



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus  
Geneva*

OHCHR REGISTRY

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and with reference to the latter's Note Verbal ref. GVA 0577 dated 24 April 2007 concerning the Human Rights Council Decision 2/104 – Human Rights and Access to Water, has the honour to enclose herewith the relevant information provided by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration. *NK*

Geneva, 31 May 2007



To the  
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
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**Subject: Human Rights Council Decision 2/104 of 27 November 2006,  
entitled "Human Rights and Access to Water"**

With reference to the Council Decision 2/104 of 27 November 2006, entitled "Human Rights and Access to Water", Cyprus would like to provide the following information:

The right to drinking water and sanitation constitutes one of the most fundamental human rights, and Cyprus has the pleasure to report that 99% of its population have equitable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

The Cypriot legislation that is enforced for controlling the quality of drinking water is the "Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption (Monitoring and Control) Law", No. 87 (I)/2001 and the "Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption (Disposal from water tanker vehicles and water wagons) Regulations of 2004", 876/2004. The above mentioned legislation is fully harmonized with the European Guidance 98/83/EEC regarding drinking water.

The legislation mainly focuses on the following points in order to ensure the good quality provision of drinking water:

- Assessment of microbiological and chemical quality for drinking water intended for human consumption.
- Assessment of maximum values to different parameters in drinking water.
- Obligation of member states to monitor in a settled frequency the quality of water intended for human use that may come from water distribution network, bottled water, water tanker vehicles and wagons.
- Obligation of member states to inform the public and the European Union for the quality of water intended for human usage. The information regarding quality of water has only been provided to water suppliers. In the beginning of 2007 it was decided that every four months the information will be published in the media, as well as on the internet website of Public Health Services.

In addition, the legislation regarding water tankers vehicles and water wagons has the following provisions:

- The competent authority issues a certificate of suitability for every water tanker vehicle and wagon, that assures compliance regarding legislation, i.e., that the water being offered for sale is hygienic and that during construction and operation the rules of the legislation were adhered to.
- The owner/manager, who is considered a water supplier, is responsible for providing hygienic and clean water. In order to achieve this, an internal control system must be developed and microbiological quality parameters must be monitored by the owner. Finally, records must be kept regarding the operation system.

- The competent authority has the possibility of providing penalties for non-compliance. The penalties include imprisonment up to 6 months and/or penalty up to 2000 Cypriot pounds.

Public Health Services, in cooperation with the General State Laboratory and the Municipalities have developed monitoring programs, which are yearly readjusted according to particularities of each year. The monitoring programs aim at confronting the subject holistically and for this reason they focus on the following data:

- Records of all origins of water distribution network in a constant base.
- Risk assessment of each origin of water distribution system based on all parameters that may influence the quality of water, such as historic data regarding the origin, type of origin of water, type of water treatment, geomorphology, human activities near the region, population (number and content) that is watered, etc.
- Monitoring of chemical and microbiological parameters which are provided by the legislation, the frequency of which is also provided by the legislation and from the abovementioned risk assessment. The results from the monitoring programs are notified to water suppliers. The monitoring is conducted not only at a district level but also at a central level.
- The investigation of cases that present chemical or/and microbiological pollution, the monitoring of chlorination and of human activities that may affect quality of water.
- Risk assessment of all the parameters that are exceeded.
- All necessary measures are taken.
- Information of the public and the EU by preparing and reporting the quality of drinking water at a fourth-month period and triennial basis.

The Public Health Services participate in working groups of the European Union, in the ENDWARE network and other international meetings. At a national level, a technical group for drinking water has been formed. Representatives from all competent departments, such as the Medical and Public Health Services, the State General Laboratory, the Water Development Department, the Geological Survey Department participate in this group. This technical group has the target of assessing the microbiological and chemical risks for drinking water and the planning of monitoring programs for better surveillance of the quality of water.

All the above mentioned measures aim at assuring the quality of drinking water and increase the transparency of procedures of the national Services in order to achieve active public participation, increasing the reliance and trust towards the national Services.

Finally, it is noted that various Departments, some of which participate in the technical group for drinking water, manage a great amount of laws and make

actions that may affect the quality of water generally. The constructive cooperation and good coordination between all these Departments will bring up the best results to water resources in Cyprus and will therefore ensure good quality and enough quantity of water.