



Λευκωσία, 4 Μαρτίου 2010

ΠΡΟΣ: Όλους τους Ενδιαφερόμενους

ΑΠΟ: Γενικό Γραμματέα

ΘΕΜΑ: Οδηγία για το Πόσιμο Νερό

Κυρία/Κύριε,

Σας συναποστέλλουμε αυτεπεξήγητο έγγραφο του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών σε ότι αφορά το πιο πάνω θέμα.

Τυχόν παρατηρήσεις να διαβιβαστούν στην ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση: **cr@moi.gov.cy μέχρι τις 10/3/10.**

Για τυχόν διευκρινίσεις καθώς επίσης και για γενικότερη πληροφόρηση, παρακαλώ επικοινωνείτε με τον **κ. Κυριάκο Κούρο του Υπουργείου Εσωτερικών στο τηλέφωνο 22-806400.**

Με εκτίμηση,

Βασίλης Βασιλειάδης,
για Γενικό Γραμματέα.

BB/EK

Information Note (current at 25.2.2010)

Safe materials in contact with drinking water – revision of the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC

The sanitary requirements laid down in Article 10 of the Drinking Water Directive are inadequate from the perspective of uniform consumer health protection. While they are too general in their wording on the one hand, on the other, reference to the Construction Products Directive only is too narrow, since many important products in contact with drinking water are not construction products, for instance shower heads and hoses and yet, if they foster the growth of *legionella*, they can even pose a fatal threat to the consumer. In addition to undesirable microbial growth, many untested materials can leach substances that pose a hazard to human health (such as heavy metals and harmful organic substances).

The labelling system for safe products in contact with drinking water (EAS – European Acceptance Scheme) which the Commission had promised for years to set up will, according to the Commission's more recent statements, not be established in the proposed form, i.e. one that covers all products in contact with drinking water. However, many Member States, especially those without a corresponding national assessment system, had relied on this system being developed on the EU level as announced by the Commission. Therefore, the existing regulation gap must be closed for all products as soon as possible. The appropriate instrument for doing so is the Drinking Water Directive.

The increasing pressure exerted by manufacturers in the drinking water sector to arrive at a mutual recognition scheme for tests and certificates among the Member States adds to the need for harmonised regulations, since mutual recognition and the free movement of goods - albeit to be generally welcomed - can only work if a uniform level of protection and monitoring is ensured.

Drinking water is our most essential food item. There is no reasonable argument for perpetuating a situation where drinking water is subject to utterly unspecific and thus less stringent Europe-wide requirements for 'packaging materials' than any other food item. All of the other food items are covered by, *inter alia*, highly detailed lists of the substances that, on the strength of toxicological evidence, are allowed to come into contact with food.

Moreover, the lack of harmonised regulations on the EU level generates enormous costs, both for the administrations of the Member States and for the manufacturers of the affected products and thus, via their prices, also for the consumers. Savings could be in the range of three-digit million euro amounts. The costs of this "non-regulation" must be factored into the impact assessment regarding the revision of the Drinking Water Directive. According to the most recent statements from the Commission, this has not been done so far, nor is it planned either.

The Commission is being called upon to address the issue of 'safe materials' within the framework of the imminent revision of the Drinking Water Directive in the interest of a uniform consumer health protection and to simultaneously exhaust existing cost reduction potentials.