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European Parliament, Written Declaration on the Protection of Water as a Public Asset, 2010

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WRITTEN DECLARATION

pursuant to Rule 123 of the Rules of Procedure
on the protection of water as a public asset

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Written declaration on the protection of water as a public asset

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 123 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas the United Nations has recognised the universal human right to water and sanitation (UN General Assembly Resolution A/64/L.63/Rev.1),
- B. whereas many European citizens do not enjoy the right to water as ‘a shared resource of mankind’ (EP Resolution P6_TA(2006)0087) owing to water privatisation and marketisation,
- C. whereas privatisation has induced inequalities and exclusion, and has often led to steep water-rate hikes, excessive leaks, water-service disruptions and unaccountable management, so that in some cases there has been a return to public management of services,
 1. Reiterates that ‘the management of water resources should not be subject to internal market rules’ (EP Resolution P5_TA(2004)0183);
 2. Invites the EU institutions and Member States to make every effort to ensure that the right to water and sanitation is universally enjoyed, without exclusions;
 3. Urges the Commission to review the relevant legislation, particularly that on public procurement and concessions, so as to guarantee public ownership and management of water and water utilities;
 4. Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Community institutions and the governments and parliaments of the Member States.