



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Circular Economy
ENV.B.2 – Safe & Sustainable Chemicals
Head of Unit

Brussels,

ENV.B.2 /Ares/ [redacted]

[redacted]
BUND – Friends of the Earth
Germany

[redacted] [@bund.net](mailto:[redacted]@bund.net)

Dear [redacted],

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2024 concerning the industry event at the BASF headquarters and PFAS in drinking water in Burgdorf. President von der Leyen asked me to reply on her behalf and I would like to apologise for a delayed reply.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), used in almost all industry sectors and in many consumer products, indeed require special attention, considering the large number of cases of contamination of soil and water including drinking water. That is why the Commission proposed a comprehensive set of actions to address PFAS pollution.

PFAS parameters were introduced in the [recast of the Drinking Water Directive \(2020/2184/UE\)](#) adopted on 16 December 2020, which set a parametric value of 0,10 µg/L for ‘sum of PFAS’ and 0,50 µg/L for ‘PFAS Total’. The Commission is in the final stage of establishing technical guidelines for monitoring PFAS which will enable to implement the parametric values. By January 2026 Member States shall take the measures necessary to ensure that water intended for human consumption complies with the parametric values, depending on the Member States’ selected use of one or both parameters. It should be noted that the substance trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) is not included in the set of 20 PFAS substances under the parameter ‘Sum of PFAS’ and discussions whether it should be considered under the parameter ‘PFAS Total’ are still ongoing.

Due to recent evolving scientific insights into the effect of PFAS substances on human health, the Commission’s Directorate General for Environment engaged the World Health Organisation to conduct an in-depth human health assessment of the relevant PFAS substances in drinking water, with a view to determine health-based PFAS values for drinking water and taking into account the latest scientific knowledge. The final results are expected in 2026 and based on these results, taking into account the feasibility of implementation, the Commission will consider the review of the PFAS parameters under the recast Drinking Water Directive.

The Commission received the opinion from the European Chemicals Agency on a restriction of all PFAS in fire-fighting foams. This use is one of the main causes of environmental contamination, including drinking water. The Commission is working on a restriction proposal and expects to start the discussion with the Member States in the second half of 2024.

Five countries (DE, NL, DK, SE, NO) submitted a restriction proposal to the European Chemicals Agency, aiming to restrict PFAS as a chemical class or group. This restriction proposal is currently being assessed by the Risk Assessment Committee and the Socio-Economic Assessment Committee of the European Chemicals Agency and includes a 6-month consultation. During this consultation over 5 600 comments were received. In line with the applicable procedural rules, the European Chemicals Agency's Committees must finalise their opinions before the Commission can decide on the scope of the restrictions on PFAS. After receiving the opinions, the Commission will prepare a PFAS restriction based on the evidence provided by the ECHA Committees opinions.

I thank you for your interest in the chemicals policy and I count on your continued support of our work on improving protection of human health and the environment from exposure to chemicals.

Yours sincerely,

