

Subject: Europe should lead the way to make the human right to water a reality

Dear member of the European Parliament,

At the end of October, the plenary of the European Parliament will vote on a **legislation regulating water for human consumption**. Thanks to the huge effort of European citizens, this piece of legislation is trying to partially implement this right by promoting access to water for all in the European Union. **Even if the proposal from the European Commission falls short, it could be a first step on the right direction.**

International civil society celebrated the success of the European Citizen's Initiative on the Right to Water in 2013, supported by nearly two million Europeans. Also the European Parliament's resolution of 8 September 2015 on the follow-up to the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water ([2014/2239\(INI\)](#)) that supported the implementation of the human right to water in the EU and called to strengthen European efforts to achieve this goal beyond the EU.

The first vote in the Committee of Environment on the **Recast of the Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption** was really disappointing both for citizens in Europe and abroad because:

- It waters down the main objective of article 13 on access to water for all in the EU by turning a clear commitment into a list of possible actions. This would go **against the commitments taken by the EU regarding Goal 6 of the Sustainable Development Goals**.
- It waters down the measures proposed to guarantee universal access to tap water for Europeans in streets, restaurants or public buildings, **falling short in its contribution to the international struggle against plastic waste that is polluting our oceans, soils and waters**.

The European Union can make a great contribution to turn the Human Right to Water into a reality, following the example of one of its members, Slovenia, and other countries around the world like Uruguay that have recognized the human right to water and sanitation in their constitutions.

The vote at the plenary in October will have a huge and positive impact in other parts of the world and in global policies on water. As the international civil society is watching, **we urge you to support the alternative amendments that support a strong legislation that provides access to water for all in the European Union.**

Yours sincerely,