From: [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Subject: Points from the call with US DoD on firefighting foams
Date: 18 March 2021 18:31:53

Dear all,

Please see here some elements I noted from the call with the US DoD. [redacted] feel free to complement or amend if you wish.
There was actually little time for Q&As so I could only ask a couple of questions. Other calls will follow to go more into the details.

- The 2023-24 deadlines to purchase and use PFAS foams are not strict deadlines. The legislator was aware that these are very ambitious (not to say unachievable) deadlines since alternatives are not available yet for all uses. The waiver mechanism already foresees two one-year extensions and the Congress may extend the deadlines further based on e.g. on the status of availability of alternatives. This law is a "target setting" law which is amended along time, which is apparently a common practice in the US. The main goal of the law is to reduce emissions of PFAS reaching drinking water.

- Significant funding will help developing and testing alternatives

- Marine ships are exempted because:
    1. the presence of people in immediate proximity of ammunitions, requiring a very fast extinguishing time (<30 seconds). In the past, serious accident with several fatalities happened. The situation is less critical on land installations where more space is available.
    2. The emissions take place in the sea, i.e. not affecting drinking water which is the main focus of the PFAS reduction initiatives.

- Incineration in hazardous waste incinerators is the preferred disposal method. However, no studies are available on the related emissions of PFAS degradation products.

- Laws dedicated to defence are adopted every year (called "National defense authorization acts") and the one for fiscal year 2021 foresees e.g. a reporting mechanism on spills and foam usage.

- The Dutch Ministry of Defence is active in transitioning to alternatives.

We should be able to ask the other questions on costs, threshold, etc. the next time.

Best regards,

[redacted]