



Friday, 22nd of June 2018

Dear Commissioner Vella,

CC:

Minister for Infrastructure & Water, the Netherlands
Minister for the Environment & Food, Denmark
Minister for the Environment, Sweden

The European Drinking Water Directive (DWD) has until now been a great success. Never before so many EU-citizens have had access to safe drinking water. Nevertheless, after 20 years in effect, the Drinking Water Directive needs to be revised so it is fit for purpose on the road to achieving the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 6 (water).

The new proposal shows the right direction and will increase transparency in the drinking water sector, asking suppliers to inform the public about their energy use and water losses. But as a proposal under the umbrella of the overall EU strategy for circular economy, it needs focus on resource-efficiency, clear targets and fixed timelines for implementation.

As green-tech associations representing the environmental and/or water technology sectors of the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark, we suggest:

1. A broadened scope of the directive addressing SDG 6 and the transition to circular economy by more focus on resource efficiency aspects such water and energy efficiency. It should be clear that securing the drinking water resource base is a prerequisite to obtain better access to affordable drinking water (article 1).
2. Full transparency on water leakage and energy performance in 2020 and application of reduction schemes by 2025, where appropriate (article 4 and 14).
3. Better incentives for risk-based monitoring systems for assessment of contamination (Article 7-11).

When compromises shall be reached in the ongoing negotiations, we kindly suggest you to use the opportunity to make the drinking water directive an actual deliverance under the Circular Economy Package.

Monday the 25th of June, you will discuss this dossier with your colleagues in the council. We urge you to consider our joint recommendations for your discussion, as highlighted in the attached position paper.

Yours sincerely,

Erwin Dirkse, chairman Dutch Environmental and Water Technology Association (ENVAQUA)

Claus Witt, chairman Danish Environment Technology Association (DETA)

On behalf of:

ENVAQUA (Netherlands)
DETA (Denmark)
VARIM (Sweden)
FME (Netherlands)

Attached:

Joint Position ENVAQUA/DETA/VARIM/FME