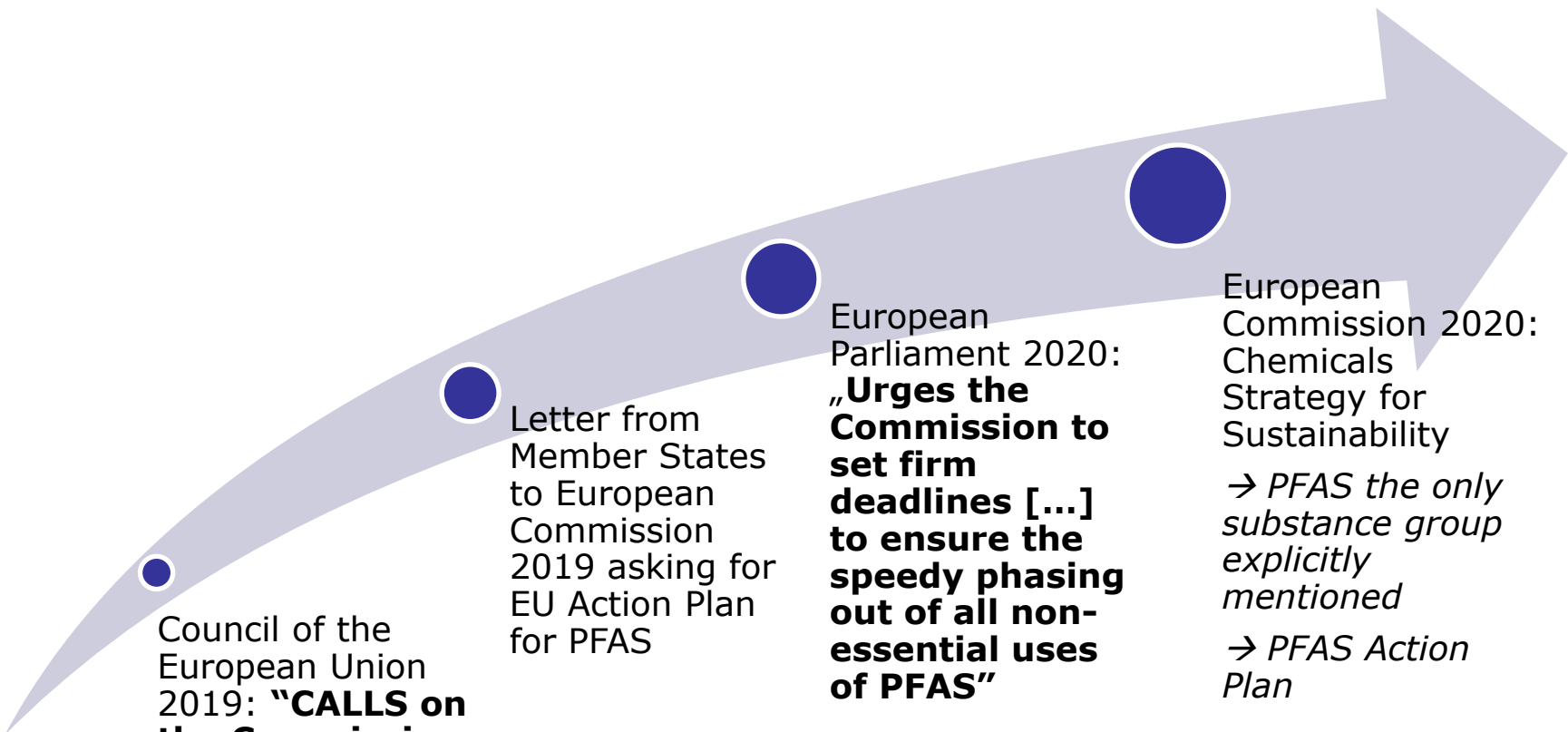




EU policy and regulatory overview

**PFAS Global Conference
24 March 2022**

**European Commission
DG Environnement**



Council of the
European Union
2019: **"CALLS on
the Commission
to develop [...] an
action plan to
eliminate all non-
essential uses of
PFAS"**

Letter from
Member States
to European
Commission
2019 asking for
EU Action Plan
for PFAS

European
Parliament 2020:
**"Urges the
Commission to
set firm
deadlines [...] to
ensure the
speedy phasing
out of all non-
essential uses
of PFAS"**

European
Commission 2020:
Chemicals
Strategy for
Sustainability
→ *PFAS the only
substance group
explicitly
mentioned*
→ *PFAS Action
Plan*

