



Brussels, 31st May 2017

The Management Board of Aqua Publica Europea (APE), meeting in Paris on the 29th of May 2017, following the request from AEOPAS and the Spanish members of APE, has adopted the following declaration:

The Management Board of APE declares its total disagreement with the inclusion of the Additional Provision 27 (“Disposición Adicional 27”) in the 2017 Spanish Budgetary Law, which is currently going through the Parliamentary Approval procedure at the Congreso de los Diputados. The draft law, in its currently wording, establishes a ban on transferring workers from a private company towards a public entity. This ban, together with the ban on hiring new public servants imposed on Spanish municipalities, constitutes a *de facto* ban on the remunicipalisation of water services, that is, the return to public management following the legitimate decision of the competent authority.

The approval of this law, as it stands now, would be a serious restriction to the decision-making power of local authorities (municipalities), which in Spain are the only public authorities responsible for water and sanitation services.

About APE

Aqua Publica Europea (APE) is the European Association of Public Water Operators. It unites publicly owned water and sanitation services, and a wide range of stakeholders working to promote public water management at both European and international level. APE is an operator-led association that looks for efficient solutions that serve the public rather than corporate interests. To date, its members cover 9 European countries, directly serving over 70 million people.