

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000030/26
to the Commission
Jutta Paulus (Verts/ALE)
(7 January 2026)**

Subject: Delays and uncertainty in the REACH Regulation revision process

The Commission committed to presenting a proposal to revise the regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH) ⁽¹⁾ in the fourth quarter of 2025. In September 2025, the Regulatory Scrutiny Board issued a negative opinion on the impact assessment, largely due to a lack of internal consensus within the Commission on the scope and meaning of ‘simplification’. This lack of consensus is delaying the proposal and creating uncertainty at a time when expectations for stronger chemicals legislation remain high. Greater clarity and transparency are therefore urgently needed.

The core objectives of the REACH Regulation must remain central throughout the revision process: ensuring a high level of protection of human health and the environment, promoting alternative methods for hazard assessment, and guaranteeing the free circulation of substances in the internal market while supporting competitiveness and innovation.

Against this background:

1. Can the Commission provide an updated timeline for the adoption of its proposal to revise the REACH Regulation?
2. Can the Commission commit to modernising and future-proofing the regulation, including by introducing registration requirements for polymers and strengthening data requirements, in particular for low-volume substances and the identification of endocrine disruptors?
3. Can the Commission give assurances that the revision will enable more effective action against harmful chemicals and that it will refrain from introducing additional procedural steps that would slow down regulatory action and weaken the role of the Member States?

Submitted: 7.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(24 February 2026)**

The regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) ⁽¹⁾ is the most advanced chemicals regulatory framework globally. It has contributed to increasing the knowledge of chemicals and to addressing the risk posed by them.

Following the negative opinion of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board of September 2025, the Commission services are currently reviewing the impact assessment for the REACH revision.

This is a complex exercise, as it involves balancing the EU’s various policy objectives, e.g. competitiveness and innovation, security and sustainability, and a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

The Commission is considering a wide range of options for the way forward and engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including the European Parliament, Member States, industry and civil society. As a result, the initially announced timing for the REACH revision is affected.

In the meantime, the implementation of the existing REACH Regulation continues to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, for example through restriction of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in firefighting foams, adopted on 3 October 2025 ⁽²⁾ and the ongoing work on a broader restriction on PFAS.

Moreover, the Commission is pursuing a comprehensive strategy to support the transition away from PFAS, as stipulated in the Chemicals Industry Action Plan ⁽³⁾, and working on the implementation of the ‘one substance, one assessment’ package adopted in November 2025 ⁽⁴⁾.

¹ ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2006/1907/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023>.

⁽²⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/ip_25_2286/IP_25_2286_EN.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan_en.

⁽⁴⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/11/13/chemicals-council-greenlights-legislative-package-to-streamline-chemical-safety-assessments/>.

This work will streamline the assessments of chemicals across the relevant EU legislation, strengthen the knowledge base on chemicals and support early detection and action on emerging chemical risks.
