

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000119/26
to the Commission
Martin Hojsík (Renew), Tomislav Sokol (PPE), Christophe Clergeau (S&D)
(14 January 2026)**

Subject: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food products

According to recent data from the European biomonitoring initiative HBM4EU, diet is the main exposure route for humans to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) ⁽¹⁾. Maximum limits for four PFAS in food products (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS) were introduced under Regulation (EU) 2023/915. While a step forward, these limits only cover a tiny part of the thousands of PFAS that consumers may be exposed to.

According to recent studies and tests, PFAS metabolites are also increasingly of concern and are found in everyday consumer products ⁽²⁾, but there are no maximum limits for them either.

Member States have been asked to monitor the occurrence of a range of PFAS in food products (under Recommendation (EU) 2022/1431) and are expected to share their data soon.

1. What measures will the Commission take to limit the presence of PFAS in food beyond the four PFAS for which maximum limits are already established under the Contaminants Regulation and that of trifluoroacetic acid?
2. When will the Commission take action to protect consumers from PFAS in food?

Submitted: 14.1.2026

**Answer given by Mr Várhelyi on behalf of the European Commission
(26 March 2026)**

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) published in 2020 its opinion ⁽¹⁾ on the risk to human health of the presence of PFOS, PFOA, PFNA and PFHxS in food ⁽²⁾.

These are the main PFAS ⁽³⁾ currently found in food and human blood. For other PFAS present in food, the data available in 2020 were insufficient to allow for a conclusive risk assessment.

Therefore, Recommendation (EU) 2022/1431 ⁽⁴⁾ asked Member States to monitor a wide range of PFAS in various foods, between 2022 and 2025, and to submit these data to EFSA by 30 June 2026.

Once these data are available, EFSA will be asked to assess whether, in light of the new data on PFAS other than PFOS, PFOA, PFNA and PFHxS, as well as any new scientific studies, it would be necessary to update its opinion.

Based on the results of this work, the Commission will discuss with the Member States whether maximum levels for PFAS other than PFOS, PFOA, PFNA and PFHxS should be established and/or whether the range of food commodities concerned should be extended.

As part of the assessment of PFAS active substances used in plant protection products that may breakdown into trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), the possible consumers' exposure to TFA as a residue in crops ⁽⁵⁾ and risk therefrom is assessed, as well as the possible contamination of groundwater and drinking water.

¹ https://www.hbm4eu.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/HBM4EU_Policy-Brief-PFAS.pdf.

² https://www.rivm.nl/publicaties/risk-assessment-of-pfas-through-consumption-of-home-produced-eggs-in-netherlands#abstract_en.

⁽¹⁾ EFSA scientific opinion on the risk to human health related to the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances in food, <https://efsa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.2903/j.efsa.2020.6223>.

⁽²⁾ Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS).

⁽³⁾ Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/1431 of 24 August 2022 on the monitoring of perfluoroalkyl substances in food, <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reco/2022/1431/oj>.

⁽⁵⁾ 23 PFAS substances for products of plant origin and 3 substances for animal origin are included in the EU coordinated multiannual control programme. See Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/854. http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2025/854/oj.

The Commission has initiated action to better understand the toxicological profile of TFA and its behaviour in the environment, including in drinking water ⁽⁶⁾.

⁽⁶⁾ The Commission has mandated EFSA to re-assess the toxicological reference values for TFA and has mandated EFSA and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to examine the formation of TFA in soil and water and any deficiencies with the current regulatory studies designed to detect TFA formation.
<https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2024-00502?search=trifluoroacetic>,
<https://open.efsa.europa.eu/questions/EFSA-Q-2025-00693?search=tfa>.
The Commission has signed an agreement with the World Health Organisation to determine the relevant PFAS (including TFA) in drinking water and recommend health-based values for these relevant PFAS.
The Commission launched a study to analyse treatment techniques and their related costs for PFAS (and TFA) removal from drinking water.