

**To:** Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Brussels, 29 January 2026

**Re: PFAS pollution: Affected Communities' response to our outstanding request for action and dialogue**

Dear President von der Leyen,

One year ago, we wrote to you following [investigative reports](#) exposing how the PFAS industry has lobbied for decades to delay and weaken protections for European citizens. We also shared how PFAS pollution has profoundly affected our lives.

Despite the importance of the concerns and requests outlined, and notwithstanding the time elapsed, we regret to have received a negative response to our request to meet with you in person. Nevertheless, we inform you that we will be present at the European Commission's main entrance to convey first-hand testimonies from around 15 citizens affected by chemical pollution across several European countries. This initiative will take place in the presence of selected journalists.

We will remind you that, since our letter last year, the PFAS crisis has deepened. In France, over 60,000 people can [no longer drink](#) tap water. In Belgium, residents of Ronse – just 54 km from Brussels – have discovered severe contamination of their environment and bodies. In Germany, a recent [study](#) uncovered that 69% of fish are polluted with PFAS. At the same time, public mobilisation has grown. In 2025, landmark victories were achieved: in Italy, eleven former executives were sentenced to a total of 141 years in prison for PFAS pollution around the Miteni plant; in France, a ban on PFAS in cosmetics, textiles, shoes, waterproofing agents and ski wax, has entered into force.

Yet pollution continues. Each day of inaction increases the toxic burden in our water, land and bodies.

We are therefore deeply concerned by recent statements from Vice-President Séjourné and Commissioner Roswall suggesting restrictions limited to only consumer uses of PFAS. This approach would be ineffective and waste public resources. Scientific evidence shows that the main routes of exposure are drinking water and food, largely driven by emissions from industrial production, use and waste sites. Focusing only on

consumer uses ignores the largest sources of contamination and fails to tackle effectively the PFAS pollution crisis.

Our demands remain clear. We urge you to champion bold initiatives to protect European citizens and the environment. This includes:

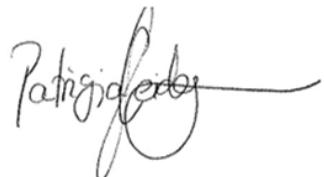
- **Banning PFAS chemicals** to stop further harmful pollution at source – the proposed universal PFAS restriction is the most effective way to do this. The EU must also strengthen pesticides and biocides regulations to prohibit the use of PFAS since these are not covered by the proposed universal PFAS restriction.
- **Comprehensive monitoring and remediation** of contaminated irrigation and drinking water and soil from all European PFAS pollution hotspots.
- **Health, psychological, legal and financial redress** to those harmed by decades of negligence, ensuring justice and relief for victims.
- **Ensuring the polluters pay** monitoring, remediation and compensation costs.
- **Accelerating the development and adoption of safe alternatives** to PFAS.

We respectfully call on you to demonstrate leadership by prioritising public health and the environment over short-term private interests. Meeting with us would have sent a strong signal of your commitment to protecting all Europeans. It is deeply concerning to observe that time has been made available for engagement with representatives of the chemicals industry, whose activities have had serious and lasting impacts on our lives, while our repeated requests for dialogue have gone unanswered. You still have the opportunity to reconsider this course and to engage directly with those affected. We trust that you will give this matter the attention it deserves.

We look forward to your response and to working together for a toxic-free Europe in these globally challenging times where EU leadership and commitment to the protection of human health and the environment is particularly needed.

Sincerely,

Patrizia Heidegger, Deputy Secretary, EEB

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrizia Heidegger".

On behalf of:

Name	Country/city of origin	Association/NGO/Or ganisation (if any)	Logo (if any)
Vitalia Murgia	Italy	ISDE Italy	
Catia De Cao	Italy	Rete Zero Pfas Veneto	
Laura Ghiotto Giovanna Dal Lago Cristina Cola Alessia Tadiello Emanuela Foletto Michela Piccoli Elena Bollini Massimo Pozza Simone Rossini	Italy	Mamme No Pfas	
Toon Penen	Belgium	Grondrecht	
Patrizia Pretto	Italy/Pescara	Ecomente	
Filip De Bodt	Belgium	vzw Climaxi	
Anna Trevisan	Italy	Rete Zero Pfas Veneto	

Fuschi Davide	Italy	Multipopolare APS	
Donata Albiero	Italy	CiLLSA	
Gudrun Lemle und Doris Schmidt	Germany	Interessengemeinschaft NO PFAS Manching e. V.	
Marco Corbellari	Italy	Il Mondo di Irene	
Patrizia Tovo	Italy/Vicenza	ReteGas Vicentinau	
Gianni Giuliali	Italy/Verona	Cittadini Tutela Terr.	
Clara Gonelli	Italy/Massa	Associazione per i diritti dei cittadini	
Luisa Aprili	Italy/Verona	Il mondo di Irene	
Piera Casalini	Italy/Brescia	Rete No PFAS Brescia	
Luigi di Corcia	Italy/Pescara	ACU Associazione Consumatori Utenti	

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Julien Vignoud	France/Lyon	Action Justice Climat Lyon	
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Rossella Michelotti	Toscana Italia	Forum Toscano Movimenti per l'Acqua ODV	
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Arianna Sarnella Aurora di Malta	Lazio Italy	Micromar Global	
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Claudio Lupo	Italy/Vicenza	ISDE: International Society Doctors for Environment	
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Valerie Valette	France	Sauvegarde de la vallée vivante du Garon	
Thierry Mounib	France	Association Bien Vivre à Pierre-Bénite	
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Maurice FISCH	France	Sauvegarde des coteaux du Lyonnais	
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Vanna Fortuna	Italy		