



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF PUBLIC WATER OPERATORS

Aqua Publica Europea

Emerging substances and The Right2Water initiative: the importance of citizens' engagement

**TAPES Project Final Conference
Brussels, 24 September 2015**

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About Aqua Publica Europea

- ❖ The European Association of Public Water Operators
- ❖ 50 members (100% publicly-owned water and sanitation operators + 4 regional/national associations), serving 80 million European citizens.
- ❖ APE mission
 - ➔ Promoting public water management
 - ➔ Platform for mutual learning
(5 Working Groups: Tariffs, Performance, Communication, Research, Cooperation)





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The European Citizens' Initiative

- ❖ Direct Democracy Tool (Lisbon Treaty, 2009)
- ❖ **Invitation** to the European Commission to propose legislation (petition)
- ❖ One million signatures (from at least 7 MS) to be considered by the EC
- ❖ EC response **within 3 months** from the submission





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About the ECI *Right2Water*

- ❖ **First ever successful initiative (1,7 million signatures)**
- ❖ **3 main demands**
 - ✓ **Right to water in EU legislation**
 - ✓ **Excluding water from internal market rules**
 - ✓ **Greater effort in international cooperation**
- ❖ **EC answered March 2014**
- ❖ **European Parliament adopted resolution September 2015**



ECI *Right2Water* and Emerging substances

- ❖ EC response: step up efforts towards full implementation of EU water legislation ... Ensuring better quality
 - EU consultation on water quality

- ❖ EP resolution: calling on EC and MS to do more on
 - Transparency and water quality
 - Cross-compliance
 - Promoting tap water
 - Control at source approaches and Polluter-Pays principle
 - Increasing controls of pollutants
 - Participatory governance – citizens' participation



ECI *Right2Water* and Emerging substances

- ❖ Citizens' demand for participation in water governance
- ❖ Emerging substances: scientific (toxicology) and socio-economic considerations
- ❖ How to find the right balance?

Conclusions

- ✓ Importance of informed decision-making based on stakeholders' and citizens' participation
- ✓ Combining clear regulatory framework, increasing efforts in new technological solutions, and suitable governance models
- ✓ Supporting voluntary approaches and best practices sharing and uptake





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APE – Eau de Paris Seminar

WATER AND CLIMATE

*The European Public Water Operators' commitment
to water resources protection*

16 October 2015

9.30 – 13.30

Hotel de Ville, Paris





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THANK YOU !

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