European Green Deal

Zero pollution ambition for a toxic free environment

Very persistent chemicals

**CSS and PFAS Action
Plan**

**Circular economy
action plan**

**Zero pollution action
plan**

Soil Strategy



Chemicals strategy for sustainability

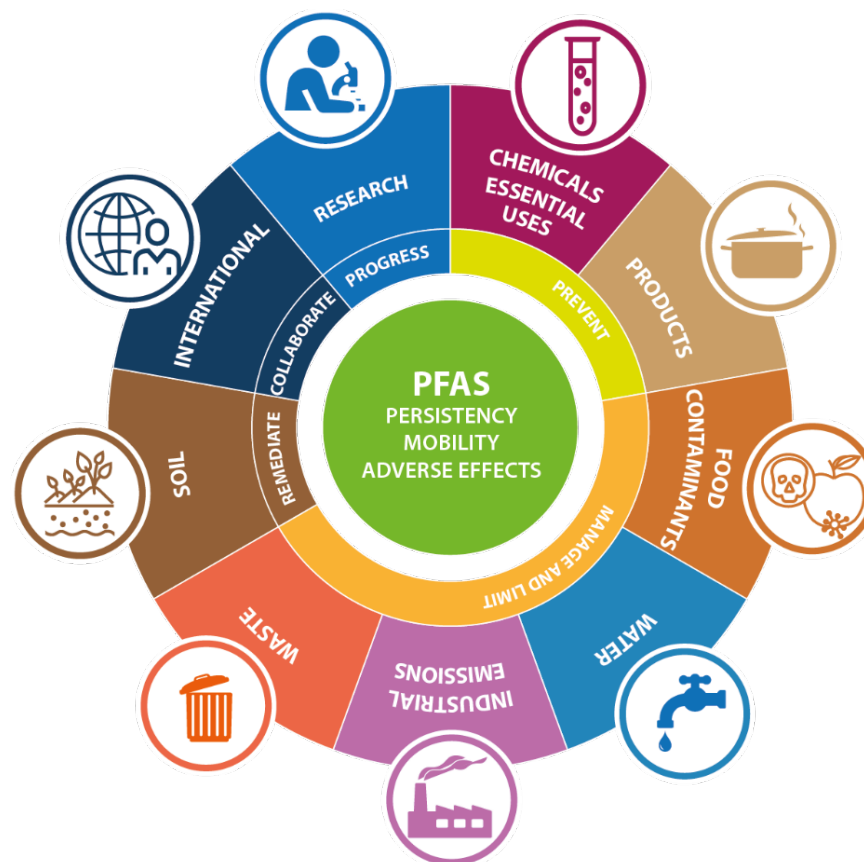
***Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** require special attention, considering the large number of cases of contamination of soil and water - including drinking water - in the EU and globally, the number of people affected with a full spectrum of illnesses and the related societal and economic costs. That is why the Commission proposes a comprehensive set of actions to **address the use of and contamination with PFAS**. Those aim to ensure, in particular, that the use of PFAS is phased out in the EU, unless it is proven essential for society.*

***The Commission will ban all PFAS in fire-fighting foams** as well as in other uses, allowing their use only where they are essential for society*

Chemicals strategy for sustainability

- define **criteria for essential uses** to ensure that the most harmful chemicals are only allowed if their use is necessary for health, safety or is critical for the functioning of society and if there are no alternatives
- propose new hazard classes and criteria in the CLP Regulation to fully address environmental toxicity, **persistence, mobility and bioaccumulation**;
- introduce **endocrine disruptors, persistent, mobile and toxic** and **very persistent and very mobile substances** as categories of substances of very high concern

PFAS action plan



Soil strategy

- *Preventing the release of hazardous substances into soil (including PFAS)*
- *Soil Health Law: legally binding provisions to*
 - **identify contaminated sites,**
 - **set up an inventory and register of those sites and**
 - **remediate the sites that pose a significant risk to human health and the environment by 2050.**

Actions on PFAS under REACH

- *PFHxA restriction: COM will soon receive ECHA's Committees opinion*
- *All PFAS in fire-fighting foams: ECHA submitted the dossier on January 14th*
- *All other uses of PFAS: dossier under preparation by NL, DE, DK, SE, NO (submission July 2022)*

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

Water legislation

Drinking Water Directive

- « **sum of PFAS** » limit: **0.1 µg/l**
 - « **all PFAS** » limit: **0.5 µg/l**
- } January 2026

By January 2024: COM to publish technical guidelines on analytical methods

Water legislation

Impact assessment on going for:

- *Water Framework Directive*
 - **Current limit for PFOS to be reviewed**
 - **Considering limits for 24 PFAS**
- *Groundwater Directive: options*
 - **Setting an EU limit for a group of 10**
 - **Setting an EU limit for all PFAS**
 - **MS to set limits for specific PFAS**

Public consultation: precautionary principle and polluter pays principle to be considered for contaminants of emerging concern

COM proposal to be adopted in 2022

Food Contaminants Regulation

- *EFSA opinion:*
<https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/news/pfas-food-efsa-assesses-risks-and-sets-tolerable-intake>
- *TWI of 4.4 ng/kg bw*
- *Part of EU population exceeds the TWI*
- *Discussion started with MS to set maximum levels in food + recommendation for monitoring PFAS in some foods*
- *COM proposal expected in summer 2022*

Thank you

Links to relevant EU strategies:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en

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

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/eu-soil-strategy-2030_en