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DARK WATERS

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Dark Waters tells the shocking story of how a heroic attorney fought to uncover a dark secret hidden by one of the world's largest corporations, who poisoned a town for decades with a PFAS chemical. Rob Bilott (played by Mark Ruffalo) risked everything to hold Dupont to account and bring justice to the 70,000 victims of one of the biggest cover-ups in American history.

This briefing highlights how forever chemicals affect Europe and outlines actions that the European Union and National Governments can take in response.



THE PROBLEM OF PFAS IN EUROPE

Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances, more commonly known as PFAS, are a particularly harmful chemical group. They are virtually impossible to clean up or get rid of. Around 100,000 sites in Europe are potentially emitting PFAS.

PFAS accumulate and persist in our environment. It can take up to 1,000 years for PFAS to be broken down by nature.

FOREVER CHEMICALS ARE EVERYWHERE



CONTAMINATING
OUR ENVIRONMENT



BUILDING UP
IN OUR BODIES



IMPACTING OUR HEALTH,
CONTRIBUTING TO ILLNESS
AND CANCER

Many PFAS are highly mobile. They are in soil, plants and animals across Europe and have been detected in water, including drinking water, in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden.

This contamination is a **potentially serious public health problem**. Forever chemicals that didn't exist several decades ago are found today in our blood. Scientists have identified a probable link between PFOA exposure and diagnosed high cholesterol, thyroid disease, testicular and kidney cancer, and pregnancy-induced hypertension.

PFAS CONTAMINATE EVERYDAY ITEMS



TAKEAWAY AND
OTHER FOOD
PACKAGING



NON-STICK
COATINGS



STAIN-FREE AND
WATERPROOF
CLOTHES



SUN-CREAM
AND COSMETICS

Forever chemicals are in all sorts of everyday household products. There are also several hotspots in Europe around industrial sites. The widespread use of PFAS in industrial processes and products and their high contamination levels means that they are in everything and everywhere.

FOREVER CHEMICALS ARE A GENERATIONAL CATASTROPHE



CONTAMINATING AIR,
WATER AND FOOD ALL
OVER THE WORLD



IN ALMOST
EVERYONE'S BLOOD



CHILDREN AND FUTURE
GENERATIONS ARE MORE
AT RISK

Alarmingly, babies are now born with PFAS already in their bodies. These levels are often higher than their mother's. Children are far more sensitive than adults to toxic chemicals in the environment.

FOREVER CHEMICALS NEED ROBUST REGULATION



OVER 4,700 FOREVER
CHEMICALS EXIST



ONLY 2 PFAS
ARE GLOBALLY
REGULATED



EU CHEMICAL REGULATION
REMAINS INSUFFICIENT

Despite strong EU chemicals regulation, forever chemicals continue to be used in EU products and are widely present in the environment. Some environment ministers are calling for an action plan to phase out all non-essential uses of PFAS. Some Member states are drafting a wide restriction proposal on PFAS. The European Commission is preparing a Chemical strategy for the coming years: efficient forever chemicals regulation must be included.

SEE THE FILM AND TAKE ACTION ON FOREVER CHEMICALS NOW

WE'RE WORKING TO TAKE THE STORY OF **DARK WATERS** FURTHER.
TOGETHER, WE CAN GET COMPANIES AND POLICYMAKERS TO END THE
USE OF PFAS ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION.

YOU: CALL FOR CHANGE



PRESS POLICYMAKERS TO REGULATE PFAS EFFICIENTLY



ASK WHETHER THE PRODUCTS YOU BUY CONTAIN PFAS



HAVE YOU BEEN AFFECTED BY #FOREVERCHEMICALS?
SHARE YOUR STORY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

COMPANIES: CHECK YOUR CHEMICALS



JOIN THE CHEMSEC CORPORATE INITIATIVE



CHECK YOUR SUPPLY CHAINS AND ACT NOW TO PHASE OUT ALL PFAS



DEVELOP, RESEARCH AND SHARE ALTERNATIVES TO PFAS
THAT ARE SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE BY DESIGN



BE TRANSPARENT ABOUT WHAT FOREVER CHEMICALS YOU
USE UNTIL YOU PHASE THEM OUT

POLICYMAKERS: MAINTAIN ROBUST STANDARDS



ADOPT FAST AND EFFECTIVE RESTRICTION OF ALL PFAS UNDER THE REACH REGULATION



IMPLEMENT AN AMBITIOUS EU PFAS ACTION PLAN WHICH SETS A DEADLINE
FOR RESTRICTIONS TO START AND A TIMELINE UNDER WHICH THESE FOREVER
CHEMICALS WILL BE PHASED OUT COMPLETELY



ADOPT AN EU CHEMICALS STRATEGY THAT COMMITS TO ENSURING
A TOXIC-FREE ENVIRONMENT



#darkwaters #foreverchemicals

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