

Reference:

P. Janik, *ESA REACH office – Introduction and space sector-wide initiatives*, 7th ESA REACH Workshop, ESA ESTEC, Noordwijk, the Netherlands, 2nd June 2026

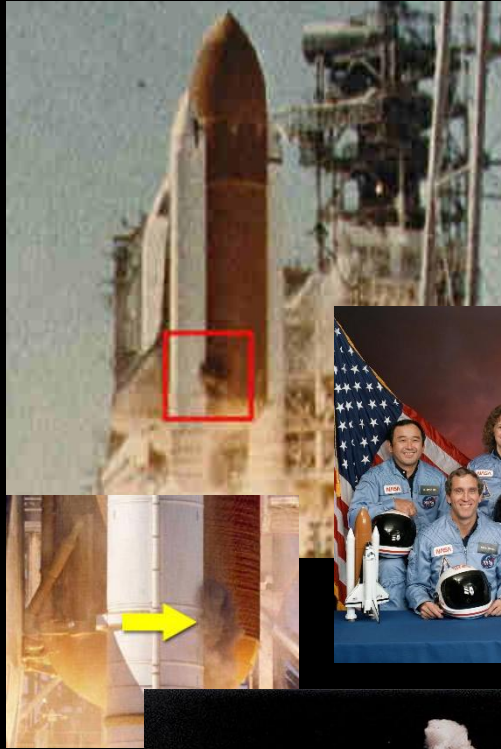
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18



Frame 4912

Insulation foam detached from the External Tank and struck Columbia's left wing during launch (STS-107), damaging the thermal protection system and ultimately leading to the loss of the orbiter during re-entry.

Credits: NASA, Multiple sources,
<https://www.nasa.gov/columbia/caib/html/movies.html> ,
Public Domain, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_Shuttle_Columbia_disaster
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=123221423>

ESA REACH Office

Introduction and space sector-wide initiatives

Premysl Janik, ESA REACH Officer, ESA/ESTEC
Sustainability Engineering & Standards Section

ESA-TECSFS-HO-2026-001764

02/06/2026

Objectives of the ESA REACH Workshop

- **Connect** the entire European space ecosystem
- **Identify regulatory risks** before they become mission risks
- **Bring all relevant stakeholders** into one discussion
- **Share sector-wide guidance** and advocacy efforts
- Address common **challenges** and questions
- **Facilitate open dialogue**



6th ESA Workshop 2025 - reflections



>130 participants from 24 countries, 4 continents,
32 nationalities, ~30 on site + 100 online
10 presentations



Presentations and executive summary available on event pages:
<https://atpi.eventsair.com/6th-esa-reach-workshop>



What is currently the biggest regulatory challenge for your business?



7th ESA REACH Workshop 2 June 2026



7TH ESA REACH WORKSHOP

2 JUNE 2026 | ESA ESTEC | THE NETHERLANDS

Workshop on the EU REACH Regulation and its impact on the European space sector
Topics: uPFAS restriction, REACH revision, global impact of EU REACH on space technologies
Join us for panel discussion!

Register here!

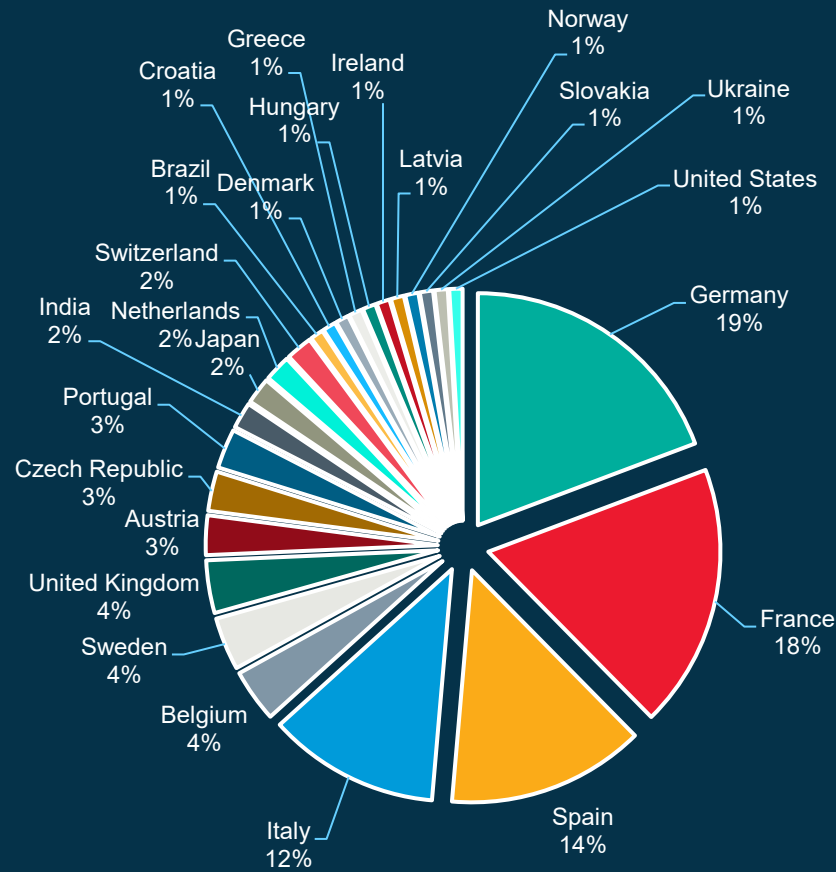
REACH: Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

Time CEST	Speaker / Organisation	Title
09:10-09:20	Ross Findlay (ESA, TEC-SFS)	Introduction & Welcome
09:20-09:50	Premysl Janik (ESA REACH Officer)	ESA REACH Office - Introduction and space sector-wide initiatives
09:50-10:20	Simone Doyle (ECHA)	ECHA update: Authorisation, Restriction and new tasks
10:20-10:50	Edward Latter (DEFRA UK)	The UK PFAS Plan: Building a stronger future together
10:50-11:10	BREAK	
11:10-11:45	European Commission Julien Fabre (DG ENV) and Denis Mottet (DG GROW)	European Commission update on REACH and PFAS
11:45-12:15	Elisa Consoli (ASD Europe)	Updates from the Aerospace & Defence Industry Association on chemical legislation
12:15-12:45	Tim Becker (REACHLaw)	REACH & Space: Update on priority topics and joint contributions
12:45-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00-14:30	Oliver Reiff-Musgrove (REACHLaw)	How to use the ESA REACH Tool, AI and other software to identify PFAS and understand impact from REACH and other regulations.
14:30-15:00	Léo Fournier (ESA)	PFAS use mapping across ESA projects & update on obsolescence risk mitigation activities
15:00-15:30	David Liu (NASA)	Impact of PFAS-related regulations on the global space material supply chain
15:30-15:40	Mentimeter - interactive session	Have your say and give us feedback on the most challenging topics in regulatory landscape!
15:40-16:00	BREAK	
16:00-16:45	Panel Discussion <i>Panellists:</i> Josef Denzel (ADS) Thomas Rohr (ESA) Elisabeth Laurent (CNES) Fabian Schueller (Materiales)	PFAS and beyond: Impacts of wide group restriction initiatives and updates to the EU chemicals regulatory agenda on the European Space Sector <i>PFAS (Mapping, Substitution, Reporting) – impact on the sector, Regulatory simplification (omnibuses)</i> <i>Digitalisation (Digital product passport, substance traceability)</i> <i>Dependencies of space technologies on chemicals in geopolitically-driven uncertainty</i> <i>Essentiality of space technologies for functioning industry and society</i>
16:45-17:00		Closing Remarks
17:00		END

Todays Audience – Who cares about REACH?

