

THE HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER IN THE EU:
CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

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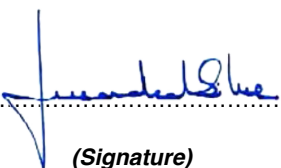
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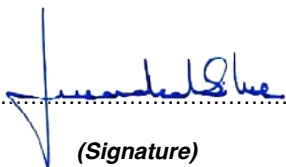
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Abstract

Access to water is a human right recognised internationally. Despite regulating important issues related to water and human rights, European Union's law still does not recognise it explicitly. The effective implementation of this human right within the Union boundaries is already threatened by several challenges, which cannot be completely addressed by European Union's law and policies. This issue is made more pressing by the recognition that targets established in the Water Framework Directive will not be achieved in due time (a situation that raises concerns about the quality and scarcity of European Union's water bodies) and by the European Citizens' Initiative that invites the European Commission to submit a legal proposal to ensure the human right to water and sanitation to all, as recognized by the United Nations. In this context, time seems to have come for the European Union to legally recognise the right to water, which can provide the necessary human rights' framework for its law and policies guidance and likewise provide its citizens with an effective ground for the protection of this fundamental right.

Keywords: Human Right To Water; Water Rights; European Union; Europeans Citizens' Initiative; European Union Treaties; European Union Water Law and Policy.

Table Of Acronyms And Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CFREU	Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
EC	European Commission
ECHR	European Convention on Human Rights
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
EEA	European Environment Agency
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
UN	United Nations
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization

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