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Bremen, Germany / Huizen, the Netherlands

Honorable Mr. Mimica, dear sir,

On behalf of the European Pact for Water and the stakeholders that participated in interactive, multi-stakeholder meetings and electronic discussions aiming at elaborating the “Deeper than water” EU Reference document (draft attached), we are calling on you to ensure the swift release of and communications about this document.

We welcome the participatory nature of the process that has led to the elaboration of this document. 3 meetings were organized by DG DEVCO, with the support of DG Environment and the EEAS, and gathered representatives from EU Member States, UN entities, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector (a copy of the attendance list is available). In addition contributions via email and internet were received.

It is our understanding that the document “Deeper than water” is finalized and that it only is waiting to be approved by senior management for release. We would be extremely grateful if the document as the main output of this processes described above, could be published, as soon as possible.

This document is a great follow-up on the European Consensus for Development and can meaningfully contribute, together with the Council Conclusions on water diplomacy, adopted on 19 November 2018, to shaping the future debate, actions and planning on water and sanitation at EU level and to reaching all SDG6 - and other water-related targets.

We actually hope this document can be released before the World Water Day, taking place on 22 March, - so that it can contribute to the deliberations on water and development in the context of the upcoming European elections, and the planning of the new European Commissioners.

We remain at your disposal would you need any further information on this and we look forward to hearing back from you or your staff.

With greetings and high regards,



Lesha Witmer,

Co-facilitator European Pact for Water

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Short description European Pact for Water

The European Pact for Water was established in January 2016 as an informal coordination and advocacy network across the wider-Europe on water governance. Its aim is to disseminate information, build capacity, exchange on and pool collective efforts and knowledge to highlight the importance of water and sanitation to attain the goals set out in fundamental international and European agendas specifically on water-related issues.

Its participants are Europe-based non-state actors, specifically NGOs and CSOs. The network currently connects directly 35+ organizations and its members across the (European part of the) UNECE region. The network exchanges with and receives input from and liaises with organizations like Aquafed, OECD, SIWI, European Commission (DEVCO, Environment and EEAS), WWC, Member States of the EU.

Through its participants it connects with platforms and initiatives like SDGWatch, End Water Poverty, #ClimateIsWater, Butterfly Effect NGO coalition - avoiding duplication but making use of their expertise and connections.

The network contributes inter alia actively to the European processes like MFF, the process on the SDGs in Europe, the debate on the intergovernmental architecture for water in the UN and in Europe, HLPF reform and initiatives around monitoring of the SDGs (water specific).

It's vision is to create "Aquawareness" (in Europe) to achieve sustainable water resource management and universal access to safe water supply and sanitation because we value water in all its dimensions – in its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance.

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¹ Current contributors (January 2019) to the network (organization and members of): Action contre la Faim (ACF), BORDA, Business & Professional Women Europe (BPWE), Cercle Francais de léau; Coalition Eau, Earth Foreever (Bulgaria); EU SAIN; Eau-vive, Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung (working group water); Endwaterpoverty; European Environmental Bureau (EEB); French Water Partnership (FWP), German WASH coalition, Good Planet Belgium, Green Cross International, Helvetas, LIVIA, OXFAM UK, Portuguese Water Platform, Protos, Pseau, Right to sanitation; Secours Islamic, SIMAVI, Soroptimist International Europe (SEI), Spanish NGO coordination (Water Working Group); VENRO: Verband Entwicklungspolitik und Humanitäre Hilfe, Wateraid, Water Youth Network, Waterlex, Women engage for a common future (WECF), Women for Water Partnership (WfWP), World Youth Parliament for water (WYPW), WWF Germany and Netherlands.