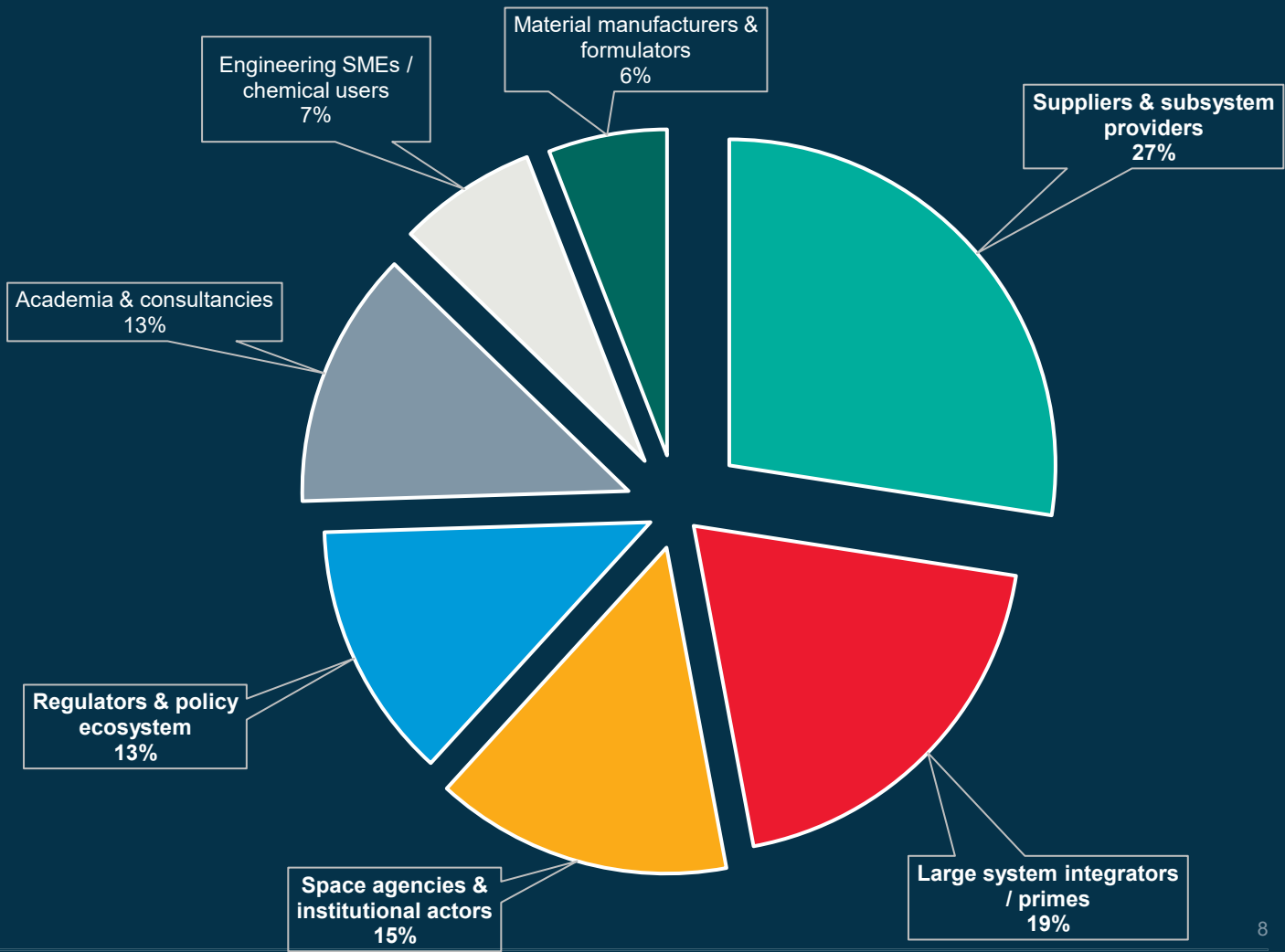


Relative Representation by Country



110+ participants, 55 entities
25 countries, 4 continents
10 presentations + panel discussion

7th ESA REACH workshop: entities per category



REACH and Space

What is EU REACH in the Space Context?

EU REACH* was designed to protect human health and the environment

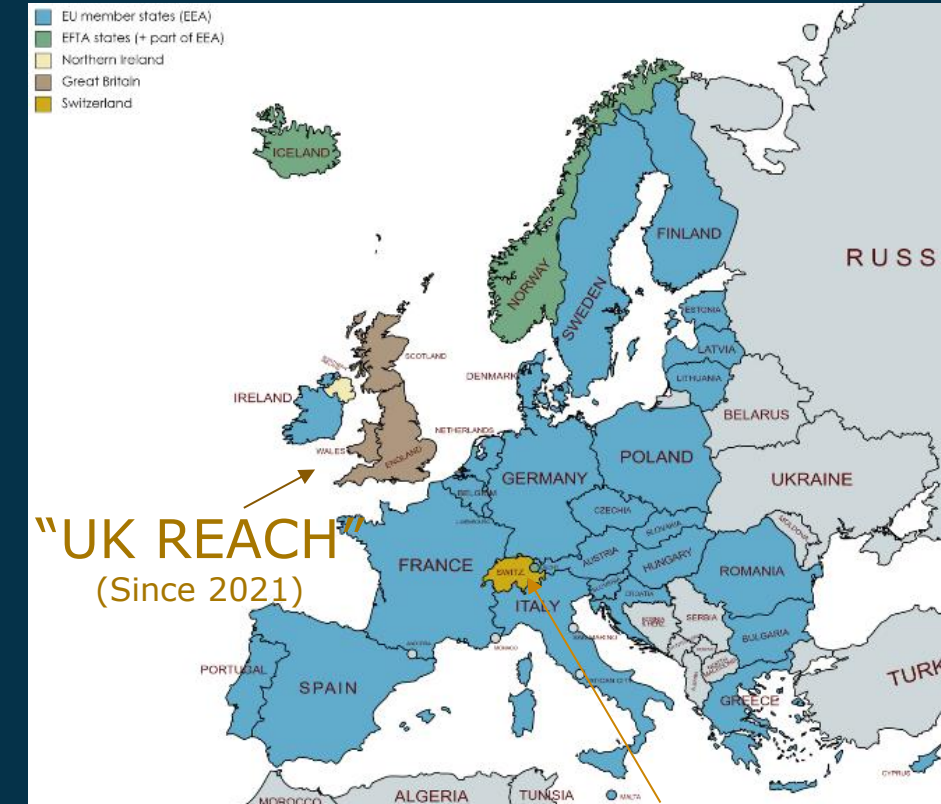
- ❑ Identification of **hazardous substances**
- ❑ **Risk management** across the supply chain
- ❑ Promotion of **safer alternatives**

For the space sector, REACH creates additional challenges

- ❑ Critical materials / chemicals face **increasing regulatory pressure**
- ❑ **Substitution and requalification** require significant engineering **effort**
- ❑ Long mission development cycles are often **incompatible** with regulatory timelines
- ❑ Multi-year space programmes **depend on stable material availability**

“EU REACH” territories

EU-27 + Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein
(= EEA) + Northern Ireland



Swiss chemicals
regulation

* Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the **R**egistration, **E**valuation, **A**uthorisation and Restriction of **C**hemicals (REACH)

Mission:

- Safeguarding the availability of critical materials and technologies for European space programmes → From compliance to capability preservation.

What we do:

- Support ESA projects and programmes in regulatory compliance
- Monitor emerging regulations and anticipate risks
- Assess impacts on materials, technologies and supply chains
- Coordinate the European space sector response

Key Contributions:

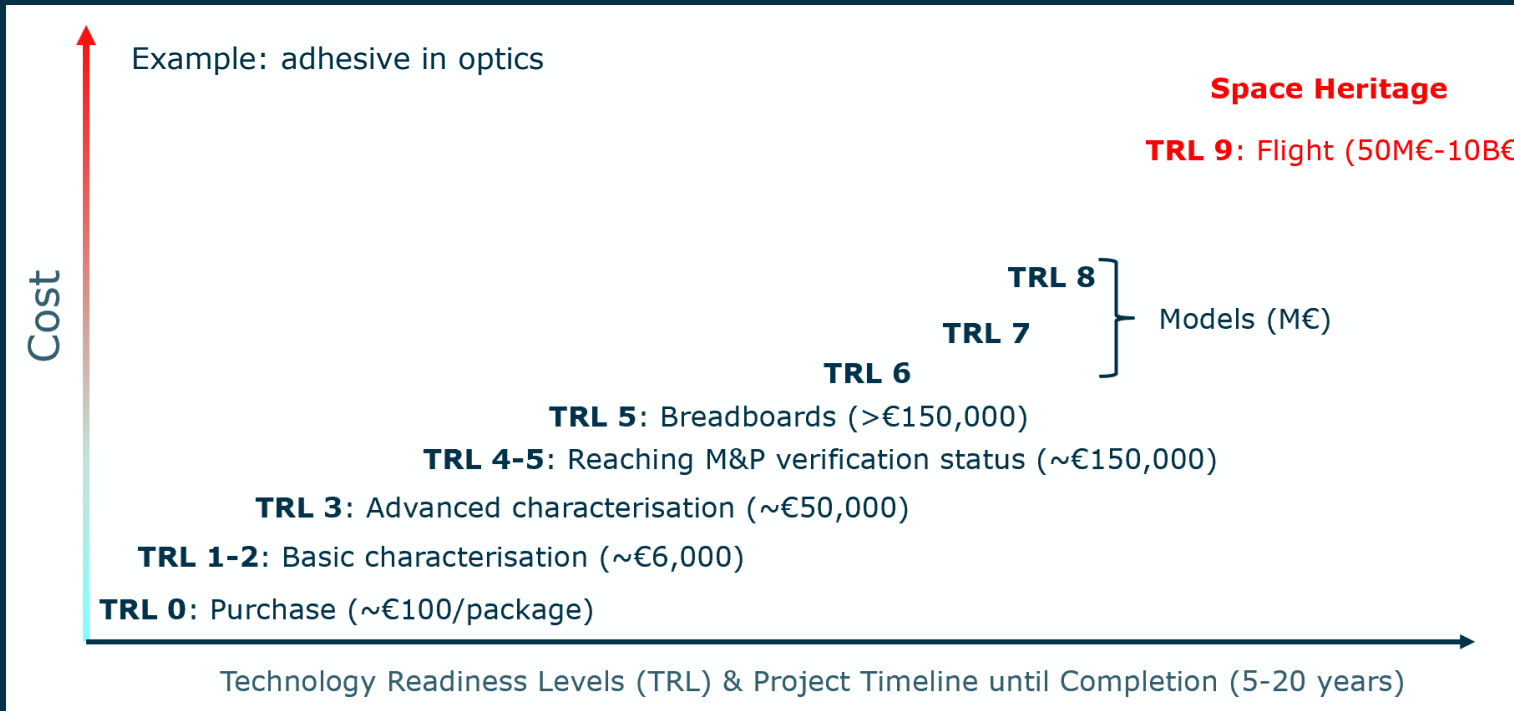
- Network of agencies, primes and SMEs for REACH implementation and updates.
- Engaged in public consultations, contributed to guidelines, internal reporting.
- Development of the [ESA REACH Tool](#) and REACH awareness sessions.
- [ESA REACH workshops](#) for external stakeholders and internal sessions for ESA.



