



**Common Letter of Executive Secretary UNECE and Regional Director
WHO to the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment
and the Minister of Health**

The legal frame that covers the control of quality of potable water in Cyprus, that is completely harmonized with the Community Directive 98/83/(EK) is:

1. *The Quality of Water for Human Consumption (Monitoring and Control) Law 2001.*
2. *The Quality of Water for Human Consumption Disposal by Tankers Vehicles and Tanks with Vending Machines Regulations 2004.*

Competent Authority for the enforcement of the above Law and Regulations is the Ministry of Health and the authorized officers having the responsibility for such duties are Public Health Officers of the Department of Medical Services and Public Health Services and the Municipalities Public Health Officers in their municipal area jurisdiction.

The Public Health Services in closed collaboration with the competent national laboratory for the analyses of potable water named General State Laboratory are preparing an *annual national program for sampling and control of drinking water*.

The sampling program has undertaken by the Public Health Services from approximately 1391 determined sampling points such as from consumer tap, from water that is provided or disposed by tanks. Sampling should be carried out from the point that water flow out from a tank or from the point that water is placed in bottles or containers.

The frequency of sampling becomes accordingly with the volume of daily consumption per water supply area, always according to the article 9 Annex II Table (B)1 of National Law 87 (I) /2001.

Additionally, the Public Health Services in collaboration with the General State Laboratory evaluate the results of water analyses and they prepare *a three-year report* to the European Union. The report concerning the period of 2005-2007 has already dispatched. According to the official results, the chemical and microbiological quality of water has found in satisfactory levels.

Some divergences that are usually observed in chemical parameters concern primarily nitric, chloride, sulphurous and sodium that is caused mainly by hydrologic changes due to severe water shortage observed in Cyprus during recent years.

Finally, the Public Health Services is in the process of completion of a software program. This program will be helpful for the announcement of drinking water control activities, where any consumer might be informed immediately about the results of water analyses as well as the governmental actions have been taken, via the official web page of the Ministry of Health.