



Reference:

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Commission update on REACH and PFAS

European Space Agency REACH Workshop
2 June 2026

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REACH revision

REACH revision final developments

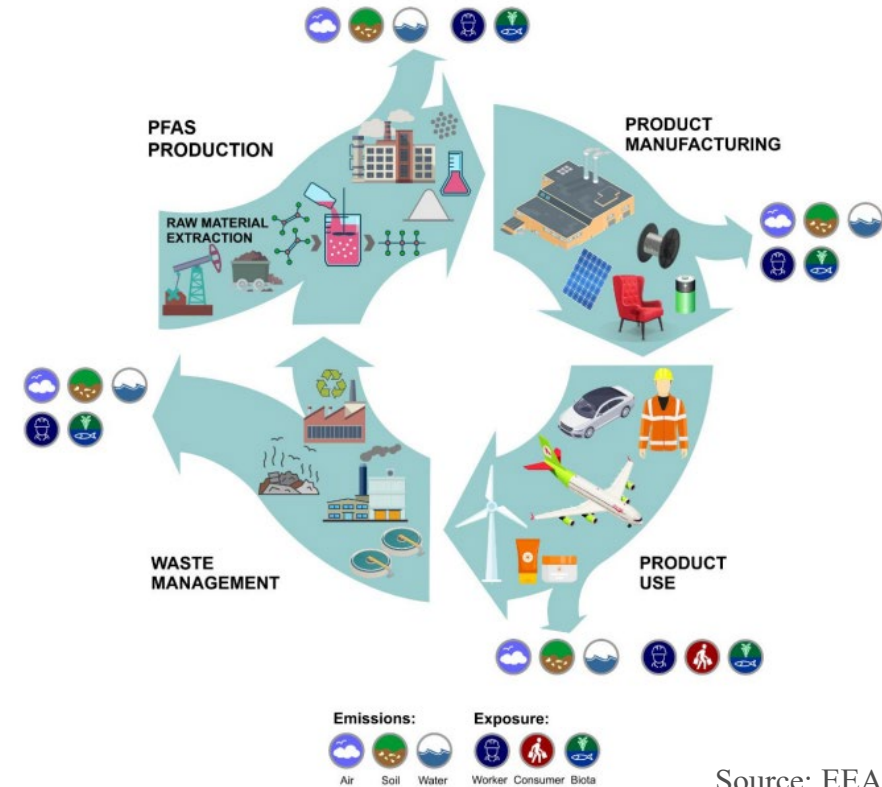
On 27 April 2026, Commissioner Roswall and EVP Séjourné announced jointly that the **REACH revision will not go forward**.

- The Commission looked at a range of options to simplify and modernise REACH in the past years, including better enforcement.
- The overall discussions pointed to the conclusion that REACH should not be revised at this moment in time, when stability, clarity and predictability are needed more than ever
- Instead, the Commission is looking into ways of simplification and modernisation through other means, including comitology, and aims to put forward initiatives to improve enforcement regarding non-EU compliant products and substances, both at the EU borders and in terms of more effective market surveillance.

PFAS challenges and actions in EU legislation

Challenges in addressing PFAS pollution

- Serious human health and environmental concern.
- Used in critical applications needed for twin transition to a green and digital economy, and strategic autonomy.
- Need for a balanced approach



Actions on PFAS in EU legislation

POPs Regulation (PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFCA)

REACH restrictions:
PFHxA, PFAS in fire-fighting foams, **uPFAS**,
...

Industrial Emissions
Directive and Industrial
Emissions Portal
Regulation

Limit and monitor
emissions at source

Packaging and
packaging waste
Regulation

Food Contaminants
Regulation

Safety of toys Regulation

Plant Protection Products
Regulation

Limit concentrations
in products and waste

Drinking Water
Directive

Urban WasteWater
Directive

Water Framework
Directive / Groundwater
Directive / Environmental
Quality Standards

Soil Monitoring Law

Monitor and limit
concentrations in the
environment

PFAS regulatory measures

POP and REACH restrictions on PFAS

Stockholm Convention and EU POP Regulation

- PFOS, PFOA (C8), PFHxS (C6)
- **NEW: PFCA (C9-21)** (Stockholm Convention: agreed, POP Regulation: ongoing)

