



**Friends of
the Earth
Europe**



#breakfreefromplastic

October, 19th 2018

Subject: The Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption should align with EU efforts to tackle plastic pollution

Dear member of the European Parliament,

This Tuesday, the plenary of the European Parliament will vote on a **legislation regulating water for human consumption**. The European Commission is framing this directive as an answer to the European Citizens' Initiative for the Human Right to Water. The draft included provisions to facilitate universal access to water in the EU that, if improved, could be a good step also to reduce plastic pollution.

The vote in the ENVI committee last month failed by a narrow majority to improve the proposal. The alternative compromise amendment to article 13 that was rejected in the committee would mean avoiding the consumption of bottled water by making a clear commitment to provide access to water for all and listing measures member states should take such as:

- setting up and maintaining outdoors and indoors equipment for free access to water in public spaces.
- launching campaigns about the high quality of tap water and the nearest refill points.
- Ensuring free provision of tap water in administration and public buildings and discouraging the use of water put in single use plastic bottles or containers in such administrations.
- Encouraging the free provision of tap water to customers in restaurants, canteens and catering services.

Plastic waste is one of the most urging environmental problems we are facing in Europe. In order to be coherent with efforts done under the circular economy package, this directive needs to ensure clear commitments to reduce the consumption of bottled water in the European Union.

Therefore, **we urge you to support the alternative amendments to article 13 in the mentioned directive that guarantee a strong legislation for universal access to water and that helps reducing plastic waste.**

Yours sincerely,

Friends of the Earth Europe
Zero Waste Europe
Food & Water Europe
Surfrider Foundation Europe
Seas at Risk
Environmental Investigation Agency
Rethink Plastics
Break Free from Plastic