our Water is not for sale! Notre eau n'est pas à vendre ! Ons water is niet te koop !

- download [our call for action for 22 March](#)

List of actions from our affiliates

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{{ {Action sheet}}} { {[FR->art1688] - [DE->art1689] - [ES->art1690] - [IT->art1712]- [SV->art1714] - [CZ->art1715] - [HU->art1716] - [PL->art1717] - [RU->art1718]}}

- [Action Sheet - EN](#)

- [Action sheet - EN](#)

{{{Background note}}}{[FR->art1688] - [DE->art1689] - [ES->art1690] - [IT->art1712]- [SV->art1714] - [CZ->art1715] - [HU->art1716] - [PL->art1717] - [RU->art1718]]}

- [Background note - EN](#)

- [News from our Italian affiliate FP-CGIL-><http://www.fpcgil.it/news/060308.htm>]
- 22 maart 2006 Wereld Water Dag

- [Poster - NL](#)

- European Voice 9 March 2006: {"Water divides EU member states"}, by David Cronin

- [EV 9 March](#)

- {[Water and GATS->art1865]} - {[For more information on the work of EPSU

on water->rub38]}}



World Water Day



22 maart 2006 Wereld Water Dag

Op 22 maart 2006 is het Wereld Water Dag; een dag waarop wereldwijd aandacht besteed wordt aan dit "wonder van de natuur" dat al het leven op aarde mogelijk maakt. Voor miljoenen mensen op deze wereld is water, of juist het gebrek aan schoon water, echter nog een bron van ziektes en doodsoorzaak. Voor hen is Wereld Water Dag geen dag om te vieren. Water is een mensenrecht en alle mensen hebben recht op voldoende water om in hun levensonderhoud te voorzien. Overheden hebben die verantwoordelijkheid naar hun burgers.

De leden van ABVAKABO FNV werkzaam in de waterbedrijven zijn er trots op dat zij dagelijks de beste kwaliteit drinkwater bieden aan alle inwoners van Nederland en willen dat alle wereldburgers dezelfde kwaliteit drinkwater ontvangen. Wij zijn van mening dat er meer gedaan kan worden om te zorgen dat iedereen toegang heeft tot schoon drinkwater. Dit is een van de Millenniumdoelen (Millennium Development Goals – MDG) zoals door 189 regeringsleiders onderschreven in 2000. Wij denken dat de publieke waterbedrijven hierin een speciale rol kunnen vervullen.

Vakbonden voeren internationale solidariteit hoog in hun vaandel. De leden van ABVAKABO FNV werkzaam in de waterbedrijven beschikken over kennis en ervaring die in de campagne voor het bereiken van de MDG onvoldoende worden benut. ABVAKABO FNV leden willen hun kennis en ervaring daarvoor inzetten.

Daarom roepen wij overheid en de publieke waterbedrijven op tot internationale samenwerking en solidariteit om het wereldwijde probleem van tekort aan schoon drinkwater op te lossen. Gezamenlijk kunnen we het leven van vele miljoenen mensen verbeteren die nu schoon drinkwater ontberen. Wij willen dit niet alleen door middel van financiële steun (zoals we al doen via Aqua for all), maar ook door publiek-publieke samenwerking (Public-Public partnership: PUP).

De Nederlandse publieke waterbedrijven behoren tot de beste van de wereld. Door publiek-publieke samenwerking kunnen we de kwaliteit van dienstverlening door publieke waterbedrijven in andere landen omhoog stuwten. Daarmee kunnen de publieke diensten een enorme stap zetten naar het bereiken van het millenniumdoel schoon drinkwater voor iedereen. Water is een mensenrecht, geen handelswaar.





Common ACTION by TRADE UNIONS and the EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF
PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS, WATER ACTIVISTS and
DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS ON

WORLD WATER DAY Wednesday, 22 March 2006

Our water is not for sale!

We want:

- Water and wastewater completely out of the services (Bolkestein's) directive.
- Water and wastewater out of GATS.
- No liberalisation and privatisation of water and wastewater.
- Clean, safe and affordable drinking water is a human right. Water supply is a public service.

Hence:

CALL for ACTION in BRUSSELS
Let's meet at 10.30 a.m. on rond-point Schuman

Take part. Let the European Commission know that we do not agree with the commercialisation of our water. Water is a public service and must remain so.

This call is supported by EPSU (European Federation of Public Service Unions) ACOD (CGSP) and ACV Public Services, 11.11.11- Umbrella for the Flemish North-South movement, Protos, Oxfam Solidarity

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