



Barbara LOCHBIHLER

Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights

Brussels, 6 December 2013

RE: RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION

Dear Ms Perret

First, let me thank you for the highly interesting contribution to our hearing on the access to safe drinking water and sanitation in the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament on 28 November 2013.

On the occasion of next week's International Human Rights Day, and prior to the formal introduction of the EU Citizens Initiative RIGHT2WATER, I would like to take the opportunity and congratulate you, as representative of the project, on the successful collection of almost 1.9 million EU citizens. This is a remarkable result which will help the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and hopefully lead the way for many more EU Citizens Initiatives to come.

In the light of roughly 2.5 billion people still lacking access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation facilities, I would like to assure you that, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights, I will continue fighting for the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, particularly focussing on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups. Also, please know that I fully share your reservations against the liberalisation and commercialisation of water and sanitation services, and therefore against the inclusion of water services into whichever trade agreement.

Dear Ms Perret, I wish you and your supporters all the best for the future of your initiative RIGHT2WATER, and am looking forward to continuing our good cooperation.

Please feel free to circulate the present letter, such that all supporting organisations receive what they deserve: a warm "thank you" for the tireless struggle in favour of everyone's access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Yours faithfully,

Barbara Lochbihler