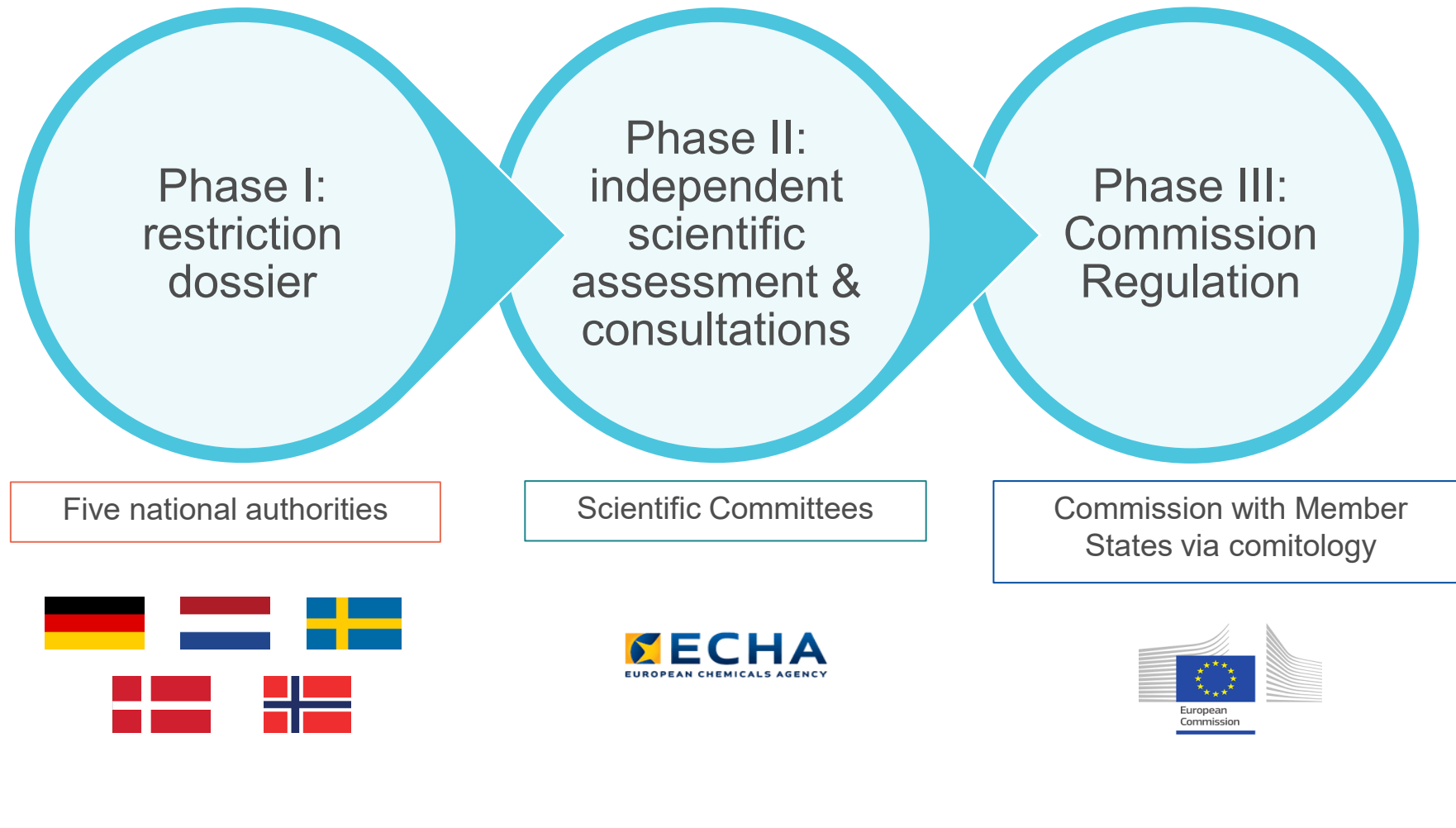
REACH, Annex XVII:

- C9-C14 PFCAs (entry 68) (to be removed once in POP Regulation)
- TDFAs, trideca-fluorooctyl silanetriol (entry 73)
- PFHxA (C6) (entry 79) - *adopted September 2024*
- PFAS in Firefighting Foams: Restrict placing on the market, formulation and use of PFAS as a group (entry 82) - *adopted October 2025* - preventing 470 tonnes of PFAS emissions annually. Technical guidance:

https://echa.europa.eu/documents/d/guest/eu_guidance_for_transitioning_to_fluorine-free_firefighting_foams_en

'Universal' PFAS restriction

'Universal' PFAS restriction



Update on the restriction status

- RAC (Risk Assessment Committee) and SEAC (Socio-Economic Analysis Committee) evaluated the restriction dossier by 'sector'
- **March 2026:** RAC final opinion and SEAC draft opinion + launch of **60-day consultation on the SEAC draft opinion (ended 25 May 2026)**
- ECHA aims to deliver the final opinions of RAC and SEAC at the **end of 2026**

