

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-000010/26
to the Commission
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)
(5 January 2026)**

Subject: The use of cement accelerators containing PFAS and the transfer of contaminated sediments

In Veneto, the project to build the Superstrada Pedemontana Veneta (SPV) motorway has severely contaminated the local environment, and the Vicenza Public Prosecutor's Office is looking into the use of a cement accelerator containing perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) in the construction of two of the SPV's tunnels.

The construction site's contaminated water and materials have caused the release of PFAS in the Poscola stream and in the surface and groundwater of several municipalities ⁽¹⁾, increasing pollution levels in a number of aquifers and areas of environmental and agricultural value ⁽²⁾.

Given that additives containing PFAS have yet to be banned in the EU and that their continued use is adversely affecting public health, bodies of water, groundwater and agriculture, and in the light of the fact that, though the revision of the Water Framework ⁽³⁾ and Groundwater ⁽⁴⁾ Directives introduces PFAS to the priority pollutants list, it also preserves a number of derogations concerning the transfer of contaminated sediments, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it launch an investigation at European level to look into the increasingly widespread use of cement accelerators containing PFAS in major works and in the construction sector as a whole and assess these substances' impact on the environment and public health?
2. Will the Commission take immediate action to restrict the use of PFAS in the construction sector and prevent their release into the environment — specifically as regards surface and groundwater — until the REACH Restriction Assessment for PFAS is finalised?
3. Will the Commission push for the introduction of additional award criteria in procurement procedures that assign extra points to bidders who have certification proving that they use materials that do not contain hazardous substances, particularly PFAS?

Submitted: 5.1.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(9 February 2026)**

The restriction dossier ⁽¹⁾ submitted by five national authorities to restrict the use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the regulation on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) ⁽²⁾ includes the use of PFAS in construction products as one of the sectors assessed in detail.

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is currently evaluating this restriction dossier. The work of ECHA's Scientific Committees includes an evaluation of the assessment of the risk for the environment and public health of the use of PFAS in scope of the restriction proposal.

The Commission will address the use of PFAS in construction and other sectors via the upcoming REACH restriction. This will ensure the protection of EU citizens, the environment, and a functional internal market.

The Commission is committed to presenting a restriction proposal as soon as possible after the ECHA opinion is available. This will ensure that the decision-making process is based on a sound scientific assessment.

In parallel, the Commission is working on the revision of the Public Procurement Directives ⁽³⁾. Within this process, it is currently consulting stakeholders and developing the impact assessment. At this stage, different options are being considered.

¹ <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/2025/10/18/pfas-pedemontana-veneta-inquinamento-falde-notizie/8165145/>.

² <https://www.ilgiornaledivicenza.it/territorio-vicentino/grande-vicenza/pedemontana-veneta-pfas-nel-cemento-terre-di-scavo-stoccate-in-29-siti-1.12853736>.

³ Directive 2000/60/EC.

⁴ Directive 2006/118/EC.

⁽¹⁾ Also referred to as 'Universal PFAS restriction' dossier.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20251023>.

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014L0023>;

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02014L0024-20260101>;

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32014L0025>.