

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-003160/26
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)
(29 July 2026)**

Subject: PFAS in Veneto — denial of access to environmental data and food safety at risk

In 2021, the Veneto Regional Administrative Court found in favour of Greenpeace and the Mamme No PFAS association, accepting their appeals against the Region of Veneto's refusal to hand over complete data on analyses of PFAS in food. ⁽¹⁾

More recently, journalist Marco Milioni reported that, rather than provide full documentation, the region only partially responded to his request for access to documents concerning PFAS in the areas around the Pedemontana Veneta motorway.

What is more, many requests for access to documents have been made by regional councillors, including me, which have never been answered.

These incidents point to a systematic failure to provide access to information of clear public interest, and they have been taking place while the EU framework has been updated to incorporate the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) opinion from 2020, which set a new tolerable weekly intake of 4.4 ng per kilo of body weight ⁽²⁾. Regulation (EU) 2022/2388 also introduced maximum limits for those substances in a number of foods of animal origin, including eggs, meat, fish, crustaceans and molluscs.

In view of the above:

1. Given this systematic denial of access to data, does the Commission intend to look into whether Directive 2003/4/EC on access to environmental information has been breached?
2. Does it consider it appropriate for food safety assessments to be based on data or thresholds predating the 2020 EFSA opinion?

Submitted: 29.7.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(8 October 2026)**

The directive on public access to environmental information ⁽¹⁾ expressly provides for specific review procedures at national level, for cases in which requests for information have been ignored, wrongly refused, inadequately answered, or were otherwise not dealt with. It is for the Italian competent authorities to ensure that citizens' procedural rights protected under EU law are fully respected.

The Commission therefore invites the citizens concerned to seek redress before the competent national administrative and/or judicial authorities. In its role as guardian of the Treaties, the Commission may decide to intervene if systemic issues with application of these provisions arise ⁽²⁾.

In its 2020 opinion, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) concluded that dietary exposure to four perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) raised health concerns.

These substances are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS).

Following this opinion, Regulation (EU) 2022/2388 established mandatory maximum levels for these PFAS in a number of foods of animal origin ⁽³⁾.

In case Member States wish to establish national rules for these four PFAS in foods other than those covered by EU legislation, those rules should be based on the EFSA opinion from 2020.

¹ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2026/07/08/pfas-pedemontana-veneta-accesso-atti-notizie/8442237>.

² For PFOS, PFOA, PFNA and PFHxS altogether.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC, OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, p. 26-32.

⁽²⁾ Communication of 19 January 2017 (EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20), in the communication of 13 October 2022 COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers and in the communication of 28 April 2026 A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook (COM(2026) 380 final).

⁽³⁾ Commission Regulation (EU) 2022/2388 of 7 December 2022 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of perfluoroalkyl substances in certain foodstuffs, OJ L 316, 8.12.2022, pp. 38-41.

In case Member States want to establish national rules for other PFAS, these rules can be based on their most recent national or other risk assessment.
