



# **EurEau's views on the DWD proposal**

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# EurEau



- ~ EurEau has been the **voice of Europe's water sector** since **1975**
- ~ Our members are **32** national associations of **water services** from **29** European countries
- ~ We represent **drinking water and waste water operators** – from the *public* and *private* sector
- ~ We **engage** with **EU policy makers** to ensure the *protection of public health* and the *environment* as well as **the sustainability** and **the affordability** of water services



## ANNUALLY

The European water sector's turnover is 86 billion euros.



## INVESTMENT

We invest 52% of this - 45 billion euros - into renewing infrastructure.

# DWD

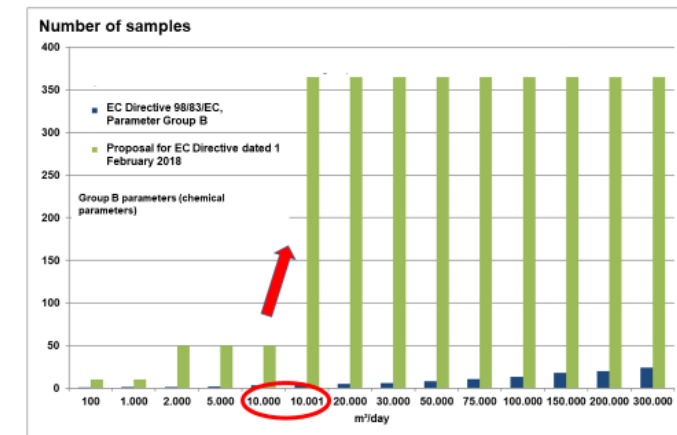
- ~ An answer to the first ECI Right2Water (2013)
- ~ In line with the implementation of the SDG 6
- ~ Designed around 5 policy options:
  1. Art.5 + I Annex I: review of quality parameters
  2. Art.7: Introduction of Water Safety Plan approach
  3. Materials and products in contact with drinking water
  4. Art.13: Access to drinking water for all
  5. Art.14: Information to consumers

# Positive elements of the proposal

- ~ **Update of quality parameters** after almost 20 years
- ~ Introduction of compulsory **risk-based approach** (*WHO Water Safety Plan concept*)
- ~ Introduction of hazard assessment for water bodies: finally link and synergies between **WFD and DWD!**
- ~ Provisions on risk assessment in the **domestic distribution systems**
- ~ Idea of realizing **access to water** for all in line with the UN SDG 6
- ~ Reduce plastics and switch to a **circular economy**
- ~ **Information** on quality to the public to create awareness

# Elements to be improved

- ~ **Art.5 + Annex I:** Follow *closely* the **recommendations of the WHO** for parameters and parametric values.
  - ➔ High costs and difficult to comply in such a short time.
- ~ **Indicator parameters** to be **maintained** as in the current directive
- ~ **Art.7, 11 + Annex II:** *unjustified increase* of **minimum frequency for sampling** and monitoring especially for chemical parameters.
  - ➔ High costs without additional health benefits





# Elements to be improved

- ~ **Art. 8:** proposal raises issues in terms of **shared responsibilities** between **Member States, water operators, property owners**
- ~ Only Member States have the legal means to enforce **preventive measures in the catchment areas**, which are under the remit of the public competent authorities
- ~ **Materials and products in contact with drinking water:** EurEau regrets the **deletion of current art. 10.**
  - ➔ We want to **strengthen** the current wording with the **development of EU-wide hygienic requirements for materials** in contact with drinking water



# Elements to be improved

~ **Art.12**: we do not support **the concept** that **any exceedance** of values should be considered “**automatically** as potential danger to human health”

➔ **Competent health authorities** are best placed to assess the situation and take the **appropriate follow-up measures**, including the **decision to inform the public**.

~ **Derogations: flexibility mechanisms** are needed to allow for a smooth implementation according to realistic timelines.

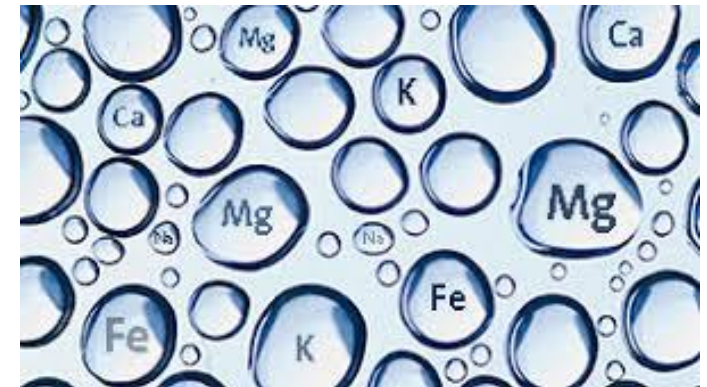


# Elements to be improved



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- ~ **Art.13: Access, affordability and availability** are **all** dimensions of the human right to water.
- ~ **Art. 14:** EurEau favours **transparency** and back the European Commission's intention **to make consumers aware of the good quality of tap water** in Europe **to increase consumers' confidence.**
- ~ Do not lose the focus on **water quality aspects.**
- ~ Additional **definitions at national level** needed to implement the directive.





# Summary

- ~ This directive is of **utmost importance** for European **water services** to provide **healthy and affordable drinking water to consumers**.
- ~ Various elements of the European Commission's proposed text need **improvement** to make the Directive legally **sound and implementable** in an efficient and effective way.



# Thank you!

**Dr. Claudia Castell-Exner**



**EurEau**

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