

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2295/09
by Catherine Stihler (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) and infertility in women

Researchers have found the first evidence that perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) – chemicals that are widely used in everyday items such as food packaging, pesticides, clothing, upholstery, carpets and personal care products – may be associated with infertility in women. The study published online in Europe's leading reproductive medical journal 'Human Reproduction' found that women who had higher levels of perfluorooctanoate (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) in their blood took longer to become pregnant than women with lower levels.

In light of this study can the Commission comment on what measures will be taken to tackle the problem of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) which have been incorporated into everyday items and their link to infertility?