



WATER ACADEMY

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THE RIGHT TO DRINKING WATER REQUIRES NATIONAL LAWS TO BE EFFECTIVE

**HENRI SMETS
WATER ACADEMY**



**Belgium (Walloon Region),
Decree 15 th April 1999,**

“Every person has the right to make use of drinking water of a quality and in a quantity appropriate for nutrition, domestic needs and health”.



France,

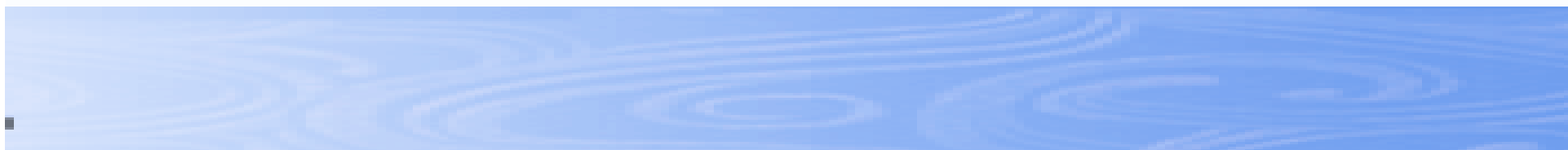
Water Law of 30 December 2006

“Every physical person has the right to access to drinking water for nutrition and hygiene at an affordable price” (dans des conditions économiquement acceptables par tous”).



The right of access to drinking water and to sanitation can be seen as a set of rights and duties for the citizen and also requires public authorities to exercise many rights and duties

What are these rights and duties?





CITIZEN RIGHTS

- a) right of priority for domestic uses over other uses
- b) right to draw water from wells, etc
- c) right to benefit from safe water and sanitation services at an affordable price
- d) right to connect to networks
- e) right of information, consultation, participation and right to initiate legal proceedings



CITIZEN RIGHTS

- f) right of supply in emergency situations
- g) right of access to affordable water sources and public sanitation installations for the poorest people
- h) right to a minimum level of water supply for poor users even if water is not paid (partially done in France)



CITIZEN DUTIES

- a) not to waste water, nor to pollute unnecessarily
- b) to ensure adequate individual sanitation or to be connected to collective sanitation
- c) to pay the price for the water service, the fees and taxes
- d) to pay the charge for network extension
- e) to cooperate with water services



CITIZEN DUTIES

- f) to comply with use restrictions in case of water shortage
- g) to contribute towards the costs of bringing drinking water to rural areas, and to poor people internally and abroad
- h) to request help from social services when unable to pay water use



RIGHTS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- a) to protect water resources from activities using much water or polluting water
- b) to select standards and technologies
- c) to collect subsidies and aid from govt.etc
- d) to set up water prices taking into account users' capacity to pay
- e) to control water service operators and water utilities



RIGHTS OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- f) to forbid distribution of unsafe water
- g) to collect payment for the price of water and sanitation
- h) to cut off supply of water to those who are able to pay, but choose not to do so
- i) to pursue offences and violations.



DUTIES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- a) to establish and protect priority for domestic uses
- b) to ensure protection of water collection points and drinking water quality
- c) to create a positive legal framework for investments and for operation of water services



DUTIES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- d) to adopt strategies and plans of action,
to organize funding of water investment
- e) to ensure proper maintenance and
renovation of installations, to evaluate
the quality of water supply and sanitation
- f) to ensure sustainable coverage of costs
for water supply and sanitation



DUTIES OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

- g) to ensure fulfillment of contracts with the private sector if any
- h) to identify those who do not have access to water supply and sanitation and to take corrective measures
- i) to promote information for and participation of users



First conclusion :
REVIEW NATIONAL WATER LAW

Each country should **identify in its legal system** existing rights and duties for citizens and public authorities concerning access to water and sanitation



SECOND CONCLUSION :

it is necessary to spell out new rights and duties in national laws for the right to water to be legally protected



THIRD CONCLUSION :

- Create additional **solidarity** mechanisms to improve access to water in rural areas and for poor people.