

**Question for written answer E-002695/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Peter van Dalen (PPE)

Subject: The issue of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

PFAS¹ have been widely used in the manufacture of many items and products for decades. That has led to very harmful, cross-border environmental pollution. The Commission has rightly restricted the use of PFAS since 2006. Five national authorities are going a step further and have initiated a European proposal to curb all non-essential uses of PFAS. Unfortunately, the Commission stated in May 2022 that such a ban was not expected to be feasible before 2025.

1. Does the Commission agree that there is a need for active communication on the issue of PFAS, i.e. on exposure, on current sources and on how the European institutions intend to reduce emissions? If it does, how does it envisage this and how does it intend to reduce emissions?
2. There is an effective interchange between Flanders and the Netherlands on the issue of PFAS, including through the International Scheldt Commission. Is it true, however, that authorities can back out of research into the reduction of PFAS pollution under the REACH Regulation² and, if it is, when will the Commission eliminate this shortcoming in the Regulation?

¹ Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances

² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006