

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000470/25
to the Commission
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)
(3 February 2025)**

Subject: Hazardous PFAS substances in drinking water in Europe and lack of information in Greece

Recent studies highlight the presence of the ‘forever chemicals’ (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances — PFAS) at levels exceeding permissible limits in several European countries, such as France, Belgium and the Netherlands, raising concerns about the quality of drinking water and public health. However, in Greece there is a lack of systematic research and transparent information on the potential exposure of the population to these hazardous substances, while the European Commission has already stressed the importance of implementing Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on drinking water.

Accordingly:

1. What measures does the Commission intend to put in place to strengthen the monitoring and recording of PFAS levels in drinking water and food in the Member States, including Greece?
2. How does the Commission intend to ensure that citizens are informed and aware of the risks of PFAS and that controls are strengthened?
3. Is there a European plan to promote and integrate innovative decontamination technologies in areas where increased concentrations of PFAS have been detected?

Submitted: 3.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(28 March 2025)**

1. In December 2020, the Commission adopted the recast Drinking Water Directive ⁽¹⁾ to be transposed by the Member States into national law and complied with its provisions by January 2023. This directive includes per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) quality standards and minimum monitoring requirements for drinking water at the point of compliance such as the household tap. Member States are committed to ensuring compliance with these PFAS quality standards by January 2026. Maximum levels for specific PFAS in certain foodstuffs have been established in 2023 by a Commission Regulation ⁽²⁾. Member States will report all findings of their food controls to the European Food Safety Authority.
2. The Drinking Water Directive provides for Member States to ensure that information on the quality of water supplied is made available to consumers, including the results of PFAS monitoring from January 2026. In case of exceedances, Member States will take appropriate measures to protect human health and ensure that consumers are informed.
3. The Commission’s Zero Pollution Action Plan ⁽³⁾ aims significantly to reduce pollutant levels in the environment by 2050, including PFAS pollution. Various research and innovation projects on PFAS have been funded under the Horizon 2020 ⁽⁴⁾ and Horizon Europe ⁽⁵⁾ programmes. The ongoing Horizon 2020 project ‘ZeroPM’ ⁽⁶⁾ developed next generation remediation techniques to sustainably remove prioritised substances from water resources and drinking water. A Greek partner is involved in the project. Information on these programmes is publicly available.

⁽¹⁾ Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1-62.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/915/oj/eng>

⁽³⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en

⁽⁵⁾ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁽⁶⁾ <https://zeropm.eu/>