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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission is committed to further address the challenges of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination in waste in the EU waste legislation, including in the context of considerations on future circular economy-related policies. Ways to enhance the implementation of the polluter pays principle and support for the hazardous waste management sector may be explored, as well as possible measures on extended producer responsibility. The Commission is aware that the efficient destruction of PFAS in incinerators depends on several operational conditions which are discussed with relevant stakeholders. It is important to map PFAS content in waste streams and PFAS emissions during waste treatment, to enhance circularity while protecting the environment and human health. The Commission is also updating the list of pollutants of the Industrial Emissions Portal Regulation[1] to better report PFAS emissions and looking into ways to help Member States identify PFAS monitoring and abatement techniques.

The Waste Shipment Regulation[2] regulates shipments of waste within the EU borders, as well as exports and imports of waste. Waste shipments must be accompanied by information on the carried waste, its origin, destination and the waste management operation it will undergo. Where waste containing PFAS is considered hazardous, stricter rules apply and a prior consent is needed before shipments can take place. From 21 May 2026, waste shipment procedures will be digitalised via a central system[3] to allow the involved authorities and economic operators to submit and exchange documents and information. Enforcement authorities in Member States will use those data to better monitor and control waste movements.

[1] https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/f80de80b-a5bc-4c2b-b0fc-9c597dde0e42/library/ea510bf0-053b-45f3-974e-39460ab4b731/details.
[2] Regulation (EU) 2024/1157 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 April 2024 on shipments of waste, amending Regulations (EU) No 1257/2013 and (EU) 2020/1056 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1013/2006, OJ L, 2024/1157, 30.4.2024.
[3] Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS), https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/waste-and-recycling/waste-shipments/implementation-waste-shipment-regulation_en.