

The background is a light blue gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across the surface. Some droplets are at the top, some at the bottom, and some on the right side. They have highlights and shadows, giving them a 3D appearance.

# 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







# UNITING DIVERSITY CREATED A MOVEMENT





## “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

# PRIVATIZATION OF WATER SERVICES IS A PROBLEM

HANDING OVER A MONOPOLY SERVICE TO A CORPORATION:

- PROFIT FIRST, PEOPLE SECOND
- “NO MONEY?” → “NO WATER!”
  - THE POOR SUFFER MOST,
  - EXAMPLES IN PORTUGAL, UK, A.O.





# 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

| <b>Right2Water Movement</b>           | <b>European Commission and<br/>(multinational) corporations in water</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 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   |

# WATER SECURITY FOR WHOM?

- 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.