

**Question for written answer E-002394/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Exemptions from the PFAS restriction proposal for critical sectors

In January 2023, the authorities of five countries submitted the most far-reaching restriction proposal¹ ever put forward under the REACH Regulation². This proposal targets the whole group of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), comprising over 10 000 substances. Because of their persistent and inert nature, many PFAS are essential for applications in critical sectors, such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, renewable energy, battery manufacturing and semiconductors. In many cases, viable alternatives have not yet been developed. Thus, without clear exemptions, a far-reaching restriction would harm patient safety and jeopardise the green transition.

1. Has the Commission already identified a list of sectors or applications that should benefit from wide-ranging exemptions?
2. How and when is it planning to make sure that vital investments in the aforementioned sectors are not discouraged by the uncertainty generated by the far-reaching restriction proposal?

Submitted: 2.8.2023

¹ <https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-publishes-pfas-restriction-proposal>.

² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).