

RESOLUTION

Brussels 12 January 2017

Informal working group meeting at the European Parliament

We gathered in Brussels in the context of the European Water Movement activities the undersigned representatives of Unions, scientific institutions and movements.

We all contest to the fact that:

At a time when the decision makers in France and Germany remunicipalize water after the failure of the privatization model which was promoted for decades by World Bank and IMF, it is asked by countries under financial programs such as Greece, Ireland, Portugal to privatize water services in violation of the European Commission's neutrality and the suggestion of the European Parliament's Resolution in response to the ECI Right2water.

More precisely, it was made a memorandum commitment to transfer water services of Athens and Thessaloniki to the new Privatisation Superfund H.C.A.P..

At the same time the cashiers of EYDAP (Athens) were emptied by 77 million with repeated capital returns, investments in the banking sector and dividends sharing while it is a binding condition as part of the Asset Development Plan to sell 11% of EYDAP (for 68 million) and 23% of EYATH (Thessaloniki).

We request the compliance of all national governments and European institutions to the EU Treaty and their own wording that water is not a commodity as it is mentioned in EU Directive 2000/60. We ask them also to comply with the democratic, through referenda, expression of the views of European peoples, as in Italy and Thessaloniki in Greece who have repeatedly condemned any form of privatization of the water cycle and its management.

We want to stress the water services in Greece have managed to stay profitable and they are in the 5th place in implementing the EU directive resulting in Greece being 3rd in Europe when it comes to clear coasts and seas. They also provide good quality drinking water in one of the cheapest tariffs in Europe also offering on occasions reductions to the financially vulnerable citizens.

In coordination with our friends in the European Water Movement from all countries, all of us will put pressure at national and European level in order to succeed our goals.

More precisely we have programmed legal actions, union demonstrations and campaigns at local and national level in the capacity of each organization.

As examples of such actions we quote the following:

1. Members of SGW have requested officially all communication between the Greek Government and the European Council following the 24th May 2014 decision of the Council of State and the relative European Council Decision mentioning H.C.A.P. (the new Privatization Superfund) as it has resulted in the transfer of water services to this entity.
2. On the 20th of March an injunction filed by SEKES against EYDAP shareholders decision for a capital return of 40 million which jeopardizes the economic future of the company is trialed.
3. Employees of EYATH and citizens from Athens and Thessaloniki have filed legal actions at all levels against the transfer of EYATH and EYDAP to H.C.A.P.
4. The Federation of the Employees in the Municipal Water and Sewage Companies of the Periphery are financing the production of a documentary regarding the municipal companies function and the negative results of privatization worldwide.
5. Local Movements like the ones in Chalkidiki, Thasos, Korinthos, Crete etc have started coordinated campaigns and actions.

To conclude, we express our strong opposition to any policies that transform water from a commons to a commodity, including the full cost recovery paradigm which is according to scientific institutions impracticable. We ask from the European Parliament to continue to support our struggles and direct the European Commission towards the implementation of the will of the European citizens in this matter, giving a strengthening example of the European institutions which are justifiably intensely challenged.

The undersigned

Federation of Employees EYDAP, Federation of Employees DEYA, Association of Greek Geologists, Association of Engineers of EYDAP, SEKES –EYDAP, Union of Employees of EYATH, SaveGreekWater, Association of Ecological Organizations of the Corinthian Gulf “Alkyon”, Thasos Water SOS, Committee of Megali Panagia in Chalkidiki and MEP Sofia Sakorafa.