



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 22.04.2015

C(2015) 2547 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion concerning 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 final}.*

*The Commission would like to reiterate its commitment to continue increasing and improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation through environmental policies and infrastructural funding within the EU and through EU development policy at the global level. Moreover, as noted by the Camera Deputaților, the Commission's Communication invited the Member States, acting within their competences, to take account of the concerns raised by citizens through this 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.*

*The Commission takes note of the Camera Deputaților's Opinion and recalls that, in accordance with Article 10(1)(c) of Regulation No 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative, the Commission set out in the Communication its legal and political conclusions, the actions it intends to take and its reasons for taking or not taking certain actions.*

*The Commission would like to assure the Camera Deputaților that it has given all due attention to the requests made in the "Right to Water" initiative and carefully examined all arguments presented. The intention of the European citizens' initiative is to create a tool enabling citizens to launch a debate and set the agenda at EU level, by inviting the Commission to come forward with legislation but it does not create an obligation for the Commissioner to propose legislation.*

*As a first concrete action, and particularly noting the concerns raised with respect to small drinking water supplies, the Commission conducted an EU-wide public consultation on the Quality of Drinking Water in the EU between 23 June and 23 September 2014. The*

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*Commission is currently evaluating the replies given to this consultation in order to assess the need for improvements and how they could be achieved<sup>1</sup>.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/water\\_drink\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/water_drink_en.htm).