

## The new Drinking Water Directive does not acknowledge the human right to water that has to be guaranteed by States

The European Commission seems ready to approve today the new Drinking Water Directive, that had been announced as the tool responding to claims for respecting the human right to water from ICE Right2Water.

Unfortunately, as EPSU underline in their press release of Jan. 31, the Directive does not provide any real answer to expectations of 1.8 million European Citizens, in so far ICE urged the Commission to promote laws implementing the human right to water and access to water and sanitation as a public service for all. The Directive only engage to promote access to water of the most vulnerable and to provide information over water quality.

Above all, the Directive disclaim obligations implied by the UN 2010 Resolution stating that water and sanitation are a universal human right essential to life and to the enjoyment of all human rights.

As Rosario Lembo (CICMA President) said, the Directive does not introduce any norm suitable to guaranteeing to all European citizens the minimum of water and sanitation indispensable to life that actually realize the universal human right, and therefore needs to be guaranteed free of costs.

While we agree with EPSU critiques against the Directive, we also want to stress - Lembo goes on - that implementing the human right to water and sanitation would imply questioning the principle of the full cost recovery. The latter still looks as a taboo, and yet there is no doubt that human rights cannot be treated as costs.

Modifying the Directive is now a task for the EP. We wish that together with EPSU and European Water Movements we will mobilize for pressing MEPs in pursuing ICE claims for a real implementation of the human right to water and sanitation.

CICMA has proposed a Second Optional Protocol to ICESCR as an international legal tool defining concrete norms for the implementation of the human right to water and sanitation by the States, and will participate to such a mobilization in the EP.

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