

Brussels, December 1st, 2025

Call on the EU Commission:

For an Immediate European PFAS Strategy and Dialogue Process

PFAS pose a serious threat to our water resources, the environment, and human health. Due to their diverse, long-term, and global use as well as their extremely poor degradability, PFAS can already be detected worldwide in the air, water resources, soils, and in the food chain – even in the blood and organs of living organisms.

Challenges for the Water Industries

Already today, the water industries face enormous challenges due to the widespread PFAS contamination in the environment and strict legal limits. The technical removal of PFAS from raw water is extremely complex, resource-intensive, and associated with significant costs. In addition, large quantities of PFAS-contaminated treatment residues are produced, for which there are currently no viable and widely applicable disposal solutions. As a result, removing PFAS from raw water will lead to significantly higher water prices, placing an additional burden on consumers, jeopardizing social acceptance and failing the precautionary and polluter pays principle of Article 191 TFEU. In Rastatt, Germany, for example, prices for consumers have already doubled due to a large-scale PFAS-contamination and obligatory treatment.

In fact, drinking water is not the main route of PFAS exposure for humans. The primary source is generally food, which is why targeted measures to phase out PFAS emissions into the environment are essential to lower human exposure.

European Solution Needed: Implementing the Polluter-Pays Principle to Safeguard Human Health and Water Resources

We acknowledge the steps already taken, notably through the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, which includes a dedicated PFAS-framework, as well as the ongoing universal PFAS restriction proposal (UPFAS) under the REACH Regulation addressing the manufacture, placing on the market and use of PFAS. A gradual and technology-driven phase-out of PFAS represents a pragmatic strategy for preventing future pollution and fully aligns with the EU's Zero-Pollution ambition.

However, in order to address the vast legacy contamination and its associated toxicological risks, an equally robust approach is needed to cover the considerable PFAS-related clean-up costs. Therefore, we urge the European Commission to initiate a structured process with all relevant stakeholders, aimed at implementing the Polluter-Pays principle. Only in close

cooperation pragmatic and cost-effective solutions will be developed that reconcile the interests of PFAS manufacturers with the protection of human health and the long-term preservation of our water resources.



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