



EU laws on drinking water

Summary: The EU sets standards for the quality of drinking water to protect the health of consumers and to ensure the water at the tap is wholesome and clean.

The objective of the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC of November 3, 1998 is to protect the health of consumers and to make sure the water at the tap is wholesome and clean.

The directive requires Member States to ensure that drinking water does not contain any concentration of micro-organisms, parasites or any other substance which constitutes a potential health risk.

A total of 48 microbiological and chemical substances must be monitored and tested regularly to ensure they meet the minimum requirements of the Directive.

Member States are obliged to provide consumers with up to date information on the quality of their drinking water.

For more information on EU water protection and management see:

http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/environment/water_protection_management/l28079_en.htm