

**Question for written answer E-001305/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The case of PFASs in the Veneto region (Italy) - possible application of EU law

In the summer of 2013, ARPAV (the Veneto regional environmental protection agency) reported that perfluoroalkylated substances (PFASs) had been found in the groundwater, surface water and drinking water of the Veneto Region. The areas most seriously affected are the lower Valle dell'Agno (Vicenza), some parts of the provinces of Padua and Verona and a considerable part of the river network (Poscola; Agno-Guà-Frassine; Togna-Fratta-Gorzone, etc.).

The dominant compounds in all the waters tested are two PFASs: perfluorooctyl sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), both of which are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic.

PFOS has been identified as a priority hazardous substance in Directive 2013/39/EU and is included in Annex X to Directive 2000/60/EC as well as being on the list of pollutants under Directive 2010/75/EU.

PFOA is classified as a substance of very high concern, is on the candidate list of substances in accordance with Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 and is the subject of a proposed restriction.

The source of the serious contamination is an area which is the responsibility of the Miteni S.p.A. chemical plant of Trissino (Vicenza), more than 50% of the products of which are destined for the agrochemical industry.

Can the Commission therefore clarify, in this specific case:

1. how the 'polluter pays' principle can be implemented;
2. how the potential synergies between Directives 2000/60/EC and 2010/75/EU and Regulations (EC) 1907/2006 and 1107/2009 can be harnessed in order to protect public health and restore the quality of the polluted water?