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Uw kenmerk

Uw brief

Kenmerk

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Fluoridation

Dear Mr Albright

In reply to your letter of 15 January 2000 I can inform as follows.

From the end of the 1960s until the beginning of the 1970s drinking water in various places in the Netherlands was fluoridated to prevent caries. However, in its judgement of 22 June 1973 in case No. 10683 (Budding and co. versus the City of Amsterdam) the Supreme Court (Hoge Raad) ruled there was no legal basis for fluoridation. After that judgement amendment to the Water Supply Act was prepared to provide a legal basis for fluoridation. During the process it became clear that there was not enough support from Parliament for this amendment and the proposal was withdrawn (Tweede Kamer, 1975-1976, 12738, No. 24).

The main reason for opposition against fluoridation of drinking water (and against amendment of the law) was that fluoridation was seen as putting a medical additive into drinking water by the government "for the benefit of the society".

Yours sincerely

Wilfred Reinhold

Legal Advisor

Directorate Drinking Water, Water, Agriculture