Specificity of Space Missions

Development time, design phases and points of no return

Schematic cost impact of regulation-driven obsolescence at point of time



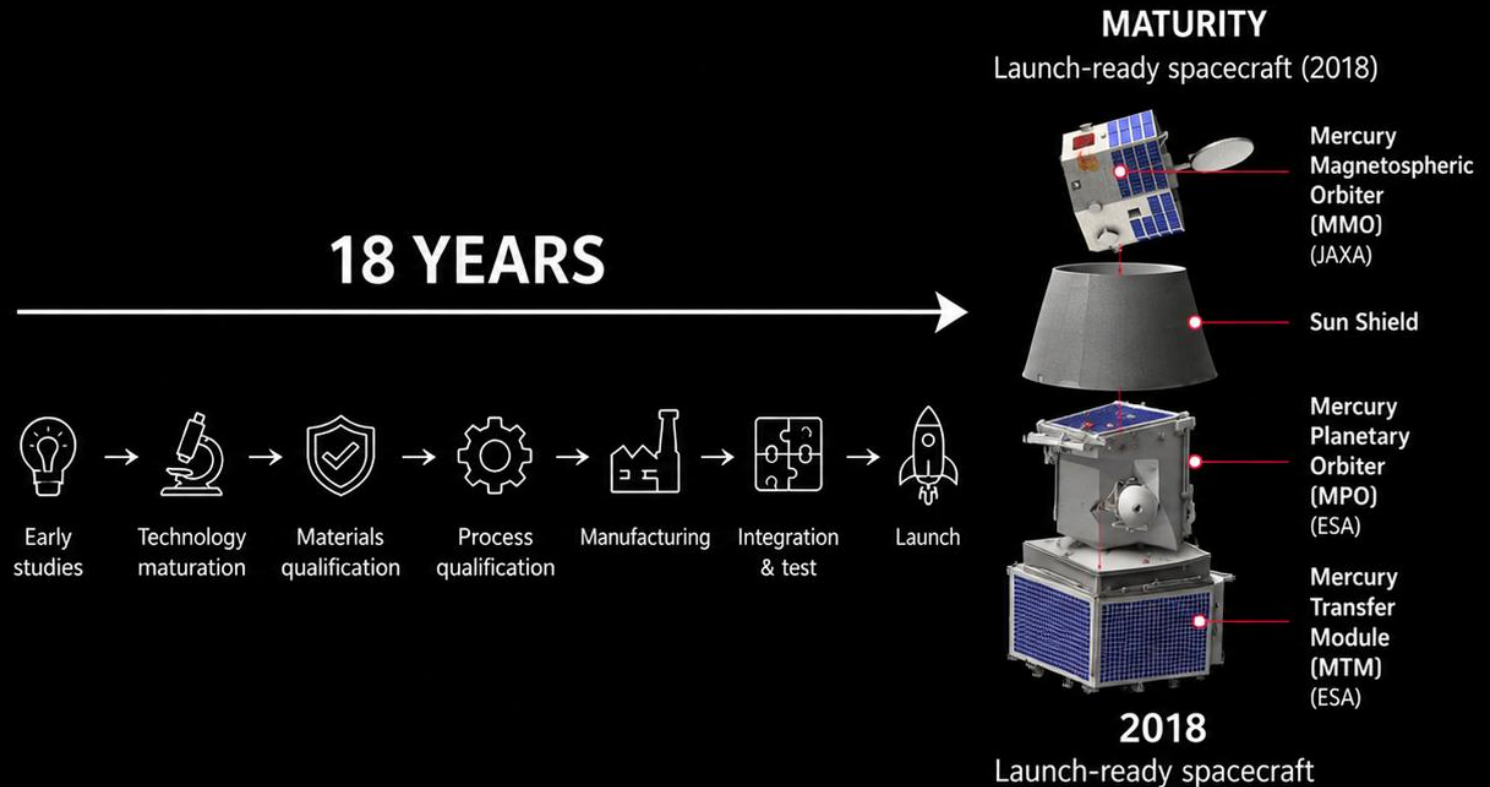
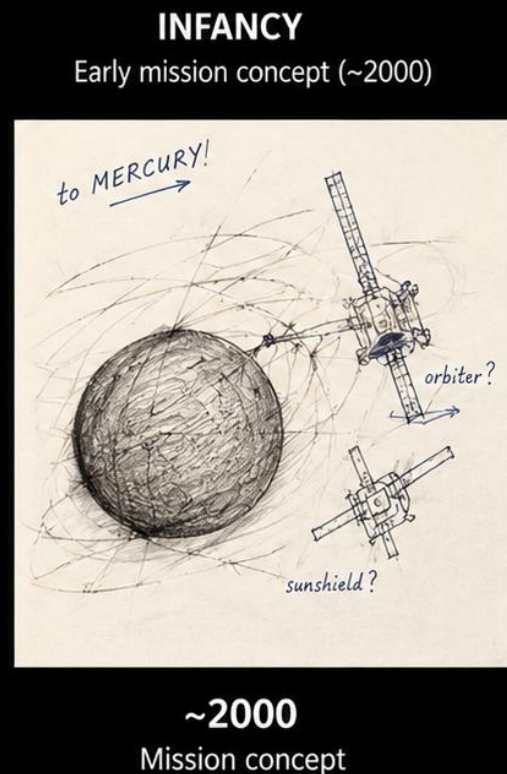
Integration of BepiColombo, ESA-JAXA mission

SRR -> PDR -> CDR -> QR -> FAR (LTS up to +15 years) ->
Launch + early operation phase, long duration mission (10+ years)

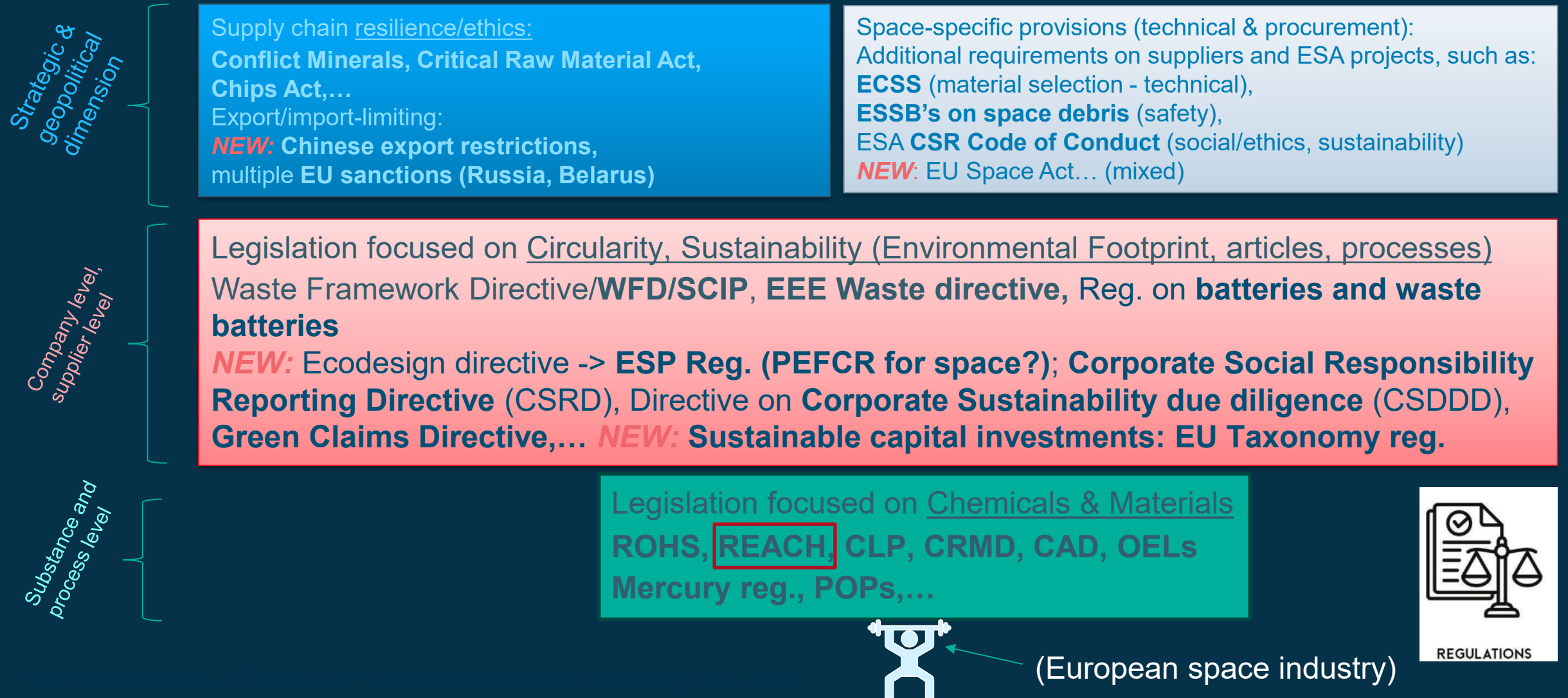
Loss of qualification heritage has massive impact on the costs of any future mission!



to select and fully qualify materials and processes for BepiColombo (ESA-JAXA science mission)



Complexity linked to overall regulatory compliance in materials



FAQ

- Could my mission depend on a **material that may disappear** from the market?
- Will hydrazine, chromates, PFAS or lead **still be available** when my spacecraft enters critical manufacturing phase?
- Is there a technically **equivalent alternative**—and how can I prove it?
- **How much time is really needed** to qualify a replacement?
- **How much visibility do I need** into my supply chain to remain compliant?
- What if there is **no other solution than the current baseline**?
- **Where/how to advocate** to maintain my space-specific chemicals use?



