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Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné
on behalf of the European Commission
(21.1.2026)

The Commission and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) are fully committed to independent processes for restrictions under the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH)¹.

When awarding contracts to consultants, ECHA follows the rules established in the General Financial Regulation² and the Commission's Vademecum on public procurement including those aimed at preventing professional conflicting interests. All consultants working for ECHA must declare any potential professional conflicting interests and if such conflicts are identified, the contract is not awarded.

ECHA has confirmed that the work on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) performed by Ramboll between 2020-2021 was delivered before their 2022 engagement with industry. In addition, the study in which Ramboll was involved is only one of several sources of evidence in the restriction dossier prepared by ECHA for PFAS in firefighting foams³. Multiple information sources are taken into account by ECHA's committees to issue their final opinion with the highest possible level of quality and independence.

The Commission was aware of Ramboll's role in the study contracted by ECHA for the preparation of the restriction dossier on PFAS in firefighting foams⁴. It based its restriction on the entire dossier, on the opinions of the ECHA's scientific committees and on stakeholders' feedback.

On the universal PFAS restriction, the Commission is committed to presenting a proposal as soon as possible after receiving ECHA's opinion, with the overall objective of minimising PFAS emissions, as indicated in the Chemical Industry Action Plan⁵.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:02006R1907-20250901>.

² https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202402509.

³ The detailed answer from ECHA regarding the allegations of Ramboll's conflict of interests is available online at <https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-manages-conflicts-of-interest-appropriately>.

⁴ The study has been published on ECHA's website:

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/6755610/pfas_flourine-free_alternatives_fire_fighting_en.pdf/d5b24e2a-d027-0168-cdd8-f723c675fa98.

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0530>.