

*The Portuguese way of implementing Art. 10
– sitting between the chairs*

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It is a well-known fact that all the stakeholders involved in the products in contact with drinking-water want the highest protection of human health.

So, industry, water companies, regulators, health authorities and so on agree on having the best products that we can have.

Another well-known fact is that the “rules of the game” must be the same for every country, for every manufacturer, for every water company.

As a regulator, I do my best to create the best rules that can be applied at a reasonable price and cost without compromising the human health protection and using the best technologies available in the sector.

*Having this in mind and knowing that we all agree on the same goal, **delivering safe tap water**, it is time to do something very easy:
ENGAGE.*

Engage means put everyone (regulators, industry, water companies, health authorities, laboratories, all the stakeholders) on the same side.

Sometimes I found in my discussions in Portugal and in Europe that each stakeholder is working on their own goals without the ability to see that most of times their own goals aren't the most important ones or the ones that really matter.

Let's try to work on the same side moving forward instead of creating difficulties, let's try to bring solutions instead of problems.

Those are easy words but very difficult actions which we have the responsibility to take on board

In Portugal we used the best practices to create our own regulations, which are being used as a very good approach to the approval of products in contact with drinking-water.

However, some of the Portuguese stakeholders in the last phase of the process created an obstacle that seems impossible to overcome. So, if I was there I could ask directly:

- *To the European industry associations to help us to engage the Portuguese industry in the implementation of the proposed regulation*
- *To the European Commission to consider seriously the possibility of going forward with the European approval scheme or a similar solution that guarantees the human health protection we all want in the 28 MS*
- *To every one of you to do your best in engage your national stakeholders in the best practices available in manufacturing, applying, maintaining and controlling all the products in contact with drinking-water*