What can we do about this?

Monitor, Plan, Substitute and
Advocate

Good practices: summary

1. Anticipate Early

Monitor regulatory developments throughout the project lifecycle

2. Know Your Materials!

Maintain visibility of critical substances, materials and processes (compliance with ECSS-Q-ST-70 series!)

3. Engage Your Supply Chain

Regularly discuss regulatory risks and obsolescence with suppliers

4. Prioritise What Matters

Focus resources on mission-critical materials and single-source dependencies

5. Avoid Last-Minute Substitutions

Assess alternatives early and allow sufficient time for qualification

6. Build Evidence to Support Advocacy

Base decisions on test data, qualification results and technical evidence

7. Share Information

Leverage sector networks, lessons learned and common guidance

8. Treat REACH as a Project Risk

Integrate regulatory risks into programme risk management



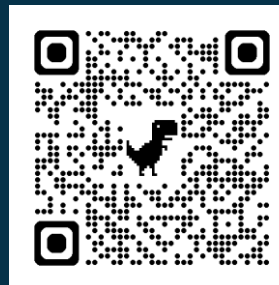
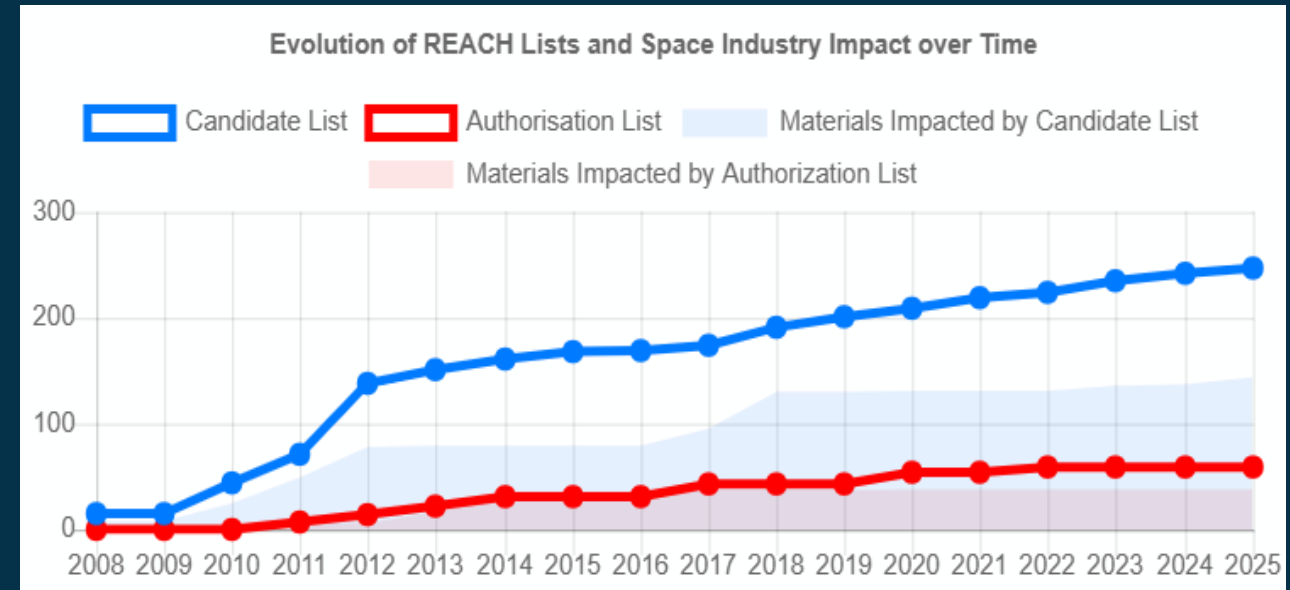
Identification of obsolescence risks: ESA REACH Tool



The **ESA REACH Tool** is a web-based materials obsolescence risk assessment tool developed for the European Space Sector, which can **automatically identify REACH impacted substances** in space-relevant materials

ESA REACH Tool functionalities include:

- ✓ Crude REACH obsolescence risk predictions based on current REACH lists (Annex XIV, Annex XVII, Candidate List, CoRAP, CLH)
- ✓ Real-time substance content analysis of EU REACH lists, using data directly from ECHA
- ✓ REACH status compliance guidance + risk score
- ✓ “My favourite” materials (personal BOM)
- ✓ Request materials to be added & tracked



~18,000 reg.
listed substances



1386
Space-relevant Materials



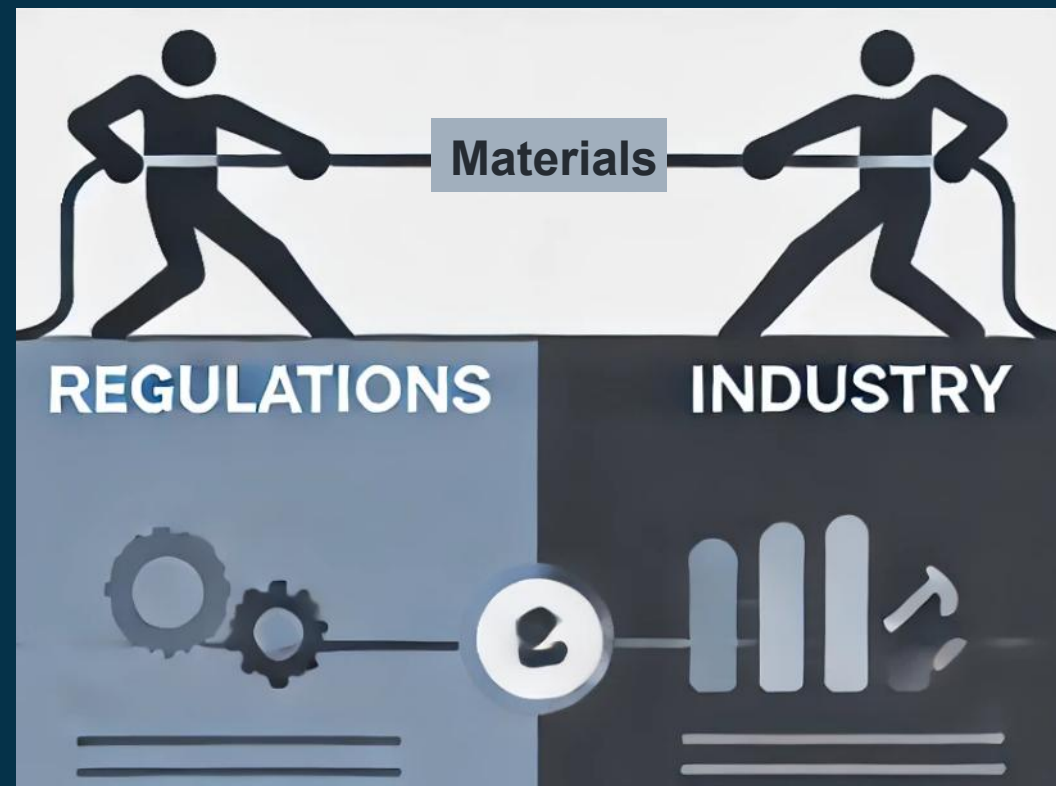
3885
Substances

Top Areas of Interest

Substance/Material traceability,
Space relevancy + regulatory risks

Identify high-priority chemicals

uPFAS restriction &
obsolescence



High priority substances - examples



Hydrazine (+ other energetic materials): essential substances in propulsion / attitude control



Chromates: chemical conversion coatings / corrosion protection of sensitive alloys



Lead metal: multiple applications, soldering, additives, alloying element...



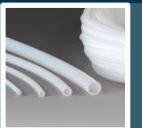
Di-isocyanates: polyurethane chemistry, foams, coatings, paints, thermal insulation, batteries,...



Bisphenol A and its derivatives: epoxy resins, pre-pregs, composites, adhesives...



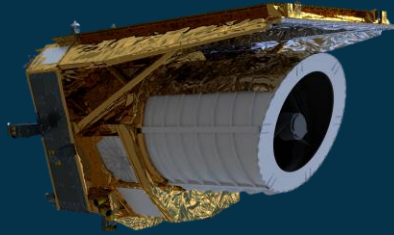
D4, D5 and D6 cyclic siloxanes: precursors for silicone elastomers, paints, conformal coatings,...



