

**Question for written answer P-003141/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Tonino Picula (S&D)

Subject: The Commission's response to the 'Right2Water' initiative

'Right2Water' is the first successful citizens' initiative that was launched to prevent water and sanitation from being managed under market conditions, as is the case with other services. Statistics show that some two million people in the EU are currently living without adequate water supplies and sanitation, and this was undoubtedly one of the main reasons for launching this initiative. The initiative also calls for water supply and water resource management not to be made subject to the rules of the internal market, and for water supply and sanitation services not to be liberalised.

The aim of the initiative is to bring about a new EU regulation that would oblige the EU institutions and the Member States to guarantee adequate amounts of drinking water and appropriate sanitation to all residents, and to ensure that water supply and water resource management are not subject to the rules of the single market, in order to prevent the liberalisation of water services.

Last month, a public hearing was held in the European Parliament on the subject of the European citizens' initiative on the right to water. During this hearing, many MEPs expressed their support for the initiative.

Given that the initiative has fulfilled the legal requirements as regards the number of citizens' signatures and the number of signatures gathered from different Member States within the legally prescribed period, the Commission is obliged to provide a response detailing how it intends to act on the matter.

Does the Commission plan to draft a new legal package at EU level in order to implement the right to water and sanitation, while promoting the concept that water supply and the assurance of sanitation are basic public services? I would like to stress that as many as 1 884 790 EU citizens have given their signatures to this initiative.