

Ms Ursula von der Leyen
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 21 May 2026

Re: PFAS Pollution: Affected communities' renewed request for dialogue and action

Dear President von der Leyen,

On behalf of 44 citizens from 35 affected communities across seven European countries, thank you for your reply of 9 March 2026 to our request for a meeting, which was sent on your behalf by Deputy Director-General Child and Deputy Director-General Moutarlier.

While we fully appreciate your busy schedule, we respectfully renew our request for a meeting at your earliest convenience. Affected citizens from a wide range of European Member States stand ready to travel to Brussels whenever your agenda permits. Given the predominance of industry representatives in the meetings held by you and the Commissioners, and considering the significance of PFAS pollution, we believe it is crucial that you hear directly the perspectives of affected communities.

More than 23,000 sites across Europe are already [contaminated](#) by PFAS, with an additional 21,500 suspected sites. An [estimated](#) 12,5 million Europeans are drinking contaminated water. In some areas, residents are [advised](#) not only to avoid drinking tap water, but also to refrain from eating homegrown vegetables or eggs, from breastfeeding, or even from letting their children play outside. Across Europe, parents now live with the unbearable feeling that they may have unknowingly exposed their children to harm. More than 14% of teenagers [have](#) PFAS blood levels above EFSA's guideline value for a tolerable weekly intake, with infants and toddlers [seemingly](#) having higher exposure than adults. This reality also [affects](#) high-level policymakers: over half of EU leaders tested have shown levels at which health impacts cannot be excluded.

We welcome the progress made by the Commission on initiatives such as the PFHxA restriction and the ban on PFAS in firefighting foams. These steps represent important recognition of the risks posed by PFAS. However, they remain insufficient to match the scale, persistence and urgency of the PFAS crisis. We urge you to maintain a high level of ambition and to propose, after the publication of the European Chemicals Agency's opinions, a broad restriction on the production and use of PFAS, with time-limited derogations for uses where alternatives are still in development and for uses which are critical for the health, safety and the functioning of society, coupled with other regulatory measures to control emissions.

Moreover, these initiatives do not adequately respond to our longstanding calls for comprehensive action on remediation, fair compensation, meaningful support for affected communities, and the consistent application of the polluter pays principle. In this context, we look forward to participating in the forthcoming stakeholder dialogue on PFAS-related challenges. For communities heavily impacted by PFAS pollution, it is urgent to implement

monitoring, remediation and compensation measures paid by the polluters, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Treaties.

We, together with people affected by PFAS pollution, would greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in the coming months. This would give citizens an important signal that the EU is taking their rights and concerns seriously.

We look forward to your response and to engaging constructively to advance a toxic-free Europe.

Yours sincerely,



Patrick ten Brink, Secretary General, EEB (representing over 30 million people in Europe)
On behalf of:

1. Vitalia Murgia, ISDE, Italy
2. Penen Toon and Hedwig Rooman, Grondrecht, Belgium
3. Herman Afzelius, PFAS-association, Sweden
4. Meta Kamphuis, Stop PFAS Stop Chemours, The Netherlands
5. Gudrun Lemle and Doris Schmidt, IG NO PFAS Manching e. V., Germany
6. Clara Gonnelli and Isabella Maggiorelli, Associazione per i Diritti dei Cittadini (ADiC Toscana APS, Italy
7. Patrizia Pretto, Ecomente, Pescara, Italy
8. Arthur Thomas Bragaloni and Arianna Sarnella, MicroMarGlobal, Latina, Italy
9. Mari Drews, Fællesskab Imod Forurening, Denmark
10. Catia De Cao, Anna trevisan, and Michela Piccoli, Rete Zero Pfas Veneto, Italy
11. Mirella Benazzo, Rete Zero Pfas Piemonte, Italy
12. Clara Gonelli, Rete Zero Pfas Toscana, Italy
13. Piera Casalini, Rete Zero Pfas Brescia, Italy
14. Silvana Galassi, Comitato Milanese Acqua Pubblica, Italy
15. Marzia Albiero, Rete Gas Vicentina Veneto, Italy
16. Lanfranco Pambuffetti, Rete Zero Pfas Liguria, Italy
17. Renato De Nicola, Rete Zero Pfas Abruzzo, Italy
18. Marzia Caccioppoli, Noi Genitori di Tutti (fighting pediatric cancer) Napoli- Land of Fires, Italy
19. Silvio Tonda, Rete Zero Pfas, Italia
20. Sofia Abaterusso, MicromarGlobal, Latina, Italy
21. Luigi di Corcia, ACU (Associazione Consumatori Utenti) Abruzzo, Pescara, Italy
22. Paolo Sola, Movimento 5 Stelle Pescara, Italy
23. Donata Albiero, CiLLSA, Arzignano, Vicenza, Italy
24. Laura Zaniboni, Circolo Legambiente Montichiari, Brescia, Italy
25. Jean-Baptiste Godinot, ASBL WeAreNature, Brussels, Belgium
26. Frank Bremauer, Bürgerinitiative Netzwerk Trinkwasser e.V., Germany
27. Andrea Minutolo, Legambiente Nazionale APS, Rome, Italy

28. Flavio Veronesi, Gianpietro Soriato and Daniele Nottegar, Salute Verona, Veneto, Italy
29. Louis Delon and Patricia Grange-Piras, Ozon l'eau saine, France
30. Valerie Valette, Sauvegarde de la vallée vivante du Garon, France
31. Thierry Mounib, Association Bien Vivre à Pierre-Bénite, France
32. Jean Francois Colin, Réseau Amap Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, France
33. Maurice Fisch, Sauvegarde des coteaux du Lyonnais, France
34. Gwenola le Naour, Institut écocitoyen du territoire lyonnais, Lyon, France
35. Marta Meers, Maleza Colectiva, Brussels, Belgium