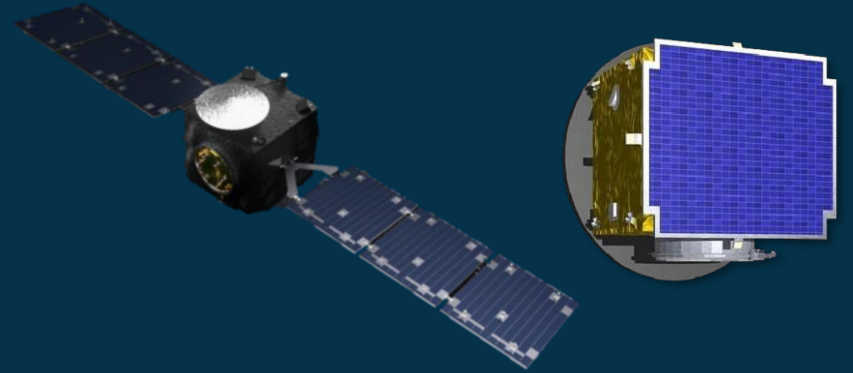
Per and Poly-Fluoro Alkyl Substances (PFASs): thousands of applications...

PFASs mapping in hardware launched in 2024

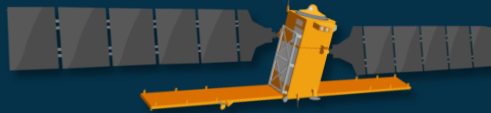
Euclid **



Hera ** & Proba 3 *



Copernicus Sentinel 1C



Galileo **



* PSLV (ISRO)

** Falcon 9 (Space X)



ARIANE 6



VEGA C



EarthCare **

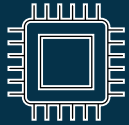
Focus on 9 satellites units (full DML visibility as per ECSS)

>17000 items analysed, ~ 9% of ALL declared material items contain PFAS, nearly ALL uses we consider essential for ESA missions

What would uPFAS restriction mean for our technology domains?



Electronics (PCB, Connectors, Cables)



PTFE-based PCB laminates*

- FEP/ETFE harness insulation
- PFAS gaskets in connectors
- ...



Satellite (Thermal Control, MLI, Harnesses)

- MLI with FEP outer layers
- Kapton-FEP film heaters*
- PTFE/FEP cable insulation
- ...

Do we need PFAS/
fluoropolymers in space
HW?



Launcher / Propulsion (Seals, Hoses, Lubricants, Insulation)

- FKM/FFKM elastomer seals
- PTFE/FEP hoses for propellant, valves
- PFPE lubricants for turbopumps*
- F-gases for insulation forming
- ...



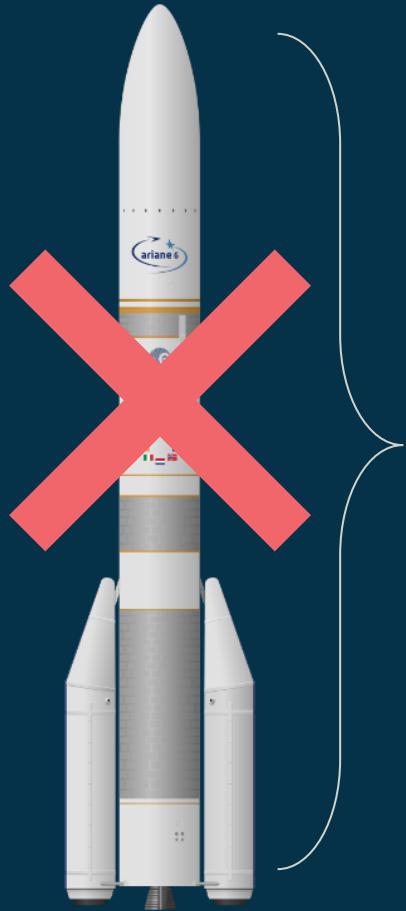
Cleanroom / Test Facilities (Filters, PFPE Oils)

- PTFE filter membranes
- PFPE vacuum pump oils, cooling fluids, hermeticity test fluids*
- Anti-stick PFAS coatings in tooling, moulds, contact materials

*= emerging obsolescence
& shortages already
happening

PFAS use cases in launchers & spacecraft

Ariane 6



PFAS is in some form used in following:

- Lubricants,
- Coatings,
- Creep barriers,
- Functionalised polymer surfaces,
- Cleaning agents,
- Coolant fluids,
- Fluoro-elastomeric sealants,
- Pyrotechnic compositions,
- Blowing agents for thermal insulation,
- Adhesives,
- Fire suppressants,
- Cables insulation,
- Shrink sleeves,
- PCBs,
- Processes for electronic assembly
- ...

Exemplar spacecraft



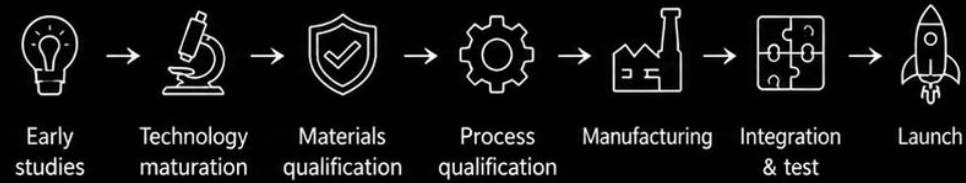
Where are PFAS used in spacecraft?:

outer thermal insulation, printed circuit boards, lubricants, cables, connectors, gaskets, tubes, ...

> 10% of all declared material items in average are or contain PFAS (tens of kilograms per spacecraft at maximum, compared to millions of tonnes for other sectors)

If EU REACH PFAS restriction is adopted without space-specific derogation, the production may need to stop!
(worst case scenario: to comply within **18 months** period after PFAS restriction adoption)

Read more: <https://europe.space/universal-pfas-european-space-sector-comments-on-socio-economic-assessment-sent-to-echa-urging-eu-policy-makers-to-move-away-from-universal-ban-model/>



18 years to qualify materials and processes for complex space mission

18

Only 18 months is proposed for transition period for nonderogated PFAS uses!!!

PFAS baseline



PFAS-free alternatives?



Ariane 6



???

Response of the European Space Sector

MPTB and REACH-Related activities

Materials and Processes Technology Board (MPTB)



Materials and Processes Technology Board of the European Space Components Coordination (ESCC MPTB).

The ESCC MPTB is a partnership between the **European Space Agency (ESA)**, **national space agencies**, and the European space industry represented by ASD-EUROSPACE. The European Defence Agency (EDA), Map Space Coatings, INVENT/AKRK are invited as observers.

Agencies



Industry



Observers



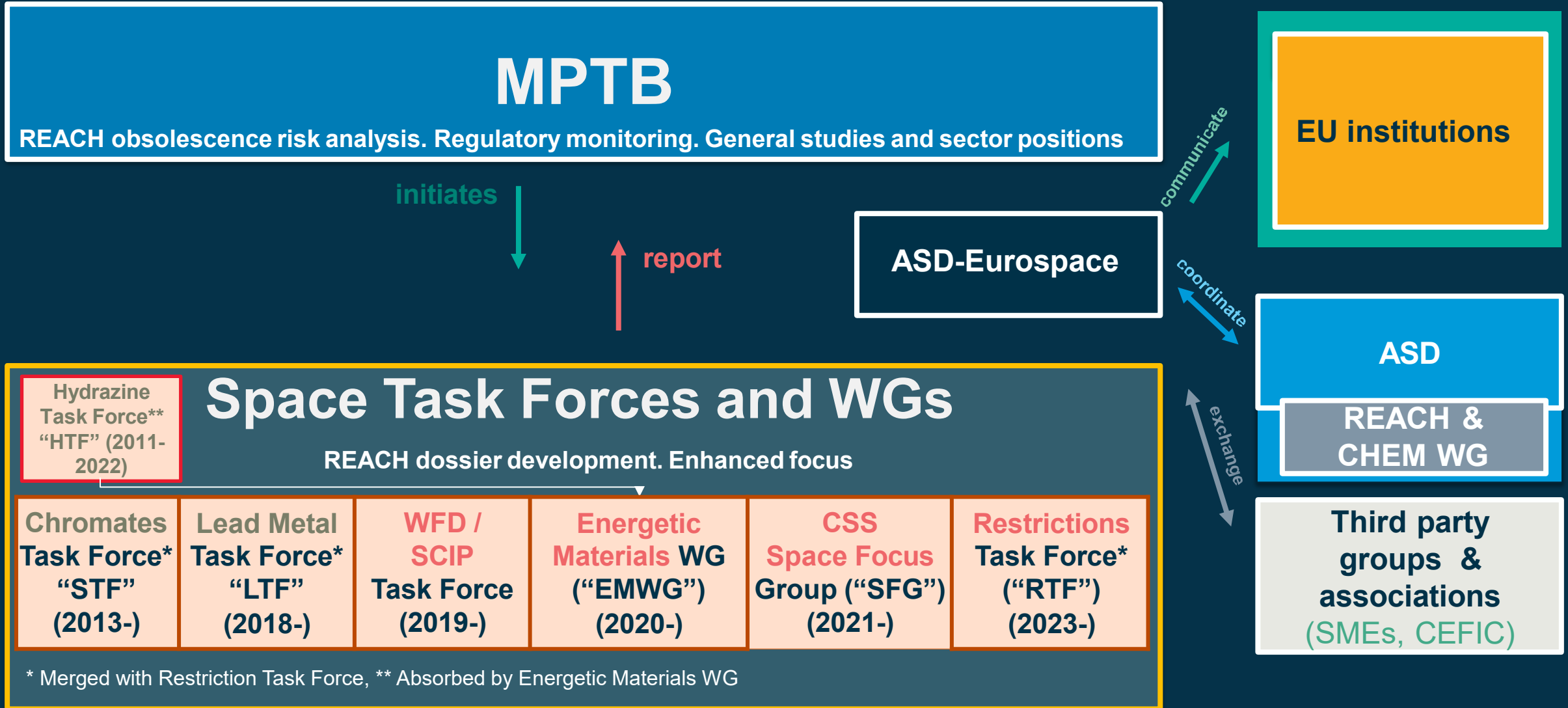
REACH Task forces and Working group coordinator

