

WATER SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, STRASBOURG, 7 MAY 2025

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"RIGHT2WATER"



- A EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE, A NEW TOOL "TO BRING CITIZENS CLOSER TO THE EUROPEAN UNION"
- TAKEN UP BY EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS AND WATER ACTIVISTS

DEMAND:

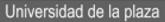
- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION IN EUROPEAN LAW
- STOP LIBERALIZATION AND PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SERVICES!







FIGHTING PRIVATISATION OF WATER SERVICES



Charla - Coloquio La privatización del agua y los ríos

Pedro Arrojo

JUEVES, 27 DE FEBRERD 19,00 h. Facultad de Ciencias Humanas y de la Educación C/Valentin Cardenera, 4



^{per l'}Acqua Bene Comune

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UNITING DIVERSITY CREATED A MOVEMENT

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Water





"RIGHT2WATER" RESULTS



1.9 MILLION SIGNATURES, 13 COUNTRIES

FIRST EVER SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN CITIZENS' INITIATIVE

✓ WATER TAKEN OUT OF EUROPEAN CONCESSION DIRECTIVE (2013)

✓ PARTLY RECOGNITION IN DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE (2018)

- NO NEW EUROPEAN LAW; STRUGGLES CONTINUE

THE POOR SUFFER MOST,
EXAMPLES IN PORTUGAL, UK, A.O.

- "NO MONEY?" → "NO WATER!"
- PROFIT FIRST, PEOPLE SECOND
- HANDING OVER A MONOPOLY SERVICE TO A CORPORATION:

© PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SERVICES IS A PROBLEM







MORE PROBLEMS AFTER PRIVATIZATION

- ACCESS "NO MONEY NO WATER"
- AFFORDABILITY PROFIT OVER PEOPLE
- EQUALITY WIDENING GAP RICH-POOR, MARGINALIZATION
- ALSO IN PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, TRANSPARENCY (SEE E.G. UK, BERLIN, PARIS)



HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER



- ACCESS, AVAILABLE, AFFORDABLE AND GOOD QUALITY FOR ALL
- PARTICIPATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SERVICES IS NOT COMPATIBLE WITH THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER!



A CLASH OF DISCOURSE AND VISIONS

| Right2Water Movement | European Commission and (multinational) corporations in water |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Common or Public good / Society | Commodity / Market |
| Justice and Solidarity | Efficiency and Competition |
| Affordability | Willingness to pay |
| Ownership and control in public hands | Ownership and management by corporations |
| Not for profit | Profit driven |
| Citizens and participation | Consumers and customer relations |



- IF MARKET IDEOLOGY AND LOGICS DOMINATE, SECURITY WILL BE FOR WHO CAN PAY FOR IT
- POOR (PEOPLE) WILL SUFFER MOST FROM WATER STRESS, WHEREAS RICH (CORPORATIONS) ENSURE THEIR ACCESS TO AND CONTROL OVER WATER (SEE EXHIBITION ON CATALUNYA)

 CIVIL SOCIETY MUST ORGANIZE AND UNITE IN SOLIDARITY TO SAFEGUARD WATER, NATURAL RESOURCES AND A SOCIALLY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY JUST SOCIETY.