

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001120/26  
to the Commission  
Elisabetta Gualmini (Renew), Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)  
(18 March 2026)**

*Subject:* PFAS regulation in the forthcoming REACH revision

The REACH Regulation is due to be revised in 2026. According to some reports, the changes will also cover PFAS (a group of over 10 000 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), based, among other things, on the restriction proposal submitted to the European Chemicals Agency in 2023 and the 2025 technical updates.

Urgent action is required in light of the various studies highlighting the harmful impact on the environment and health of many of these substances, which are particularly resistant and persistent, and accumulate in air, water, soil and living organisms. The remediation, filtration, and health, agricultural and waste management costs relating to these compounds are extremely high: a DG ENV report published on 29 January 2026 estimates that if PFAS pollution continues at current levels, the cost for the EU could amount to EUR 440 billion by 2050. At present, we can identify, precisely measure and accurately pinpoint the effects of only a small proportion of the PFAS in the Union.

In view of this, can the Commission indicate how it intends to deal with PFAS in the REACH revision in order to establish a regulatory framework that respects the precautionary principle for both the environment and health?

Submitted: 18.3.2026

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

A restriction dossier covering all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) has been submitted under the existing Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) <sup>(1)</sup> and is currently assessed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). This restriction dossier will be processed irrespective of a potential revision of REACH.

As indicated in the Chemicals Industry Action Plan <sup>(2)</sup>, the Commission is committed to presenting a proposal as soon as possible after receiving the final ECHA's opinions, with the overall objective of minimising PFAS emissions. The Commission will consider a ban on PFAS in consumer goods such as cosmetics, food contact materials and outdoor clothing.

Where adequate alternatives in terms of performance and safety are not available, the continued use of PFAS in industrial applications may be allowed for critical applications, such as health, defence, semiconductors, and other strategic sectors <sup>(3)</sup>, under strict conditions and until acceptable substitutes are found.

Derogations for uses will need to be accompanied by requirements to reduce emissions at all lifecycle stages to limit the release of pollutants into the environment and by clear incentives to innovate.

The Commission will base its restriction proposal on the ECHA's opinions and the final restriction dossier prepared by the five national authorities, which incorporate the comments received during the two consultations. The Commission may also take into account other available, reliable information, where relevant.

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

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan\\_en](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan_en).

<sup>(3)</sup> [https://environment.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fb27e67a-c275-4c47-b570-b3c07f0135e0\\_en?filename=C\\_2024\\_1995\\_F1\\_COMMUNICATION\\_FROM\\_COMMISSION\\_EN\\_V4\\_P1\\_3329609.PDF](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/document/download/fb27e67a-c275-4c47-b570-b3c07f0135e0_en?filename=C_2024_1995_F1_COMMUNICATION_FROM_COMMISSION_EN_V4_P1_3329609.PDF).