REACHLAW

Note: slide not exhaustive!, additional entities and experts joined individual task forces and working groups

MPTB webpage: <https://escies.org/webdocument/showArticle?id=1045&groupid=6>

REACH-related Regulatory Task Forces under the MPTB



- ❑ ESA, together with MPTB, regulatory subgroup members and observers, continues to monitor REACH and other regulatory developments affecting the space sector.
- ❑ Sector-wide coordination, alignment with aerospace and defence stakeholders, and joint advocacy remain essential to preserve European space capabilities.
- ❑ ESA and MPTB contribute with technical evidence through public consultations, stakeholder engagement and regulatory dialogue.
- ❑ The proposed universal PFAS restriction would impose an unmanageable burden on the European space sector. Fluorinated materials enable critical space functions, and for many applications no technically equivalent, qualified alternatives currently exist.
- ❑ The pathways for communicating REACH impacts on strategic space technologies remain limited and should be strengthened.
- ❑ To avoid disproportionate impacts on strategic space technologies, ESA and its partners support evidence-based regulation, realistic transition pathways and continued dialogue between industry, regulators and policy makers.

The quality, reliability and performance of materials are often pushed to their limits... and sometimes spacecraft operate beyond them.

18

In spaceflight, there is no acceptable degradation of mission-critical performance!

Physics does not accelerate to accommodate regulatory deadlines!

Thank you for your attention!

Enjoy your workshop!

Contact: reach.officer@esa.int

Instructions

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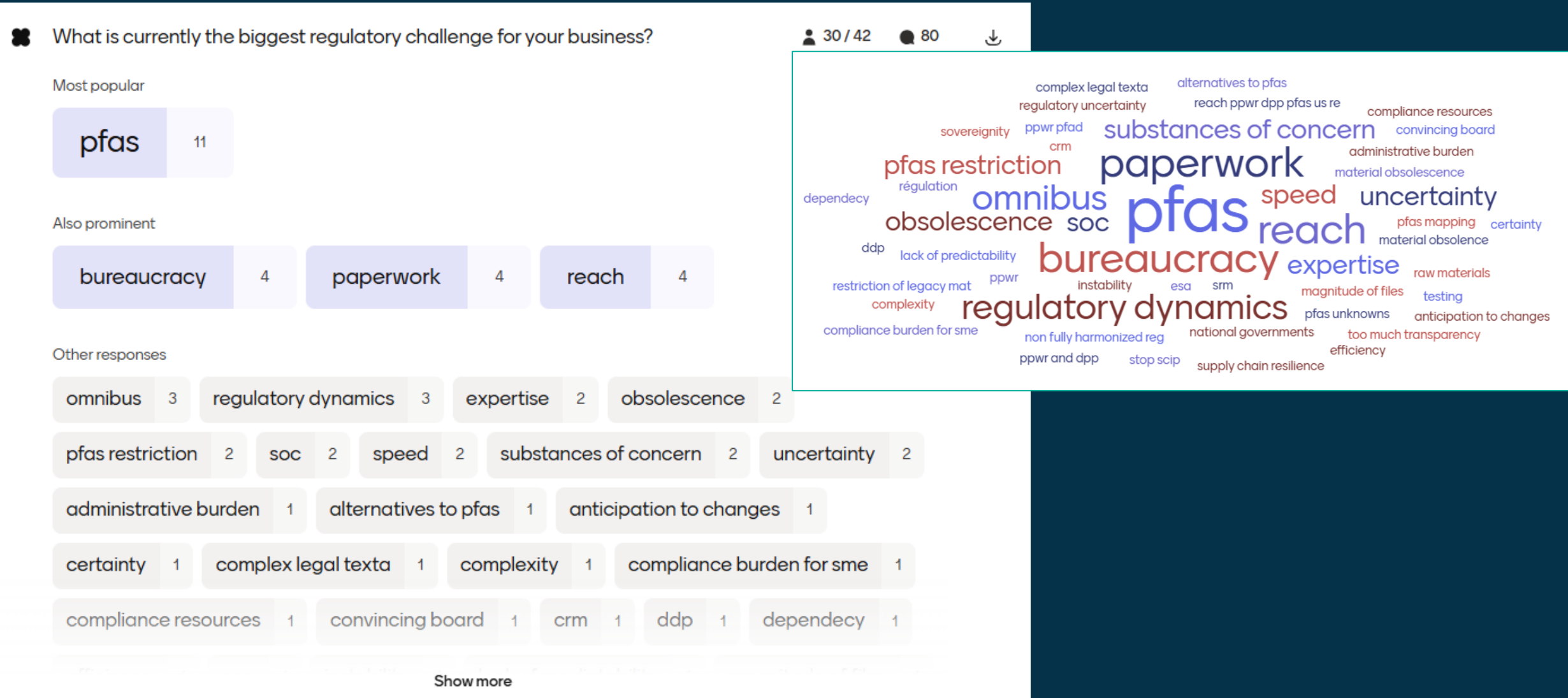
www.menti.com

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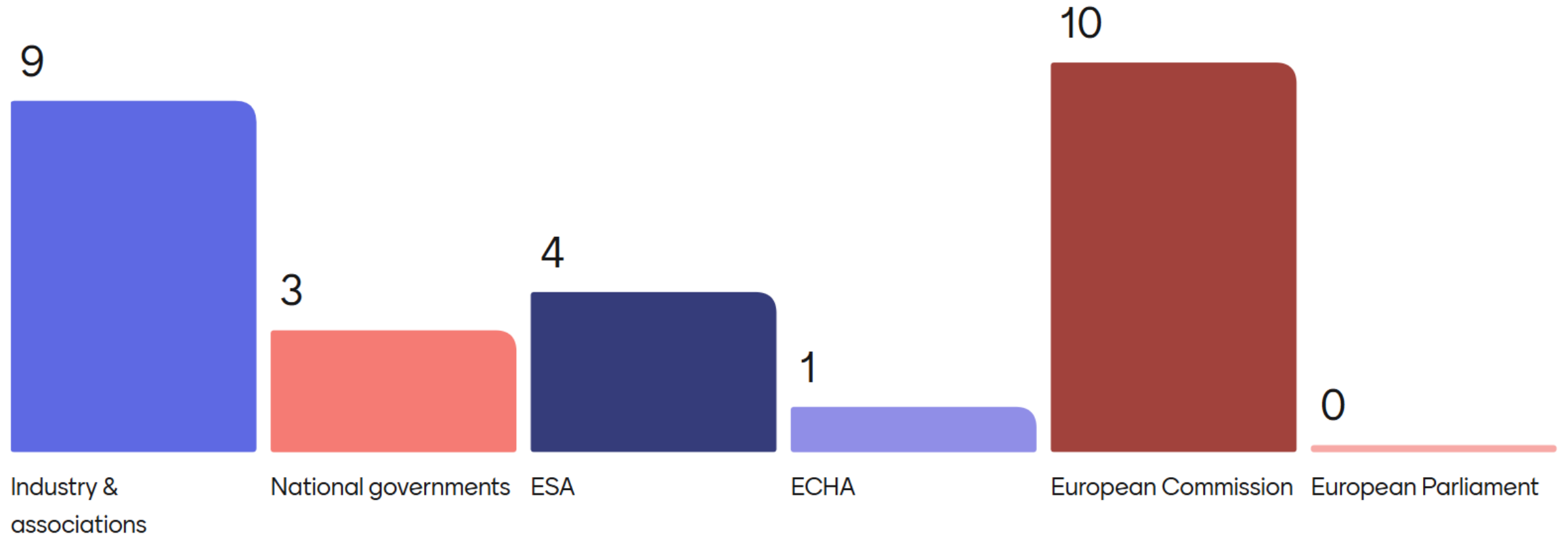
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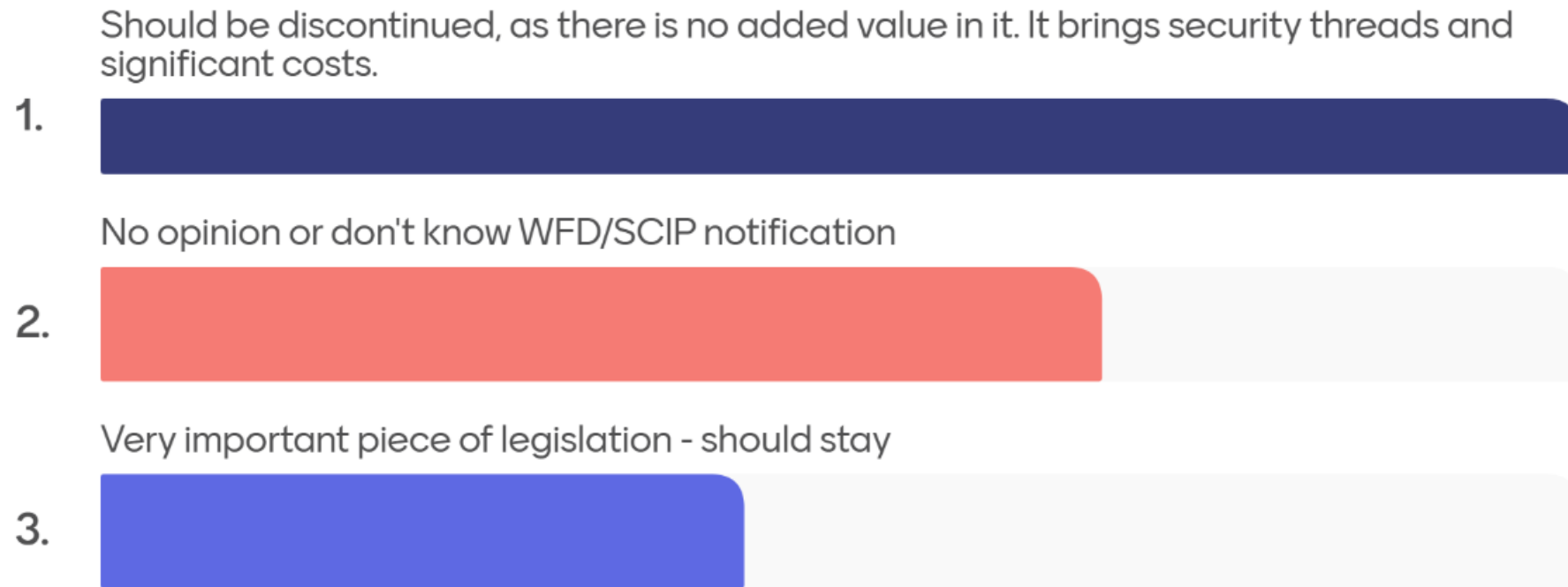
Or use QR code



