The equity dimension in the revised EU Drinking Water Directive

6TH MEETING OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON EQUITABLE ACCESS TO WATER AND SANITATION UNDER THE PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

Michel Sponar, European Commission
DG ENV – Marine Environment & Water Industry
**Current Drinking Water Directive**

"Protect human health from adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption"

<table>
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<th>Monitoring and remedial action: 48 parameters based on WHO</th>
<th>Information to consumers</th>
<th>Reporting to COM</th>
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REFIT & European Citizen Initiative

Outdated parameter list
Parameters not been revised for last 20 years

Outdated approach
List-based approach with tap as point of compliance outdated

Obstacle to internal market
Provision regulating materials in contact with tap water not functioning

Lack of information and transparency
• Little confidence in tap water
• Diverging performances

Limited access to water
4.5% non connected

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What's new?

- EU quality standards for materials
- Risk-based approach
- Updated parameters
- Increased transparency
- Access to water
New Parameters based on WHO

Drinking Water Parameter Cooperation Project

Recommendations

Bonn, 11 September 2017
New Parameters

New limits: Bisphenol A, Chlorate, Chlorite, Haloacetic acids (HAA5), PFASs—Sum and total

Revised limits: Antimony, Boron, Chromium, Lead, Selenium

Watch List: Beta-estradiol and Nonylphenol
Risk-based approach

Proposal covers complete water supply chain
Information and transparency

- Essential information for consumers on bill
- Additional information online
- Lighter and more accurate national reporting
Access to water

Right2 Water ECI

SDG 6, EU Pillar Social Rights

23 million without connection

Provision on access to water
Access to water – What’s new?

• ‘Whereas 33, 34, and 35
• Article 1 – Objectives
  “.../... and to improve access to water .../...”
• Article 16 – Access to water
• Article 18 - Information on monitoring and implementation
Whereas 33, 34 and 35

- References to:
  - European Citizen Initiative
  - European Social Pillar, SDG 6
  - UNECE/WHO protocol on Water and Health
  - ‘Vulnerable and marginalised groups’
  - Discussion on MS/EU competences (‘right to water’ – not an EU competence)
New Article 16 – Obligations

“Member States shall take measures to improve/maintain access to water for all – in particular for vulnerable/marginalised groups”

- Identify people without access and reasons
- Assess possibilities to improve
- Inform on possibilities to connect /alternative means
- Take measures to ensure access to vulnerable+/marginalised groups
New Article 16 – Obligations

Obligation to:

• Set up outdoor and indoor equipment in public spaces
• Provide assistance to competent authorities
New Article 16 – Promotion of tap water

Member States ‘may’ take the following measures:

- Raising awareness on the nearest equipment
- Information campaigns
- Encourage the use of tap water in public buildings
- Encourage the provision of tap water for free or low fee in restaurants
Articles 18 and 19 – Implementation and Evaluation

“Member States assisted by the EEA shall set up by 12 January 2029 a data set on: “

- Measure taken to improve access to water and to promote use of tap water
- Share of their population having access to water
- Update every 6 years

Evaluation of the Directive by 2035 with particular attention to access to water
Conclusions

- New provisions to ensure/improve access to water for all
- Specific attention to vulnerable and marginalised people
- Pragmatic approach in the limit of EU competences
- A lot will depend now on implementation
Thank you!