



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Mr Milan ŠTĚCH  
President of the Senát  
Valdštejnské náměstí 17/4  
CZ – 118 01 PRAGUE 1

Dear President,

*The Commission would like to thank the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic for its Resolution on the Commission Communications on 'A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources', on the 'Report on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy', and on the Commission 'Report on the Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) - River Basin Management Plans'.*

*The Commission appreciates that the Senate shares the Commission assessment that water management deserves increased attention and that additional efforts are needed in the Member States to get closer to the 2015 objective of achieving good status of water.*

*In this respect, the Commission shares the Senate's view that preventive and protective measures need to be taken and adequate water pricing policies must be put in place, while integrating water policy objectives into other policies such as agriculture and energy.*

*Inter-ministerial coordination at all government levels has a key role to play to ensure such integration, also with a view to fully exploiting the EU funding opportunities for water policy for the 2014-2020 programming period.*

*In relation to the specific requests from the Senate to the Commission, the Commission would like to recall four key sets of measures contained in the abovementioned Water Blueprint. These are supported by the European Innovation Partnership on Water (EIP on Water) that the Commission launched in 2012, with its threefold focus on urban, rural and industrial innovation.*

*Firstly, the decision to develop voluntary EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement criteria<sup>1</sup> for key water related products and to support the inclusion of water-related devices (e.g. taps and shower-heads) in the work plan of the Eco-design and Energy (and other resources) Labelling Directive<sup>2</sup> with a view to developing EU-wide standards for these products and reducing water and energy consumption.*

<sup>1</sup> EU Ecolabel, <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecolabel/>; EU Green Public Procurement, [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Directive 2009/125/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-related products, OJ L 285, 31.10.2009; Directive 2010/30/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the indication by labelling and standard



*Secondly, the necessity for Member States to improve implementation of the Water Framework Directive by using green infrastructure such as wetland and floodplains or sustainable urban drainage. This can reduce the EU's vulnerability to floods and droughts and improve water efficiency in rural areas as well as in cities, thereby contributing to developing 'smart cities'. Moreover, under the EIP on Water, an Action Group will establish a network of European cities to share their best practices on Urban Water Cycle Services (UWCS) with a view to improve the sustainability of the UWCS of their city/municipality/region. Furthermore, under the EU Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) and the Cohesion and Structural Funds, there is scope to fund the take-up of green infrastructure, particularly if the Commission's current Multiannual Financial Framework proposals are supported. The Commission intends to develop guidance to support this objective under the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive together with Member states and stakeholders.*

*Thirdly, the Commission proposed to rely on satellite imagery and derived information, such as provided by the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES now Copernicus) programme, to help Member States identify areas that are irrigated well beyond what is allowed by national permits or even without permits to better face the problem of illegal abstraction.*

*Fourthly, with regard to water leakage in the supply network, the Commission will work with the EU water industry to accelerate the development and spread among Member States of best practices on Sustainable Economic Leakage Levels (SELL).*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the requests expressed by the Senate and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

