



Position on Recast of Drinking Water Directive

The [European Alliance to Save Energy](#) (EU-ASE) welcomes the European Parliament report on the recast of the Drinking Water Directive as well the General approach of Council on the Drinking Water Directive. The recast of the Drinking Water Directive signifies a step in the right direction in updating the legislative framework to the challenges faced by the drinking water sector.

In view of the ongoing trilogues, the European Alliance to Save Energy would like to highlight that we **strongly support** the European Parliament's position on

- the mandatory introduction of Member State water leakage reduction targets
- and requirements for water utilities to publicly disclose information on water leakage rates and energy performance.

As such, we would ask you to support these measures throughout the trilogue negotiations process with a view to including them in the finally agreed text.

We also suggest the following compromise proposals which would help reduce the amount of non-revenue water and improve the energy efficiency of the water sector.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

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	European Commission	European Parliament	Council	Suggested Compromise
<p>Article 4: General obligations</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Member States shall take measures to ensure that competent authorities carry out an assessment of the water leakage levels on their territory and of the potential for improvements in water leakage reduction in the drinking water sector. That assessment shall take into account relevant public health, environmental, technical and economic aspects. Member States shall adopt, by 31 December 2022, national targets to reduce the leakage levels of water suppliers in their territory by 31 December 2030. Member States may provide meaningful incentives to ensure that water suppliers in their territory meet the national targets.</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>Member States shall take measures to carry out an action plan on their commitments to improve water leakage reduction in the drinking water sector. The action plan shall take into account relevant public health, environmental, technical and economic aspects, including an assessment of the water leakage levels on their territory, and of the potential for improvements in water leakage reduction in the drinking water sector. The Commission shall adopt, by 31 December 2020, an implementing act which provides a template for what is to be included in the action plan.</p> <p>Member States shall adopt, by 31 December 2022, national action plans to reduce the leakage levels of large and very large water suppliers. Member States may provide meaningful incentives to ensure that water suppliers in their territory reduce their water leakage levels.</p>



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<p><u>Annex IV, point 7 AM 154</u></p> <p><u>Point 7a AM 155 – Information to the public</u></p>	<p>The following information shall be accessible to consumers on-line:</p> <p>for very large water suppliers, annual information on: the overall performance of the water system in terms of efficiency, including leakage rates and energy consumption per cubic meter of delivered water;</p>	<p>Information to the public : for large and very large water suppliers, annual information on:</p> <p>the overall performance of the water system in terms of efficiency, including leakage levels as determined by the Member States;</p>	<p>The following information shall be accessible to consumers on-line in a user-friendly and customized way or by other means:</p> <p>for very large water suppliers, annual information on: (a) the overall performance of the water system in terms of efficiency, including for instance leakage rates and energy consumption per cubic meter of delivered water;</p>	<p>The following information shall be accessible to consumers on-line in a user-friendly and customized way or by other means:</p> <p>for very large water suppliers, annual information on: (a) the overall performance of the water system in terms of efficiency, including leakage rates and energy consumption per cubic meter of delivered water;</p>



Justifications

Given the scale of water leakages and the energy consumption of the water sector, we believe that the Review of the Drinking Water Directive should include stronger measures to ensure that the opportunity to tackle these issues presented by the recast of the directive can be capitalized.

As such, we very much hope that during the trilogues following measures will be supported:

Introduction of water leakage targets

Article 4

We support the introduction of **mandatory action plan to reduce leakage levels by 2030**, as well as the appropriate incentives in order to be able to achieve these targets.

Current leakage rates at EU level are very high. According to the Commission's impact assessment, **23% of treated water is lost in public water supplies in Member States**. From an economic perspective, the reduction of real water losses would create significant financial gain for water suppliers due to the better efficiency of the distribution network.

For example, a **6-mm hole in the water pipe would cause the annual loss of 29,7 million liters of water (which equals to more than 10 Olympic-size swimming pools) and 13 500 Euros¹**.

The reduction of water leakage in the distribution system would allow the optimization of energy use and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by preventing waste energy in the treatment and pressurized pumping of water that is ultimately lost through leakage of the system.

As example, **one leak of 8,3 mm, has emissions of 3454 kg CO₂ eq/annum or equivalent to 75% of a car running all year. In Brussels, based on this calculation and on the assumption of real water losses of about 23%, water leakage equates to 634,4 Mtoe/year, or the equivalent carbon dioxide emissions of 138 cars running non-stop for the whole year.²**

We believe that targets would be the only appropriate policy measure to be able to ensure that the water infrastructure can be upgraded to the sustainable economic benefit of the municipalities and communities across the EU.

¹ Assumptions of pipe pressure of 6,9 bar and nominal cost of water of 0,45 Euro/L

² Energy for disinfecting by UV and distributing the water under 6,9 bars pressure in Brussels: 0,15 kW/m³ or 0,033 kg CO₂ equivalent/m³. Considering 23% of water losses in Brussels, we waste 1,77 GW or 634,4 metric tons of CO₂ eq. per year, equivalent to 138 cars running non-stop on gas for the whole year (Source: Xylem Inc. based on International Energy Agency, *World Energy Outlook 2016*, Brussels Environment, Eurostat, US Environmental Protection Agency)



Public information requirements on energy and water distribution efficiency ***Annex IV***

We support the introduction of public information provisions for large water suppliers to include performance in terms of **energy efficiency and leakage levels**. This would enable to view the **energy efficiency of drinking water production** throughout the entire value chain.

In addition, we would like to highlight that a report³ published by Eau France in September 2018 indicates that the introduction of Key Performance Indicators for drinking water utilities in 2007, did not show any significant trend to privatisation or remunicipalization.⁴

Given the scale of water leakages and the energy consumption of the water sector, we believe that providing information to the public on the performance in terms of energy consumption and leakage rates would **incentivize the optimization of energy use by preventing waste energy in the treatment and pressurized pumping of water that is ultimately lost through leakage of the system.**

The European Alliance to Save Energy remains available to further answer questions or comments.

For any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

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³ http://www.services.eaufrance.fr/docs/synthese/rapports/Rapport_SISPEA_2015_complet_DEF.pdf

Table 24 page 24, shows that between 2010-2015, there was no significant trend of utilities changing from private to public and the opposite.



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About the European Alliance to Save Energy (EU-ASE)

EU-ASE was established in December 2010 by some of Europe's leading multinational companies. The Alliance creates a platform from which our companies (Danfoss, Kingspan, Knauf Insulation, Nalco Water, Orbital Systems, Saint-Gobain, Schneider Electric, Siemens, Signify, Veolia and Xylem Inc.) can join with politicians and thought leaders to ensure the voice of energy efficiency is heard from across the business and political community.

EU-ASE members have operations across the 28 Member States of the European Union, employ over 340.000 people in Europe and have an aggregated annual turnover of €115 billion.



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