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E-002369/2026

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(31.7.2026)

The Commission recognises that regulatory changes of the magnitude of the restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), proposed under the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)¹ warrant serious attention and that their potential impacts, including on the food processing industry need to be carefully assessed. The Commission is fully committed to address the pollution caused by PFAS to protect the health of EU citizens and the environment.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA)'s scientific committees have been assessing the restriction proposal submitted by five national authorities² in January 2023. The Commission expects to receive the final opinions of ECHA by the end of 2026 and has committed to presenting its proposal for amendment of Annex XVII to the REACH Regulation as soon as possible thereafter.

As indicated in the European Chemicals Industry Action Plan³, where adequate alternatives in terms of safety and performance are not available, the continued use of PFAS in industrial applications may be allowed for critical applications, 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, until acceptable substitutes are found.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC.

² Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0530>.