

## Letter to the President of the EU Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

Dear President,

today we are here with our hearts in our hands.

We live in Italy, in the Veneto region, and we are mothers contaminated by PFAS. We also have contaminated our children with these perfluoroalkyl substances. As mums, we are supposed to look after our kids, to protect them, and to guarantee them the most wonderful future. We did not know that for many years our aquifer, the second largest in Europe, had been polluted by Pfas and that our bodies were also full of these chemicals. These eternal pollutants are mobile substances with very strong chemical bonds, they bioaccumulate and remain for years both in the environment and in human bodies.

Air, water, soil, plants, and animals around us are contaminated by Pfas; we have been eating them for years through water and food. We have then transferred these pollutants to our children when they were still in our womb. We breastfed them and, again, PFAS were hidden in our milk.

We were not aware that we were poisoning our kids! Now, in their blood, you can find PFAS up to 30-40-50 times the level expected in general population.

Our children were born and are now growing with these endocrine disruptors in their bodies: some of them already have abnormal laboratory values: what would happen to their development and health in the next future?

We don't know if we will have the chance to become grandmothers, since these substances affect the reproductive systems OF OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS. They are chemical substances that mimic the action of hormones, and due to this reason, they are causing many health issues. In our area, PFAS-related diseases are very widespread, so much that - just to give an example - our children already have cholesterol problems at a young age, despite being so young and having correct lifestyles.

PFAS are considered a risk factor for health, so we are at risk just because we are living in an area that has been contaminated in the name of someone else's' profit.

PFAS are present in many commonly used products and materials, exposing people to their harmful effect. PFAS are ubiquitous around us and the more we produce and use them, the more they go into the environment and then accumulate in our bodies.

So far, nothing has been found efficient in removing PFAS from the soil, air, or water. There are no cost-effective ways to reduce PFAS contamination; the only way to remove them is to not produce them.

We need an ONE HEALTH approach: a healthy person cannot exist in a contaminated environment.

WE MUST URGENTLY BAN THE PRODUCTION AND USE OF PFAS.



for NoPfas Mothers

Laura Ghiotto

M. Cristina Cola