Question for written answer E-002369/2026/rev.1
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Planned ban on PFAS chemicals and impact on the food processing industry

At the end of March 2026, the two scientific committees of the European Chemicals Agency announced their support for restricting the PFAS substance group, with targeted exemptions. The PFAS substance group contains more than 10 000 different chemicals. They include fluoropolymers, which play a key role in the food processing industry. They reduce the adhesion of biofilms, simplify cleaning processes and ensure high, modern hygiene standards.

A ban in the near future is being discussed even though the chemicals cannot yet be replaced in some key industrial sectors, such as the chemical, pharmaceutical or food industries. There is ambiguity with regard to this development and the expected consequences of a sweeping PFAS ban for the food industry.

1. Does the Commission plan to introduce exemptions to the ban on the use of PFAS in industry? What criteria could be used for such exemptions?

2. What is the Commission’s assessment of the risk that a possible PFAS ban and a lack of alternatives in food production could lower EU food safety standards?

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