

**Question for written answer E-002539/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Cristina Guarda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: The presence of PFASs in the air and in the water in Alessandria Province

Recent ambient air quality monitoring carried out by ARPA Piemonte¹ has detected concentrations of PFAS C6O4 and PFOAs near the Syensqo plant in Spinetta Marengo² (Alessandria Province).

In June-July of this year, production was halted after Syensqo was issued two formal warnings by the provincial authorities concerning the presence of PFASs in the soil surrounding the plant and in the waters of the river Bormida. The company has since received further warnings over its failure to comply with leachate treatment requirements.

Furthermore, the POP Regulation forbids the production of PFOAs³.

Recent studies of the emissions produced by fluoropolymer synthesis facilities⁴ have detected the presence of third-generation PFASs as reaction intermediates in the synthesis of fluoropolymers.

In the light of the above:

1. Will the Commission ascertain whether Syensqo has infringed the POP Regulation, and does it not believe that resuming production is at odds with both the precautionary principle and the Drinking Water Directive⁵?
2. As part of its review of REACH⁶, will the Commission propose a restriction for C6O4 substances and include per- and polyfluorinated compounds, which are unintentionally produced during the polymerisation process and released into the environment⁷?
3. Will the Commission add an obligation to provide reference standards for registered substances, including potentially polluting intermediates that are generated during synthesis?

Submitted: 14.11.2024

¹ <https://www.arpa.piemonte.it/scheda-informativa/monitoraggio-pfas-aria-periodo-gennaio-luglio-2024>.

² <https://spinettamarengo.syensqo.com/>.

³ Regulation (EU) 2019/1021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on persistent organic pollutants (recast)(OJ L 169, 25.6.2019, p. 45).

⁴ <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chroma.2024.465369>.

⁵ Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast) (OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1).

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02006R1907-20241010>.

⁷ <https://dep.nj.gov/wp-content/uploads/solvay/docs/response-to-comments-20240131.pdf>.