

EN
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Answer given by Mr Vella
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission has been actively involved in several workshops organised by the German Environment Agency and in working groups of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) discussing the development of criteria to identify persistent, mobile and toxic (PMT) substances for their possible identification as substances of very high concern (SVHC) under Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals - REACH)¹.

REACH allows already to regulate hazardous substances in order to protect citizens from exposure via drinking water resources. E.g., REACH restricts manufacturing, placing on the market and use of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and related substances².

Furthermore, substances can be identified as SVHCs if they fulfil the criteria of Article 57(a) to (e) of REACH or if there is scientific evidence of probable serious effects to human health or the environment giving rise to an equivalent level of concern. The Commission is closely following discussions to identify substances found in drinking water resources as SVHCs of equivalent concern, e.g. the intention of Germany to identify undecafluorohexanoic acid.

¹ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006

² Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1000 of 13 June 2017 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA-related substances