

On July 15, 2010, social justice groups delivered a copy of the following letter to members of the European Parliament calling on the EU to support a historic resolution being considered at the United Nations General Assembly to have water and sanitation declared as human rights.

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing to urge the European Parliament to support a UN resolution entitled The human right to water and sanitation that is currently under consideration before members of the General Assembly.

We believe that it is critical that this resolution be put forward as a firm affirmation that the right to safe drinking water and sanitation is a universal human right.

We further urge the European Union to demand that the Secretary General present a report on the implementation of such a resolution at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. Your affirmation of this resolution would support the estimated 1.1 billion people who lack access to safe drinking and the 2.6 billion people (UNDP Report 2006) who lack access to basic sanitation. Not only will the resolution explicitly uphold the right to life acknowledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights but also bring us a major step closer to achieving the development goals recognized in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In light of the European Union's recognition of water as a human right, it will be crucial that the EU play a key role in promoting this key resolution at the UN.

Thank you in anticipation of your positive consideration of this resolution.

Signatories:

11.11.11, Belgique
ACME (Association pour un contrat mondial de l'eau)
Blue Planet Project
Corporate Europe Observatory
Council of Canadians
CeVI - Centro di Volontariato Internazionale
Food and Water Europe
France Libertes
Public Services International