

Interactive comment on “Sustainable water services and interaction with water resources in Europe and in Brazil” by B. Barraqué et al.

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Despite we had only 2 referee comments (and indeed we waited hoping to get more), these were quite helpful to improve our contribution.

This paper is now entitled : The development of water services and its interactions with water resources in Europe’s and Brazil’s metropolises. We have improved the paper both in content and in form, but we did not follow the suggestion of the first anonymous referee: we kept the joint analysis of the Brazilian and the European cases, because it was the starting point of the paper. Splitting the paper in two had first been considered by the editors of the issue, but the on-line version was finally accepted upon keeping the comparative approach. Indeed, since Brazilian water policy has long relied on water resources mobilization at large scale and centralisation,

it ends up with more sustainability problems than European cities. Yet the latter too now find the limits of (treatment) technology based solutions.

With the first referee however, we agree on his criticism concerning the section on Europe and the first paradigm. Due to lack of space we had to remain quick and we may have over-simplified: Indeed, long distance aqueducts remained a choice made by a small minority of cities, and most of them continued to pump water from nearby rivers, (including Paris for part of its needs); Only very large or capital cities were supported by governments to build aqueducts. Yet the same referee points that many small ones fetched water from outside their walls in the nearby mountains. In the end we changed the name of the first paradigm and the title of the first section: it of course deals with the development of water services through piped systems in general (moving water up and not only from long distances), and with water quantities to flush the city clean and not only to bring sufficient water amounts to families.

We also took into account the other more detailed observations, and referred as suggested to the work of JP. Goubert and S. Barles. But we did not want to develop this part much, because as noted by referee n°1, we focus more on the second and third paradigms, and on the 20th century, rather than on what he/she bases comments, i.e. 18th-19th centuries.

The second referee rightly points sequencing problems in the paper's organisation. We did our best to integrate his/her remarks and we accordingly changed the title, the introduction, the conclusion and some sections in the paper.

In particular, we suppressed sections 2.4 et 2.5, and integrated them respectively in the beginning of section 3, and in 3.1. We then have one single development on municipalism and water treatment in Europe, and another single development on public services in Brazil from Saturnino de Brito till the end of PLANASA. This should facilitate the understanding of distinctions and similarities between the two geographical and policy systems.

Lastly, we corrected the English writing as suggested, and we consider that most remarks were taken into account in this new version.

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