

**PARLIAMENT OF ROMANIA**

**CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

**DECISION**

**approving the opinion on the Communication from the Commission on the European Citizens' Initiative "Water and sanitation are a human right! Water is a public good, not a commodity!"**

**COM(2014) 177**

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of Article 40 of Decision No 11/2011 of the Chamber of Deputies on the working and decision-making procedure for parliamentary supervision of draft legislative acts of the European Union, based on the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon on the role of national Parliaments,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this decision:

Sole Article Having regard to draft opinion 4 c-19/241 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 12 June 2014,

1. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the exercise of the citizens' initiative expressed through the 'Right2Water' initiative. In the Right2Water initiative, European citizens invited the Commission to propose legislation implementing the human right to water and sanitation and promoting the provision of water and sanitation as essential public services for all. In addition, the European Commission calls on the governments of Member States to ensure that all citizens have access to sufficient and clean drinking water and sanitation.

2. The Chamber of Deputies notes the following:

- the Communication is limited to a list of non-legislative measures that the European Commission intends to take in response to the concerns expressed in the citizens' initiative, but does not provide any explicit justification why the list of actions does not contain any acts of a legislative nature;

- the Communications repeatedly affirms the European Commission's decision to remain neutral as regard the method of supply of water, sewerage and sanitation services, which is an obligation laid down in the Treaties, but it fails to indicate what administrative mechanism it intends to amend or create in order to guarantee this, as it is clear that citizens do not find the existing procedures to be convincing;

- The European Commission stresses the cross-cutting nature of the objectives of water policy at Union level and their link with sustainable development and human rights, but fails to

indicate precisely which aspects of European norms or policies would require analysis from this perspective and potential amendment.

3. The Chamber of Deputies would draw the Commission's attention to the fact that the obligation to which it has committed itself in response to the citizens' initiative, which is above all to better inform citizens and governments, will not be sufficient to provide a convincing response to the concerns of 1 884 790 citizens with regard to the insufficient nature of the action taken at European level. The fears raised by such a large number of citizens sends a clear signal to the European Commission that it is necessary to draw up new draft legislative acts in the field or at least to launch a comprehensive process of improving policies with such an aim.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 9 September 2014, in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

**PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES**

**Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea**

Bucharest, 9 September 2014

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