



www.referendumacqua.it

Segreteria Comitato Referendario 2 Sì per l'Acqua Bene Comune
Via S. Ambrogio n.4 - 00186 Roma
Tel. 06/6832638; Tel. 06/97615507; Fax. 06/68136225
e-mail: segreteria@acquabenecomune.org
Sito web: www.acquabenecomune.org -

**PROTECT PUBLIC WATER IN ITALY
LET'S STOP ITS PRIVATIZATION!!!
WATER IS A COMMON GOOD. VOTE TWO YES FOR THE REFERENDUM**

Dear Compatriots,

In Italy, since the middle of the '90s a number of legislative measures established the privatization of the water service's management. During the spring of 2010, citizens from all Italy mobilised to request a referendum promoted by the Italian Forum of the Water Movements and by a huge social coalition gathered in the Referendum Committee "2 yes for the referendum as Water is a Common Good" (www.acquabenecomune.org). The mobilisation of this active citizenship succeeded in collecting more than 1.400.000 signatures to request two rules:

- 1° Question: proposes the abrogation of art.23 bis of the Law 133/2008, as modified by the art.15 contained in the decree 135/2009 (Ronchi's Decree) related to the privatization of local public services, included water. To abrogate this rule means to arrest the privatization race imposed by the Government and the final delivery of the national water services into the hands of the market;
- 2° Question: proposes the abrogation of art. 154 of the Legislative Decree n. 152/2006 (Environment Code), related to that specific part of the paragraph 1 that establishes how water service's rates should be defined taking into account the "adequate return of invested capital". To abrogate this part of the article on the rate's rule:
 - it prevents the possibility to gain profits from water;
 - it determines an immediate reduction of the rate paid by every single citizen.

In other words, the first question demands to take out from the market logics the water service and the other local public services, while the second proposes to take out the profits from the water.

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In all territories hundreds of local committees were born, creating a lively and active network all through the country. This is the water people, inclusive, lively and proactive. The biggest grassroots social coalition never born in Italy, that gathers the social catholic sector, the environmental voices, the different trade unions, the alter-mondialist association movement, the charity sector, the cooperation and fair trade sector, as well as the consumers' association. More than a hundred Local Authorities gathered into a National Committee for the Water as a Common Good and for the Public Management of the Water Service. Together we promoted this referendum. We are many and with the help of all we can succeed in the reappropriation of water!

We are writing you this letter to ask you to support this crucial battle for civilization and democracy. Next 12 and 13 of June 2011 all Italian citizens will be called to express their will on water management through two referendums. The role of our compatriots abroad is thus fundamental to win this challenge and to affirm that Italians want a new public management pattern, a solidarity and participatory pattern.

We ask you to support the campaign by activating your self in your own country of residence and by inviting other compatriots to activate as well, voting 2 yes for the referendum, organising solidarity events, by helping the national promoting committee in its fundraising work, promoting activities and public events to raise awareness on water issues. Please find below a small chapter with some more information and concrete ideas. Choose what suits you best!

**IN ITALY AS ABROAD,
VOTE TWO YES FOR THE REFERENDUM AS WATER IS A COMMON GOOD!
PROTECT WATER FROM PRIVATIZATION!**

We warmly thank you in advance for your attention and for the support you will be able to give us.

The Referendum Committee for the Two YES

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Thematic Points

THE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

The two questions demand: a) the abrogation of art.23 bis of Law 133/08 as modified by art.15 Decree Law 135/09 (better known as Ronchi's Decree), that foresees a fast privatization race of water services and that considers ordinary the rely through a competitive tender or through a mixed public and private capital company; b) the abrogation of the rate paid by citizens related to the remuneration of invested capital. In other words, the first question demands to take out from the market logics the water service and the other local public services, while the second proposes to take out the profits from the water.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE REFERENDUM IS WON

If the two YES succeed this would open the road for the public management of water in the country. By abrogating the Ronchi's Decree the regulatory reference will be again the European doctrine that allows the public management of the water service; by abrogating the remuneration of the invested capital, which means the profits on water, the public management will be the only possible way expressed by the will of the electors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE VOTE ABROAD

For more information and updates on the referendum questions please visit:

www.referendumacqua.it

For more information and updates on the vote abroad:

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Italiani_nel_Mondo/VotoEstero/

http://www.esteri.it/MAE/IT/Italiani_nel_Mondo/VotoEstero/ElezioniPoliticheReferendum.htm

For other updates please visit as well:

www.acquabenecomune.org



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HOW TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN

Read the list and find your personal way to become an activist!

1. Activate to support the campaign in Italy.
2. Support the Campaign through a donation or a subscription.
3. Put into action creativity!

Activate to support the campaign in Italy

- Organise a sit-in or a public event in your city and country to raise awareness and send us the related information (place, hour, city, country, slogans)
- Take a picture of your event or sit-in and will be published in our photo gallery.

Support the Campaign through a donation or a subscription from abroad

To support the referendum campaign we chose the path of self-funding. This assumption allows us to keep our autonomy and to better face the referendum as well as to develop the campaign.

You can support us by:

- Making any kind of [donation](#), starting from a minimum of 5 euro. If you wish to make a bank transfer at the end of the procedure you will receive a receipt with all data related in order to make your payment. Otherwise you can donate with credit card.
- With a [subscription](#), starting from 50 euro, that we will give you back after having reached the quorum. With this subscription you can decide to address your money to a cooperation grassroots path that will support the water projects in which you will be involved directly. To do it just follow the steps visiting this link: <http://www.referendumacqua.it/sostieni.html>

Move your creativity! Become a water activist

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- Send us a self-portrait or a group portrait with your vote intention; we will be publishing it on our online photo gallery.
- Organise a cultural and artistic event to promote the referendum (concerts, exhibitions, debates, book presentations)
- Organise a fundraising event for the Campaign in order to support the campaign, organising a dinner for example.
- Promote the referendum campaign distributing the materials that can be downloaded from our website (only in Italian) <http://www.referendumacqua.it/unisciti-a-noi.html>
- Keep updated visiting the website www.referendumacqua.it in order to find out other suggestions, ideas and proposal under the link UNISCITI A NOI (JOIN US) that will be launched soon.