



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.3.2015  
C(2015) 2054 final*

*Mr Claude BARTOLONE  
President of the  
Assemblée nationale  
Palais Bourbon  
126, rue de l'Université  
F – 75007 PARIS*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assemblée nationale for its Opinion on the public consultation and questionnaire on the Quality of Drinking Water in the European Union.*

*In its response to the European Citizens Initiative Right2Water {COM(2014) 177 final} (the Initiative), the Commission welcomed the mobilisation of European citizens in support of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, underlined the importance of the human rights dimension of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and committed itself to continue to ensure that these principles remain at the heart of its policies.*

*The public consultation that the Assemblée Nationale refers to is only one action amongst many others in response to the Initiative. In line with Article 11 of the Treaty of the European Union, the Commission carried out this broad consultation to give citizens the opportunity to publicly exchange their views, with the aim to explore the potential of the current Drinking Water Directive<sup>1</sup> to contribute to some goals of the Initiative. The questionnaire is specifically related to this legal instrument, but also includes wider questions inspired by the demands put forward through the Initiative. Furthermore, the consultation offered the possibility to add comments or feedback not explicitly covered by the questions. The high amount of responses, about 5 900, to the public consultation that closed on 23 September 2014, confirms the high public interest in the matter. The Commission will consider the results of this consultation in any follow-up action.*

*Furthermore, the Commission, in its response to the Initiative, has invited the Member States acting within their competences to take account of the concerns raised by citizens through the Initiative and encouraged them to step up their own efforts to guarantee the provision of safe, clean and affordable drinking water and sanitation to all.*

---

<sup>1</sup> Directive 98/83/EC

*Taking into account the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, the Commission looks forward to working together with Member States to achieve these goals of better and more accessible water for European Union citizens.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Assemblée nationale and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*