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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(4.9.2026)

A restriction proposal covering all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) was submitted by five national authorities¹ under the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)² in 2023. This proposal, universal in its scope (i.e. covering all PFAS), is currently being assessed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). Wind turbines are one of the sub-uses under the energy sector assessed in detail during this process in terms of risk, availability of alternatives and socioeconomic impacts³. However, the risk assessment is carried out per (sub)use and not necessarily per individual technology. Once finalised, ECHA's Committees' final opinions will be the basis for the Commission to prepare a restriction proposal for the placing on the market and use of PFAS, taking into account all relevant information.

While waiting for ECHA's final scientific assessment, the Commission cannot anticipate how the use of PFAS in wind turbines will be addressed. Nonetheless, as announced in the Chemicals Industry Action Plan⁴, the Commission is fully committed to minimising PFAS emissions and addressing the pollution caused by PFAS to protect the health of EU citizens and the environment. 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, under specific conditions until acceptable substitutes are found. Possible derogations for uses of PFAS 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 towards finding alternatives.

¹ Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20260511>.

³ https://chem.echa.europa.eu/api-activity-list/v1/restrictionProcess/documents?name=90261f0ec4fde13102704a507698a6e6_rest_pfas_12_energy_rac_en.pdf.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0530>.