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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(25.9.2026)

As indicated in its European Chemicals Industry Action Plan¹, the Commission aims to address both consumer and industrial uses in its restriction proposal on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Universal PFAS restriction. That proposal will provide the relevant operational definitions of terminology used in the legal text, also taking into account existing definitions of the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)², as done in other restrictions and as required to ensure the necessary legal certainty.

The restriction dossier is still being assessed by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). In that context, the different types of uses, availability of alternatives to PFAS and the socio-economic impacts of the restriction options are evaluated by ECHA's Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC). ECHA's final opinions will be the basis for preparing the Commission restriction proposal, taking into account all relevant information, including objectives such as circular economy and the competitiveness of EU industry. The Commission is committed to presenting a balanced proposal for a REACH restriction, with the overall objective of minimising PFAS emissions while supporting the EU's resilience and strategic autonomy. Where adequate alternatives in terms of performance and safety are not available, the continued use of PFAS in critical industrial applications may be allowed, under strict conditions until acceptable substitutes are found.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0530>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20260622>.