



European  
Commission



# Safe drinking water for all Europeans

## Review of the Drinking Water Directive

**European Parliament**  
**16 May 2018**

# Tap water in the EU is clean

© iStockphoto/Zerbor



# Current Drinking Water Directive

## (1998)

- *Objective: to protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption*
  - monitoring and testing 48 parameters\*
  - information to consumers
  - reporting to COM
- Applies to distribution systems serving >50 people or supplying > 10 cubic meters/day

# Why the need for change?

2014

- **European Citizens Initiative Right2Water**
- Follow-up: Public consultation on drinking water  
→ **But also: drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan**

2016

- **REFIT Evaluation Drinking Water Directive**

2017

- **Cooperation with WHO: recommendations**
- **Impact Assessment Study and Staff Working Document**

2017

- **European Pillar of Social Rights** *"Everyone has the right to access essential services ... including water."*

2018

- **Commission proposal**

# What's new?



**Highest quality standards  
for materials in contact  
with water**



**Access to water**



**Increased  
transparency**

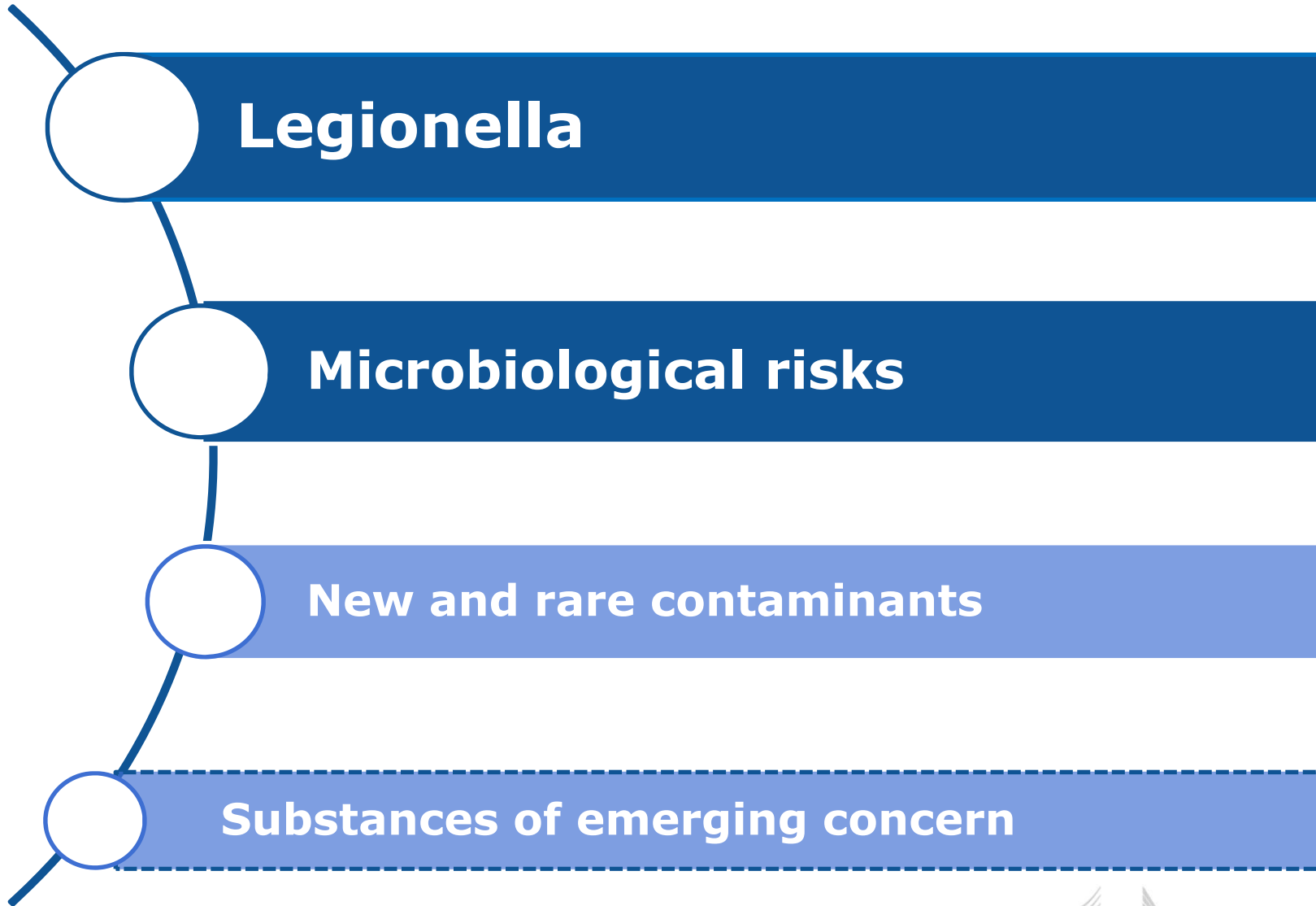


**Risk-based  
approach**

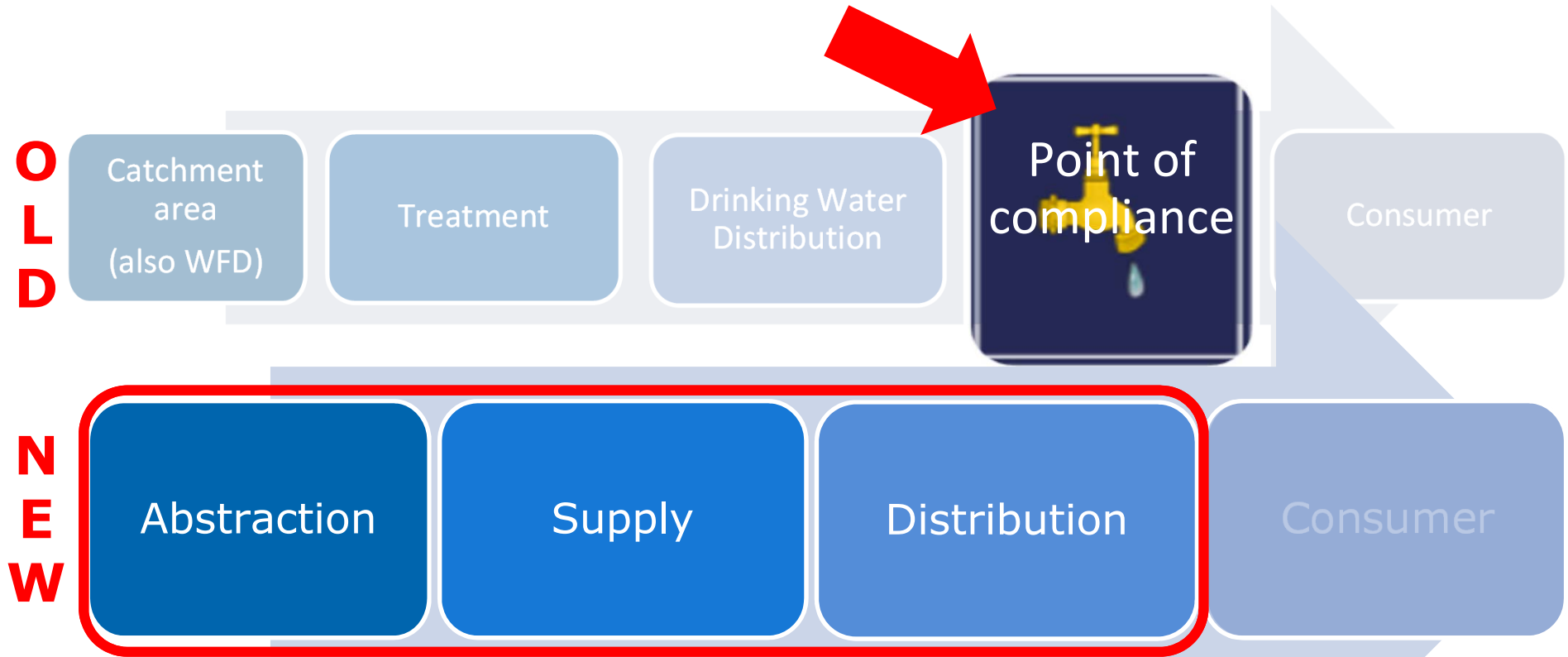
**Updated  
parameters**



# Main health issues to tackle



# Risk-based approach



**Proposal covers complete water supply chain**

# Protecting EU citizens' health

**Updated/new  
Parameters**  
→ **Based on  
WHO Report**

**Risk-based  
approach**  
→ Monitoring only  
where substances  
are detected

**Improved  
health**  
protection  
**Limited costs**  
for water  
suppliers

Better alignment with Water  
Framework Directive

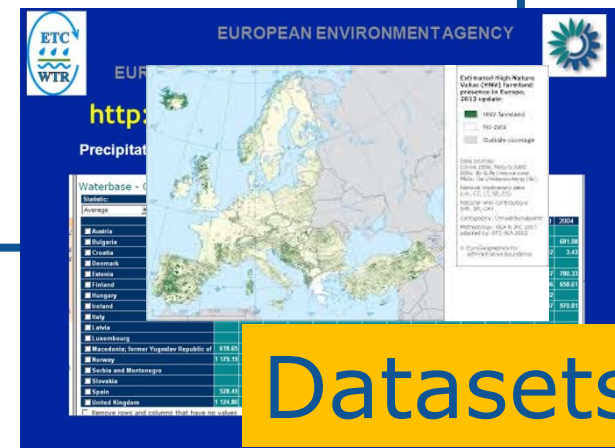


# Information and transparency

Essential information for consumers on bill

Additional information online

Lighter and more accurate national reporting



# Why transparency matters?



Confidence in tap water



Savings for consumers



