

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the Commission
(8.5.2026)

The aim of the Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Regulation¹ is to safeguard human health and the environment from the threats posed by POPs. This is achieved by prohibiting, swiftly phasing out, or restricting the manufacturing, placing on the market, and use of specific POPs. In this context, and to provide legal clarity and facilitate enforcement, the Commission is currently setting an unintentional trace contaminant (UTC) limit value for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Pursuant to the objectives of the POPs Regulation, the Commission seeks to establish this limit value as low as is practically feasible.

The Commission has analysed the impacts of the measure. When setting up a proposed UTC limit value for PCB, the Commission will take into account waste hierarchy principles, the expected decrease over time of PCB-content in input material, the technical feasibility of industrial processes to achieve such limit, the technical limitations of detection methods and the technical progress in analytical techniques. The Commission is also evaluating claims from Member States and stakeholders concerning analytical capabilities and is dedicated to ensuring that the UTC limit value matches advances in detection technologies and can be adequately enforced.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants (recast), OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, pp. 45–77.