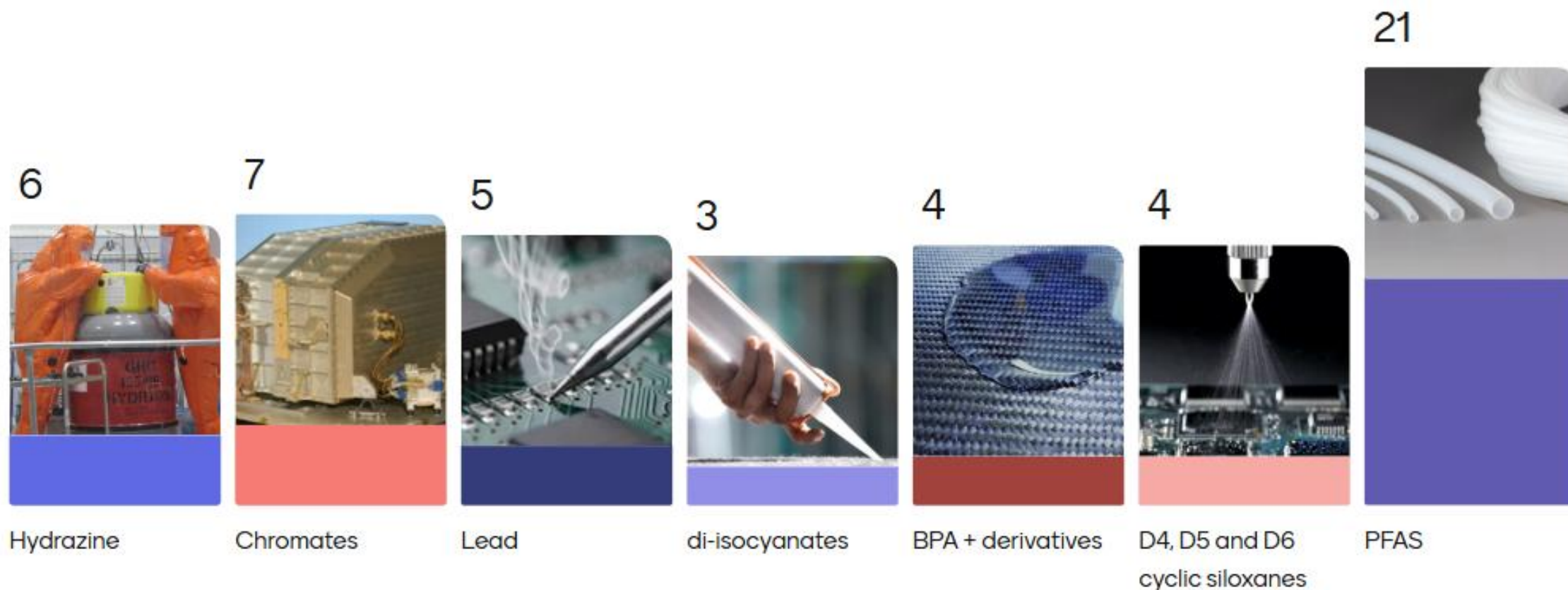
Which entity do you think could be the most influential to minimise the impact of EU REACH regulation on the strategic space missions?(single choice!)



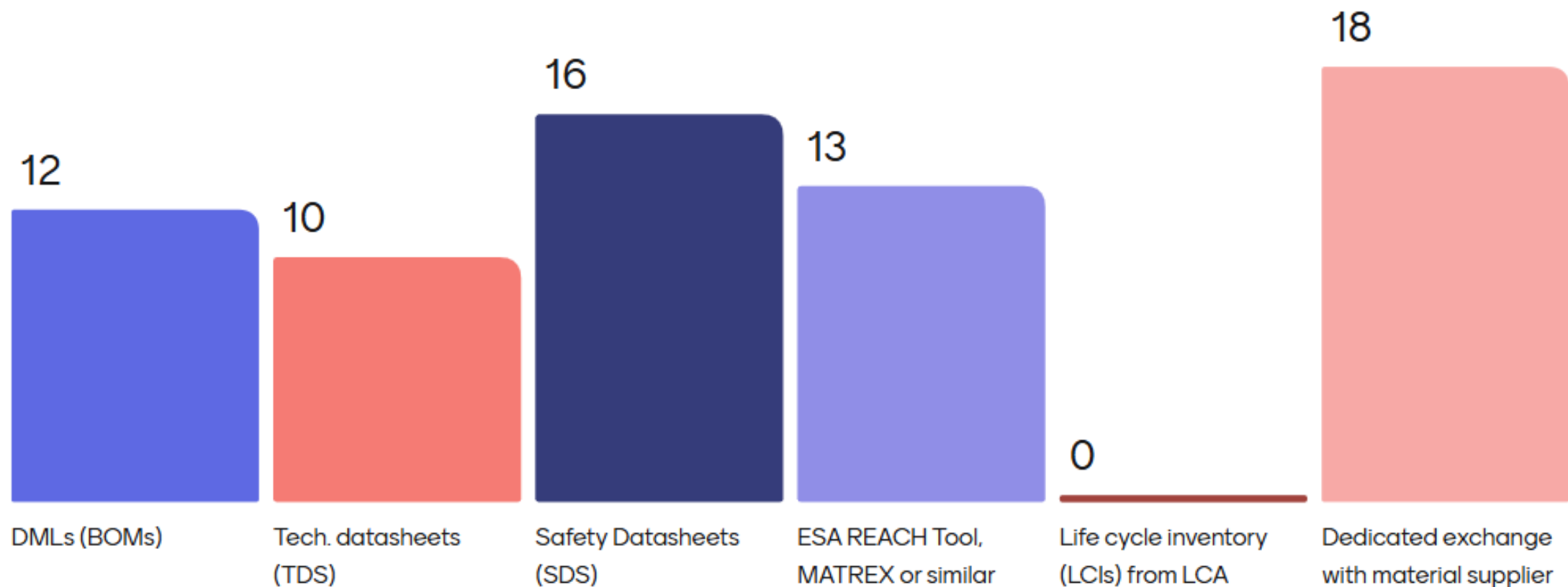
How useful do you see WFD/SCIP notification duty?



Which substance(s) would drag the biggest uncertainty for future use in space products?



Identify top 3 sources of information for PFAS identification



Which priorities should we focus on to boost European competitiveness in space?



MPTB REACH-related info, templates and guidelines



<https://escies.org/webdocument/showArticle?id=1049&groupid=6>

Short title	Latest update	Reference number with hyperlink
Slides on the universal PFAS restriction proposal – sectorial update	8.12.2025 (v2)	MPTB-ES-HO-0214
Guidelines for users of <u>Chromium Trioxide in Chemical Conversion Coatings</u> for European Space Programmes	28.07.2025 (v8)	MPTB-RL-GD-0200
Best-Practice Guidance for the European Space Sector to <u>Comply with SCIP Notification</u>	03.03.2025 (v1.3)	MPTB-ES-GD-0158
<u>Bisphenol A vs EU REACH</u> : Brief note to ESA projects on regulatory status of BPA	14.10.2024 (v1.0)	MPTB-RL-MO-0164
<u>Comparison</u> between EU REACH Annex XIV (<u>Authorisation</u>) and Annex XVII (<u>Restriction</u>)	02.12.2024 (v2)	MPTB-RL-HO-0171
<u>Template for REACH Article 33 Declaration on Substances in Articles – Incl. WFD/SCIP Data</u>	08.10.2024 (v1.2)	MPTB-RL-TPL-0092
<u>Lead Metal vs EU REACH</u> : Brief Note to Projects	11.07.2024 (v1.2)	MPTB_RL_MO_0156

- A list of further contributions is available at <https://euospace.org/compliance/> . In addition, a number of contributions have been submitted by ASD, with the support of MPTB/its task forces and working groups.

