



To Mr. Luis Planas
Minister of the Environment
Spain

gprensa@mapama.es

JWG/GD/vv

Brussels, 19 June 2018

Dear Mr Planas,

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. Together with many other organisations in 2012, we initiated the first ever successful European Citizens Initiative (ECI) Right2water. It collected nearly 1.9 million signatures.

European Commission has recently put forward its proposal for the Recast of the Drinking Water Directive. This proposed Recast takes account of the demands of the nearly 1.9 million European citizens who gave their support to the ECI. We ask you to support the Human Right to Water.

Article 13 of the Commission's proposal is an important step toward the recognition of the human right to water as defined by the United Nations in 2010 by requiring Member States:

- to improve access to and promote use of drinking water via measures such as: assessing the share of people without access to drinking water, encouraging the use of tap water in public buildings and restaurants, ensuring that equipment to freely access tap water is available in most cities, etc.
- to take all measures necessary to ensure access to drinking water for vulnerable and marginalised groups.

The Recast of the Drinking Water Directive is on the agenda of the Environment Council on the 25th of June. We urge you to support the European commission's proposal, especially the provisions in article 13. We ask you to encourage the other members of the Council to formally recognise the human right to water.

The upcoming debate in the Environmental Council is important. It is the first time that the Member States have the chance to debate the demand of nearly 1.9 million EU citizens of the first ever successful ECI that sought recognition of the Human Right to Water in the EU on the basis of the UN 2010 Resolution. Ignoring the outcome of this ECI that received broad support and including in the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee

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and which inspired the EU Pillar of Social Rights' section on access to essential services would be a mistake. Your government has committed to make the gap smaller between citizens and the EU. Second, promoting the Human Right to Water will ensure people in the EU will have access to safe, clean and affordable drinking water. It is one of the commitments in the UN Sustainable Development Goals your government supports. We believe that the support of your government is key for the future of the Human right to water in the EU.

Yours sincerely,



Jan Willem Goudriaan
EPSU general secretary

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