

WATER ALLIANCE



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Internationale
Arbeitsgemeinschaft
der Wasserwerke
im Rheineinzugsgebiet



To the
English-speaking members of the European Parliament

Cologne, June 9, 2008

Water Framework Directive: Second reading of the Directive on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy and amending Directive 2000/60/EEC (COM(2006) 397)

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The directive on environmental quality standards intends to contribute to the attainment of a water quality in bodies of water that permits the provision of drinking water using simple purification methods as described in Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive.

In the proposal for the second reading of 20 May 2008, Article 4, Mixing Zones, does not yet provide for the protection of the abstraction of water for the provision of drinking water.

Even when, at the current stage, it is hardly possible to realize an addition to the *amendment 20* it is still unacceptable in the interest of a sustainable drinking water supply that mixing zones can be established near drinking water intake points.

Justification:

The abstraction of drinking water from bodies of surface water must be secured for the long-term. The delimitation of mixing zones with provisions for exceptions for environmental quality standards in the immediate vicinity of intake points is contrary to the objectives of Article 7 of the Water Framework Directive and, therefore, should be strictly rejected.

We request, as interested water utility associations under the Water Alliance, that you ask the EU-Commission to include in the technical guidelines precautions as mentioned above and use the possibilities open to you to insist on a clear improvement of the proposed Directive in this regard.

In case of questions do not hesitate to contact the undersigned as well as Mrs. Dr. Castell Exner of DVGW, castell-exner@dvqw.de Tel. 0049 – 228 – 9188650.

Kind regards,

Franz – Josef Wirtz
Geschäftsführer der IAWR
für das
Aktionsbündnis Wasser

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