Supply chain → Supply Network → Supply System

- What does it* contain?
- Where did it* come from?
- How certain am I in getting the same stuff tomorrow?
- How well do I understand materials supply system?

*It = chemical, mixture, material, EEE component, article, finished product (e.g. component, sub-system, satellite, launcher, antenna)

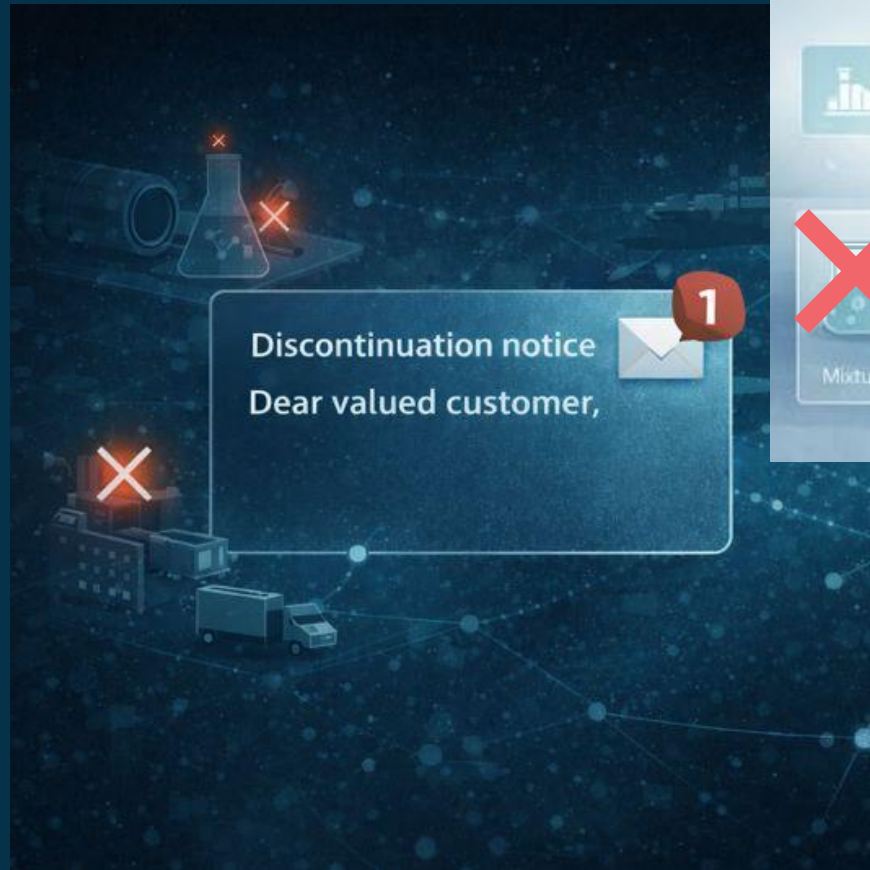
APS = **A**rticle, **P**reparation or **S**ubstance



Article (in REACH terminology) = an object which during production is given a special shape, surface, or design that determines its function to a greater degree than its chemical composition

Obsolescence Management of Materials and Processes





- Formulations are evolving
- Direct substitutions are often mandatory
- Certain materials or complete components are being phased out
- Manufacturing facilities are shutting down or moving

In summary:

- Adhering to updated REACH regulations is becoming increasingly difficult
- Reliance on materials from outside the EU is rising

ECSS-Q-HB-70-23A
20 November 2017



Space product assurance

Materials, mechanical parts and processes obsolescence management handbook

ECSS Secretariat
ESA-ESTEC
Requirements and Standards Division
Noordwijk, The Netherlands

ECSS-Q-HB-70-23A (2017)

- Recommendations to tackle obsolescence at a project level
- OM team: PM/TO + Procurement + M&P support + PA/QA + Design/Production + H&S + REACH/Legal support
- Obsolescence management to be covered within MPCBs
- Clear examples of OM plans, templates, and REACH regulation process flow

ECSS-Q-ST-70C rev2 (in 2019) has new requirement

4.1.3.i.6, ...Identify and mitigate the risks linked to obsolescence of materials, processes, or mechanical parts at all levels of the customer-supplier chain...

and refers to ECSS-Q-HB-70-23A (recommendations)

Note: ECSS Q-ST-70C family will be replaced by D series

Examples of REACH-driven changes and obsolescence

Category	Material / Process	Regulatory Driver /Trigger	Impact on Product / Programme
Modification of products / processes	Epoxy resins formulation	REACH, company policies, (BPA removal)	Formulation change → significant impact on mechanical properties
	Epoxy resins diluents	REACH Annex XVII (Toluene , Entry 48)	Change of curing system → process and performance impact
	Silicone purification processes	Carcinogens, Mutagens & Reprotox. Directive (2004/37/EC), CMR solvents	Removal of toxic ingredient → altered material properties
	Polyurethane potting & conformal coatings	REACH Annex XVII (Entry 74, di-isocyanates)	Risk of import discontinuation → need for requalification
	Polyurethane-based paints	REACH restrictions (toluene, di-isocyanates)	Discontinuation of heritage products → costly requalification of alternatives
Discontinuation of products	Epoxy resins high temp. hardener	REACH Annex XVII (Entry 71, NMP)	High-temperature hardener discontinued → loss of space heritage OR higher compliance costs
	SrCrO ₄ -containing primer	no authorisation requested/granted for this particular use	→ No legal use possible for that particular supply chain! → discontinuation of import to Europe
	4,4'-Methylenedianiline (MDA)	REACH Annex XIV (no application for authorisation)	Substitution unavoidable → no legal use possible , legacy process lost
Other drivers	Various materials & products, PFAS	Sanctions, trade limits, procurement rules, user tracking, legal settlement costs	Supply delays, uncertainty, 3M PFAS phase out!

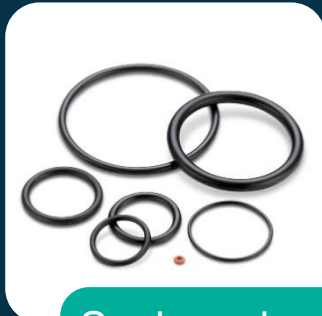
PFAS Challenge: use mapping and quantification

Non-exhaustive list of PFAS uses in space applications



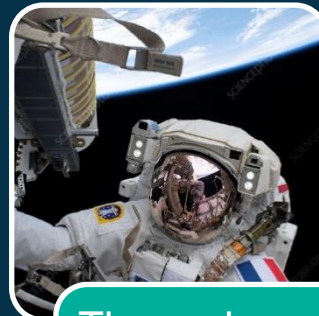
Cable insulation

- Used for cables aboard spacecrafts, satellites...



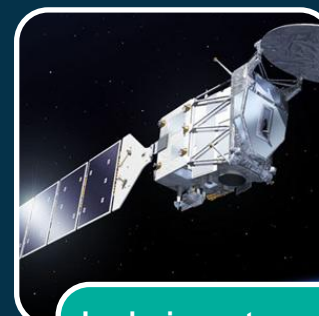
Seals and Gaskets

- Will not degrade under space conditions



Thermal Protection

- MLI for spacesuits, spacecrafts...



Lubricants

- For moving parts such as robotic arms, antennae, solar array mechanisms



Fluid handling Systems

- In hoses, containers that carry rocket fuel or coolants



...

PFAS use mapping exercise

- ❑ PFAS in delivered HW to ESA (satellites dry mass, launchers fuelled)
- ❑ Qualitative – substance level
 - ❑ Qualitative – material level
 - ❑ Qualitative – impacted processes
 - ❑ Qualitative – impacted (sub) systems,
- ❑ Quantitative: one sum for payload and one sum for platform then summed for all HW (reflected in ESA contribution to consultation response on SEAC opinion, MPTB-ES-PO-0225)
- ❑ Qualitative: as per ECSS category – impacting all categories from Cat. 10 Co Cat. 20, nearly all processes
- ❑ Quantitative – per company (in case of ESA – reference year 2024, PFAS declared)

Methodology described in my slides in 6th ESA REACH workshop:

<https://airdrive.eventsair.com/eventsairwesteuprod/production-atpi-public/f1e3b6db2e7841c59bbb0679f9d5e6c9>

EXAMPLE – Qualitative PFAS mapping - substance level

❑ *Majority of PFAS relevant to ESA programmes belong to the wide group of solid fluoropolymers such as*

- ❑ *PTFE*
- ❑ *PVDF*
- ❑ *ETFE*
- ❑ *PFA*
- ❑ *FKM*
- ❑ *Fluorotelomer sulfonates (FTS)*
- ❑ *FEP*
- ❑ *ECTFE*
- ❑ *FVMQ*
- ❑ *PCTFE and liquids*

Perfluoropolyether (PFPE) fluids, sometimes also referred as unspecified fluoropolymer or fluorocarbon.