



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate B – Circular Economy
The Director

Brussels
ENV.B.2

Mr [REDACTED]
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3M Science Applied to Life
3M Center, 220-14W-05
St Paul, MN 55144-1000

Dear Mr [REDACTED],

Thank you for your message of 19 April to Commissioner Sinkevičius. He asked me to reply on his behalf.

The European Commission believes 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. For these reasons, in its 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, as you probably already know, a group of national authorities started the process for restricting all uses of PFAS, except the essential ones, under the EU chemicals legislation (REACH)². The REACH restriction process considers carefully each use of the substances under assessment, including the emissions, the availability of alternatives and the socio-economic impact of a potential ban. This will be the case also for the use of PFAS in semiconductors.

As national authorities have initiated this restriction process, the Commission is an observer at this stage. I would then invite you to provide all the relevant information concerning the use of PFAS in semiconductors in the public consultations foreseen during the process. The Annex XV dossier for restriction is expected to be submitted to the ECHA's Scientific Committees in January 2023. During the course of the year, there will be a 6-months public consultation on the Annex XV dossier, followed by a 2-months public consultation on the Socio-Economic Assessment Committee's draft opinion.

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

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

I expect that the Commission will receive the ECHA's opinion at the beginning of 2024 and at that point it will start drafting the legislation.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Aurel CIOBANU-DORDEA