



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 18.7.2018
C(2018) 4505 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Senát for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast) {COM(2017) 753 final}.

In proposing a revision of Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (hereinafter the 'Drinking Water Directive'), the Commission is first of all responding to the first ever successful European Citizens' Initiative 'Right2Water', and secondly following up on the United Nations Agenda 2030, more particularly Sustainable Development Goal 6 and its associated targets. Finally, the proposal aims to modernise some outdated elements of the current directive such as the list of parameters and the information requirements which are no longer fit for the digital age.

The Commission welcomes the Senát's broad support for the general aims of the proposal. It however notes the Senát's concern as regards the proposal to delete the indicator parameters (such as odour, taste, colour of water) from Annex I to the Directive. The Commission would like to stress that the proposal provides that these parameters should be moved to Annex IV to the Directive as part of the information to be made available online to consumers. The rationale behind this change is that these parameters are not health-related but rather provide information that the public may find useful, and which often influence consumers' perception of tap water.

The legislative process, involving the European Parliament and the Council, is now underway and the Commission is hopeful that an agreement will be reached before the end of the current parliamentary term in 2019.

The Senát's Opinion has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations and will inform these discussions.

*Mr Milan ŠTĚCH
President of the Senát
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The Commission hopes that the above clarification addresses the issue raised by the Senát and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*