



Press Communication World Water Day 22/04/2004

The **Youth Water Network** was launched during SPLASH, the Third European Youth Congress for Water, which took place in March 22-29, 2003 in Geel (Belgium). Today on **World Water Day**, exactly one year after Splash, we proudly present our website:

www.youthwaternet.org

The site includes a forum, photographs and a public statement, urging the EU to 'adopt the right to water' in the European Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

In **July 2004**, the members of the Network will meet with local youths in Espalion, France, to celebrate 5 years of Youth Congresses for Water. We will share our experiences and ideas with the broader public, as we proceed along the famous historical Pilgrimage Route to Santiago de Compostella (Spain), returning to the 'roots' of Europe. In the concept of '**one day walking, one day talking**' all youngsters will attend workshops to improve their understanding of water issues and develop their communication skills.

In **July 2005** the next **Youth Water Congress** will take place in **Levoca, Slovakia**. From all over Europe five buses will depart for Levoca, picking up delegations of young people along the way. During the journey these young people will be informed of issues and problems concerning fresh water and have the opportunity to exchange ideas with youngsters from the Youth Water Network.

Not only there is the right to water for everybody, it also goes the other way around. The main topic in Levoca will be '**the water right**' or **what impact do human activities have on the hydrological cycle**. This is also an important topic on World Water Day this year. Young people will get the chance to develop their knowledge and debating skills and to influence decision makers, whilst enjoying a great intercultural experience at the same time.

On World Water Day, we will send our public statement concerning water as a human right to all **Members of the European Parliament**. We propose them to support a youngster from their country to attend the events in Espalion and/or Slovakia and by that, give him/her a truly valuable experience. This would mean supporting the youngster financially and paying the costs of his/her attendance to the Congress. In this way the MEP's get **the chance to be really involved in this youth participation project**.

For your reactions, please use the following e-mail address:

info@youthwaternet.org

Sincerely,

Anne Jo Huybrechts and Steven Bloemen, representing The Youth Water Network

Know more? Please contact:

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