



EUROPÄISCHE KOMMISSION
GENERALDIREKTION
UMWELT
Kreislaufwirtschaft und Grünes Wachstum
Nachhaltige Chemikalien

Brüssel
ENV.B.2

e-mail: [\[redacted\]@mnet-mail.de](mailto: [redacted]@mnet-mail.de)

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your letter of 20 March in which you asked for an EU actions on the group of chemical substances PFAS. Commissioner Sinkevičius has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Commission shares your view that PFAS are a concern, because of their extreme persistence, their occurrence and mobility in the environment and their ability to bioaccumulate and to cause adverse effects. As you mention, PFAS are used in a wide range of products, including by consumers.

The Commission has already started to regulate some of these substances and good progresses have been made under the EU legislation on chemicals and water and, internationally, under the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants. However, this is not sufficient, because most of the alternatives that have been developed so far to replace the banned substances belong to the same group of chemicals and present the same properties of concern mentioned above.

For these reasons, in the chemicals strategy for sustainability the Commission committed on phasing out the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the EU, unless their use is essential¹.

On the regulatory side, a group of national authorities started the process for restricting all uses of PFAS except the essential ones under the chemicals legislation (REACH)². The Commission is contributing to the preparation of this restriction by using the expertise of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). It also asked ECHA to prepare a restriction dossier on the specific use of PFAS in fire-fighting foams, responsible for many cases of contamination of soil and water³.

You can follow the developments of these initiatives on a dedicated page on ECHA website⁴.

On the international actions, the EU supported that PFAS are considered an “issue of concern” under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The Commission is contributing to international efforts to address PFAS concerns by participating

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en

² <https://www.rivm.nl/en/pfas/pfas-restriction-proposal>

³ <https://echa.europa.eu/registry-of-restriction-intentions/-/dislist/details/0b0236e1856e8ce6>

⁴ <https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas>

in the work of the OECD Global Perfluorinated Chemicals Group⁵ and by proposing and supporting the listing of relevant PFAS in the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)



⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/chemicalsafety/portal-perfluorinated-chemicals/>