

Template email

Get in touch with your national and European representatives on PFAS pollution

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Exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a family of thousands of widely-used synthetic chemicals, constitutes a global threat to our health and the environment.

Increasing scientific evidence has linked exposure to PFAS to a number of serious health impacts such as different types of cancer, thyroid disease, immune dysfunction and hormone disruption. Recent studies also found that PFAS exposure may increase risks of being infected with COVID-19 and could worsen symptoms related to COVID. Due to their widespread use and highly mobile nature, PFAS are in our water, food, homes, and nearly all our bodies.

For decades, regulatory action on PFAS has been slow, fragmented and overall ineffective to prevent their widespread contamination of our environment and our bodies.

But the tides are turning: a draft proposal for an EU-wide restriction on the production and uses of PFAS was published by the EU Chemicals Agency in February 2023. As this restriction develops over the next year, it will be crucial that EU member states constructively work together to make it a comprehensive and enforceable tool for health and environmental protection against PFAS.

Your elected representatives at national and European levels (Members of Parliament, Members of European Parliament, or national governments) all have an important role to play in contributing to the delivery of a protective PFAS restriction.

Write to them and ask them to keep the pressure high all throughout the development of the European-wide restriction on PFAS. This document contains a template email that you can adapt, translate and send today.

For more information:

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Template email to your national and European representatives

Dear Member of Parliament, dear Minister,

My name is [NAME]. I am a concerned citizen living in [YOUR LOCATION]. I am contacting you today to ask you to support the long-overdue ban on all PFAS. As European authorities are developing a broad EU-wide restriction on those chemicals, I urge you to use your power to demand/ensure that our [nationality] government actively contributes to its development by supporting a broad scope and protective provisions in this process.

Background:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of thousands of widely-used human-made chemicals, which constitutes a global threat to our health and the environment. Increasing scientific evidence has linked exposure to PFAS to a number of serious health impacts such as different types of cancer, thyroid disease and hormone disruption. PFAS do not degrade in the environment, meaning that continuous production keeps them forever in our environment (hence their nickname of forever chemicals).

Due to their widespread use and highly mobile nature, PFAS are now everywhere in our water, food, homes, and nearly all our bodies, even those of newborns. To date, only few PFAS have been regulated, but industry has casually replaced them with newer generation PFAS, which are equally harmful for our health and our environment.

PFAS pollution creates a huge financial and health burden on our society. It is estimated that more than 17,000 sites are contaminated by PFAS and that the annual health costs related to PFAS range between 52 – 84 billion Euros for Europe alone. You can visit www.env-health.org/BanPFAS to find out more about the real-life and health price that people are paying for PFAS pollution, instead of the polluters themselves.

Widespread PFAS use has created an irreversible toxic legacy of pollution and contamination, which will continue until strict regulatory action is taken. That is why I urge you to use your power to demand that our national government actively contributes to the development of a comprehensive and highly protective EU-wide restriction on forever chemicals.

MP:

Please ask parliamentary questions and organise an exchange of views on the matter in the parliament.

Minister:

Please take health-protective positions in the European discussions on the restrictions and make them public through issuing regular statements.

Thank you for your consideration.

With kind regards,
[YOUR NAME]

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[The Health and Environment Alliance \(HEAL\)](#) is the leading not-for-profit organisation addressing how the environment affects human health in the European Union (EU) and beyond. HEAL works to shape laws and policies that promote planetary and human health and protect those most affected by pollution, and raise awareness on the benefits of environmental action for health.

HEAL's over 90 member organisations include international, European, national and local groups of health professionals, not-for-profit health insurers, patients, citizens, women, youth, and environmental experts representing over 200 million people across the 53 countries of the WHO European Region.

As an alliance, HEAL brings independent and expert evidence from the health community to EU and global decision-making processes to inspire disease prevention and to promote a toxic-free, low-carbon, fair and healthy future.



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