

**Contribution of the Republic of Slovenia**

**to the call for input of Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation on "Water and food nexus: a human rights approach to water management in food systems”**

**Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**

 March 2024

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| **Questionnaire to inform the thematic report on "Water and food nexus: a human rights approach to water management in food systems"** |

**3. Are there problems with the drinking water supply due to overexploitation or contamination of sources by agricultural or livestock activities? If so, can you describe them?**

In Slovenia, certain regions have intensive agricultural and livestock activities, resulting in higher contamination of drinking water resources, such as nitrogen or pesticides. This problem is increased if a suitable water protection area (catchment area for drinking water abstraction) has not been defined. In general, due to the abundance of water resources in Slovenia and the appropriate implementation of measures to protect drinking water resources, there are no serious problems with drinking water supply as a result of overexploitation or contamination of sources by agricultural or livestock activities.

According to Article 108(2) of the Water Act, special use of water for drinking water supply takes precedence over water use for other purposes, and according to Article 108(1) of the Water Act, water use beyond the limits of general use, for the use of alluvial and groundwater must be subject to the acquisition of a water right on the basis of a water permit or concession or the registration of the special water use.

**8. Is there competition or complementarity between the demands for water to produce food and for supply? Could you explain them? Are there laws to regulate them? These trade-offs include irrigation vs drinking water, fishing vs drinking water, live-stock vs drinking water, and processing of foods by industries vs drinking water. The trade-offs also can include issues on volume, access (rights, price, among others), and water quality/pollution. Provide examples and actions taken by the State.**

According to Article 108(2) of the Water Act, the special use of water for the supply of drinking water takes precedence over the use of water for other purposes (e.g. irrigation of agricultural land or other areas, sport fishing in commercial ponds, cultivation of freshwater and marine organisms). According to Article 108(1) of the Water Act, water use beyond the limits of general use, for the use of alluvial and groundwater must be subject to the acquisition of a water right on the basis of a water permit or concession or the registration of the special water use. Pursuant to Article 108(3) of the Water Act, a special water use may only be carried out in the manner, for the purpose and within the limits for which the water right has been obtained or registered in accordance with this Act and may only be used by the holder of the water right or the beneficiary of the registered special water use.