

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-002764/25
to the Commission**

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(8 July 2025)**

Subject: PFAS limits and TFA in drinking water

An article published on 1 July 2025 states that pollution with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is creating a food and water crisis in Europe⁽¹⁾. It points to serious problems with the Commission guidelines on PFAS in drinking water. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), which is a degradation product of PFAS, and in particular of pesticides and PFAS F-gases, is found in high concentrations in drinking water. Technical guidelines adopted by the Commission in August 2024⁽²⁾ recommend an approach under which high levels of TFA in drinking water may not be considered non-compliant.

It is important to note that, so far, removing TFA from drinking water has proven nearly impossible, or prohibitively expensive. Without taking action to reduce pollution at source, TFA concentrations will continue to increase and the toxic and polluting effects will be difficult to reverse.

1. When will the Commission revise its guidelines to ensure that levels of TFA exceeding the total PFAS limit value of 0.5 µg/L are considered as non-compliant and addressed appropriately?
2. When will the Commission revise the Drinking Water Directive⁽³⁾ to ensure systematic monitoring of key PFAS degradation products and set adequate quality standards?
3. When will the Commission propose a comprehensive ban of major TFA sources, in particular PFAS pesticides and all PFAS F-gases?

Submitted: 8.7.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(22 August 2025)**

The Commission is fully aware that trifluoroacetic acid (TFA) is a substance of emerging concern. Therefore, the Commission has signed an agreement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to assess the most recent scientific evidence on potential health effects of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) including TFA.

On that basis, the WHO might recommend health-based values for relevant PFAS (and TFA) in drinking water. In parallel, a study is ongoing to analyse treatment techniques and their related costs for PFAS (and TFA) removal from drinking water.

Based on the outcome of the WHO assessment, expected in 2027, and the ongoing study, the Commission will consider the best course of action.

The EU has already taken significant steps to control the risks from PFAS through restrictions of several PFAS under the EU chemicals legislation (REACH)⁽¹⁾.

In addition, the Commission is expecting the opinion of the European Chemicals Agency⁽²⁾ on a dossier on all PFAS in 2026 and will come up with a REACH restriction proposal as soon as possible upon reception of the opinion.

For certain products and equipment Regulation (EU) 2024/573⁽³⁾ already bans all fluorinated greenhouse gases, many of which are PFAS. Also, the Commission has removed a number of PFAS pesticides that degrade to TFA from the EU market. Most others are under re-evaluation.

¹ <https://www.ftm.eu/articles/pollution-crisis-threatens-europe-lobbyists-sway-brussels>.

² <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/65764c73-4a57-45dc-8199-473014cf65bf/library/fe19925b-4d93-4e09-80cf-c21c5b3e5365/details>.

³ OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj>.

⁽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, OJ L 396, 30.12.2006.

⁽²⁾ <https://echa.europa.eu/>.

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of the European Parliament and of the Council on of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, OJ L, 2024/573, 20.2.2024.

The Plant Protection Products Regulation ⁽⁴⁾ does not allow approval or renewal of approval of an active substance to be refused solely because it is a PFAS, but other grounds may apply ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 October 2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC, OJ L 309, 24.11.2009, p. 1-50.

⁽⁵⁾ As stated in its reply to Written Question E-000268/2024.