



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND SMES
Ecosystems I: Chemicals, Food, Retail
F.1 – REACH

Brussels, 22 May 2024
GROW.F.1 

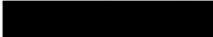
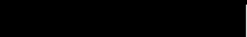
Meeting with BVES

Brussels (N105), 22 May 2024

Minutes

Participants:

European Commission (COM): GROW.F1 

 ENV.B2 

Bundesverband Energiespeicher Systeme e.V. ⁽¹⁾ (BVES): 

BVES representatives gave a presentation of their association (the German energy storage systems association).

BVES provided the main messages:

- Almost all energy storage systems contain PFAS.
- Alternatives are not viable in the short to medium term, although substitution is the ultimate goal and their planning an elimination by design approach.
- There is a need to balance environmental benefits and economic costs, in particular the risk to cut off EU from key technologies.
- The risk is limited as PFAS are contained in the storage system during the use phase; at the end of life, the sector is investing into a circular approach.
- Resistance from suppliers of cell batteries to provide PFAS-free batteries because they produce for a global market.
- More than 1,000 products are to be modified to eliminate PFAS.

⁽¹⁾ Energy Storage Systems Association

COM explained the REACH restriction process and clarified that the Essential Use Communication does not apply to the PFAS restriction, since the essential use concept is not enshrined in the REACH Regulation.