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Procurement rules and waste water utilities

The water and waste water associations in Sweden, Finland, Norway and Denmark have identified a common challenge for their members in regard to the European procurement rules. As the revision work of the relevant directive is very intense right now we would like to introduce you to our proposal hoping that you will consider supporting it actively.

The four associations see that waste water utilities - whether they are integrated into the municipal administration or are limited companies/legal entities owned 100% by the municipalities – should be clearly subject to the new Utility Directive (COM 2011/895).

It will be of significant value as the Utility Directive today and probably in the future will have negotiation rules which are more flexible than the ones in the Classic Procurement Directive (2004/17). Furthermore, the thresholds value in the Utility Directive is – and will be - much higher than in the Classic Procurement Directive.

Nowadays it seems coincidental that the waste water utilities are not covered by the Utility Directive – since the water supply utilities always have been covered by the Utility Directive. The organizational and economic framework condition for water supply and waste water utilities is today similar – and very often you see the two different supply types organized in the same local, legal entity. So the current regulation gives rise to an incomprehensible discrimination and a lot of bureaucracy.

Yours sincerely,

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