



Commissioner A Piebalgs  
European Commission  
Development and Cooperation - EuropeAid  
B - 1049 Brussels  
Belgium

End Water Poverty  
47-49 Durham St  
London SE11 5JD

31 January 2012

Dear Commissioner Piebalgs

Europe is rightly proud of its record on aid and development. It is regarded as the world's leading aid community, and has been at the forefront of developing positive and progressive development policies. The European Union has worked hard to deliver development aid that is both highly effective and puts developing countries in the driving seat.

However, progress globally on water and sanitation has been slow and at current rates it will take over 200 years to meet the sanitation Millennium Development Goal in sub-Saharan Africa. The 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Meeting of the Sanitation and Water for All partnership is taking place ahead of the World Bank Spring meetings on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012 in Washington DC, and we call on you to join this important partnership and commit to attend.

As concerned Europeans, we recognise the part you are playing to improve outcomes for those without access to clean water and basic sanitation, such as the recent announcement of extra resources for the most off-track MDGs. But to see transformative change, it is vital that there is high-level dialogue and cooperation between the key stakeholders at an international level, to address the lack of political and financial prioritisation of this sector. Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is now established within international aid architecture as the only vehicle for specifically improving results in sanitation and water, but it requires increased donor support.

Leading African statesman John Agyekum Kufuor has agreed to bring his significant convening power to help place the issues of sanitation and water high on the global political agenda. As a former President of Ghana and Chairperson of the African Union, Kufuor is a longstanding advocate for development. He will chair the next SWA High Level meeting to be held in Washington D.C. in April 2012.

In addition, the governments of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands have indicated they will be sending ministerial representation to the meeting.

We call on you to commit to attending and to use this opportunity to play an active role in the SWA partnership.



Formal invitations will be sent from the Chair of SWA and the Executive Director of UNICEF in due course and we look forward to continued dialogue with you on this issue.

Yours faithfully,

Fleur Anderson  
International Coordinator, End Water Poverty

Barbara Frost  
Chief Executive, WaterAid (UK)

Gwen Vaughan  
CEO, Pump Aid (UK)

George Spence  
Director, No More Dirty Water (UK)

Paul Cook  
Advocacy and Media Director, Tearfund (UK)

Judith Turbyne  
Director, Progressio (Ireland)

Rolien Sasse  
Executive Director, Simavi (The Netherlands)

Sascha Gabizon  
Executive Director, WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future  
(The Netherlands)

Thilo Panzerbeiter  
Director, German Toilet Organisation (Germany)

Mathias Mogge  
Executive Director Programmes, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (Germany)

Sabine Bock  
Executive Director, WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future (Germany)

Ingo Radtke  
Secretary General, Malteser International (Germany)



Christina von Heyden  
Director, Noah Foundation (Germany)

Kristal Malegue  
Cordinator, Coalition Eau (France)  
On behalf of 31 French organisations

Dr Jean Lapègue  
Réfèrent Secteur Eau Assainissement Hygiène, Action Contre le Faim (France)

Laurent Chabert d'Hieres  
Director, Eau Vive (France)

Anne Barre  
Executive Director, WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future (France)

#### **Briefing: Sanitation and Water for All**

Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) is a global partnership between developing countries, donors, multi-lateral agencies, civil society and other development partners working together to achieve universal and sustainable access to sanitation and drinking water.

The High Level Meeting of the SWA partnership facilitates a member country preparatory process to reflect on the domestic commitments they can make for improved sanitation and water outcomes. The SWA is also a platform for evidence-based decision making, with the publication of the UN-Water report 'Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water' prior to the meeting. Assistance at a country-level is provided through technical support to the most off-track countries, to tackle barriers to progress and coordinate support to assist these countries getting on a trajectory to meet the MDG targets by 2015.

With 30-40 countries anticipated to come to the SWA High Level Meeting in April, it represents a crucial milestone in tackling the huge challenge a lack of basic sanitation and clean water presents to sustainable development and poverty reduction. Lack of progress on the sanitation targets is holding up advances on health and education targets. Investing in sanitation and water can bring dividends in public health, gender equity, poverty reduction and economic growth, and yet sanitation is one of the most off track MDG targets and in recent years aid to the sector has reduced globally as a share of total aid.

The Meeting gives an opportunity for donors to collectively resolve to increase the political priority given to water and sanitation, and support strengthened national planning and coordinated technical assistance.