Performance of operators

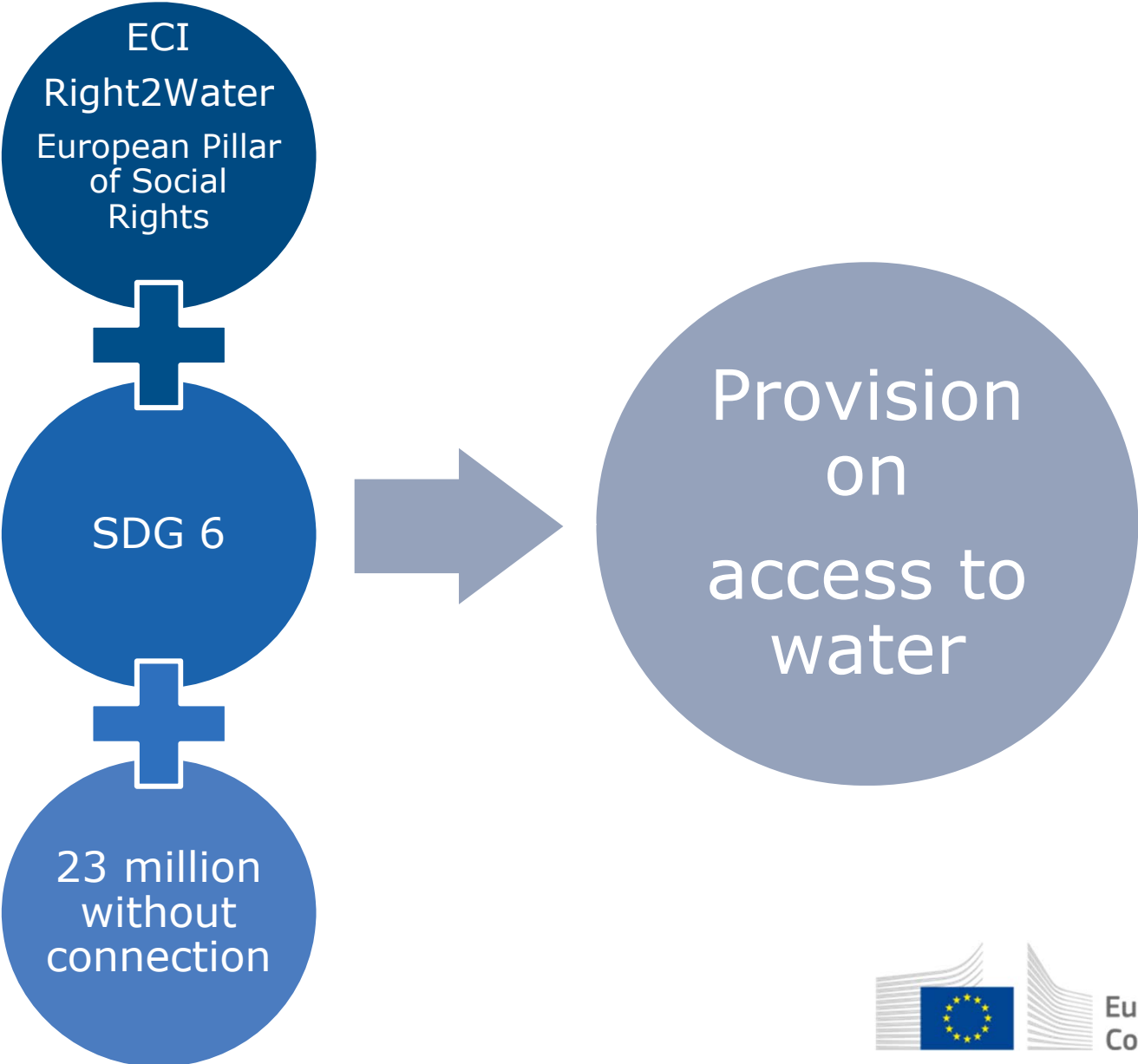


Investments



Reduction of plastic bottles

# Access to water



# Art. 13 on access to water

- Measures to **ensure access to water for vulnerable and marginalised groups**
- Measures **to improve access to tap water:** encourage to build infrastructure, free access in public spaces, campaigns ...



## In conclusion, this proposal aims to:

- **Protect EU citizens** – we are doing better than WHO
- Maintain **EU water industry** at the top: innovation, energy performance
- Provide **concrete answers** to the first EU citizen initiative + Pillar of Social Rights
- **Improve transparency** and confidence in tap water
- **Simplify procedures** and reporting
- Contribute to achieving the SDGs – especially **SDG 6!**

+ contribute to the **circular economy** and help **reduce plastic waste**

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/review\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-drink/review_en.html)