RAC opinion – overall conclusions

- Confirms **PFAS hazards and risks**, e.g. persistence, bio-accumulation, mobility, certain health issues.
- Considers that **current regulatory measures are not sufficient** to control the emissions, therefore a further EU-wide restriction is needed.
- Considers that **derogations** result in additional PFAS **emissions** that **need to be minimised**
- If derogations are eventually granted, they should come with **additional risk management measures**, including:
 - Labelling, safe use and disposal instructions and effective supply chain communication by suppliers
 - Site-specific PFAS management plans, to be established by manufacturers and industrial users of PFAS, including monitoring of emissions
 - Reporting requirements for manufacturers, importers and industrial downstream users

SEAC draft opinion – conclusions

- Considers a ban with use-specific derogations is the most appropriate EU measure to address the identified risks, based on socio-economic proportionality.
 - Supports RAC on additional risk management measures for derogated uses, but...
 - cannot conclude on their proportionality.
 - has some concerns about enforceability (guidance might help).
- Recommends evaluation of all uses in eight additional sectors.
 - In the meantime, a time-limited derogation for all uses within those sectors.

Next steps

- By end of 2026: SEAC adopts its opinion.
- Soon after: ECHA's Committees' opinions sent to the Commission.
- As soon as possible after receipt of the final opinions: Commission presents a restriction proposal to the REACH Committee, composed of Member States representatives.
 - draft Commission Regulation amending Annex XVII of REACH.
- Discussion and vote (qualified majority) in the REACH Committee.
- Measure voted on is sent to European Parliament and Council for scrutiny.

Chemical Industry Action Plan and PFAS

Policy objectives of the CIAP on PFAS (1/2)

Clarification on PFAS brought by the Communication on the Chemicals Industry Action Plan (July 2025). **Regarding the UPFAS restriction:**

- The Commission is committed to presenting a proposal **as soon as possible** after receiving ECHA's opinion, with the **overall objective of minimising PFAS emissions**.
- The Commission will consider PFAS **ban in consumer uses such as cosmetics, food contact materials and outdoor clothing**.
- Where adequate alternatives in terms of performance and safety are not available, the **continued use of PFAS in industrial applications may be allowed for critical applications**, such as health, defence, semiconductors, and other strategic sectors, **under strict conditions until acceptable substitutes are found**.
- **Derogations** for uses will need to be accompanied by **requirements to reduce emissions at all lifecycle stages** to limit the release of pollutants into the environment **and by clear incentives to innovate**.

Policy objectives of the CIAP on PFAS (2/2)

- **Stakeholders dialogue** (Q2 2026)
- COM to support PFAS **substitution**: targeted R&I, expert network; EU innovation and substitution hubs
- **Clean-up of polluted sites**: polluter pays principle, public money for orphan sites, R&I for remediation
- **Public-private partnership** for PFAS detection and remediation
- **EU-wide PFAS monitoring framework** (centralise information: polluted sites, remediation techniques, data from various legislations) (Q4 2026)

Update on REACH files: Cr(VI) substances

Update on REACH files: Cr(VI) substances

- Due to high number of applications for authorisation and resulting delays, COM judged authorisation approach is no longer appropriate for risk management of Cr(VI) substances.
- COM intends to remove the Cr(VI) substances from REACH Annex XIV (the 'authorisation list') and regulate those substances (including uses in aerospace and defence sector) via a single new REACH restriction.
- ECHA (on COM mandate) prepared a restriction dossier with several options, combining, for specific uses, particular limit values for workers exposure and for emissions into the environment.
- RAC/SEAC opinions: by end 2026 (incl. consultation over final SEAC opinion (tbc: July-August))
- COM decision making (for both restriction and 'de-listing' together): restriction could be adopted by end 2027/Q1 2028 (best-case scenario)

Update on REACH files: Cr(VI) substances

- Important: simultaneous entry into application of the two acts , to avoid regulatory gap:
 - Act 1: removal of substances from REACH Annex XIV
 - Act 2: new restriction in REACH Annex XVII
- Note: Entry into force $\neq$ Entry into application
 - Entry into application will be later, to ensure an appropriate deferral (transition) period for companies to comply with the conditions of the restriction (ECHA proposed 18 months in the Annex XV dossier).
- As of the entry into application of the two acts, authorisation decisions that are in force will be void, since deprived of legal basis.
- Authorisation obligations will continue to apply to all actors for Cr(VI) substances until the package entry-into-application date, i.e. also during the deferral period.

Support to substitution and innovation

EU Chemical and Innovation and Substitution Hubs

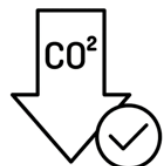
Strategic objectives



Accelerate **safer** chemical **innovations**, including **SSbD** solutions



Support SMEs in navigating fragmented landscape



Promote **energy-, water-, and resource-efficient low-emission** processes

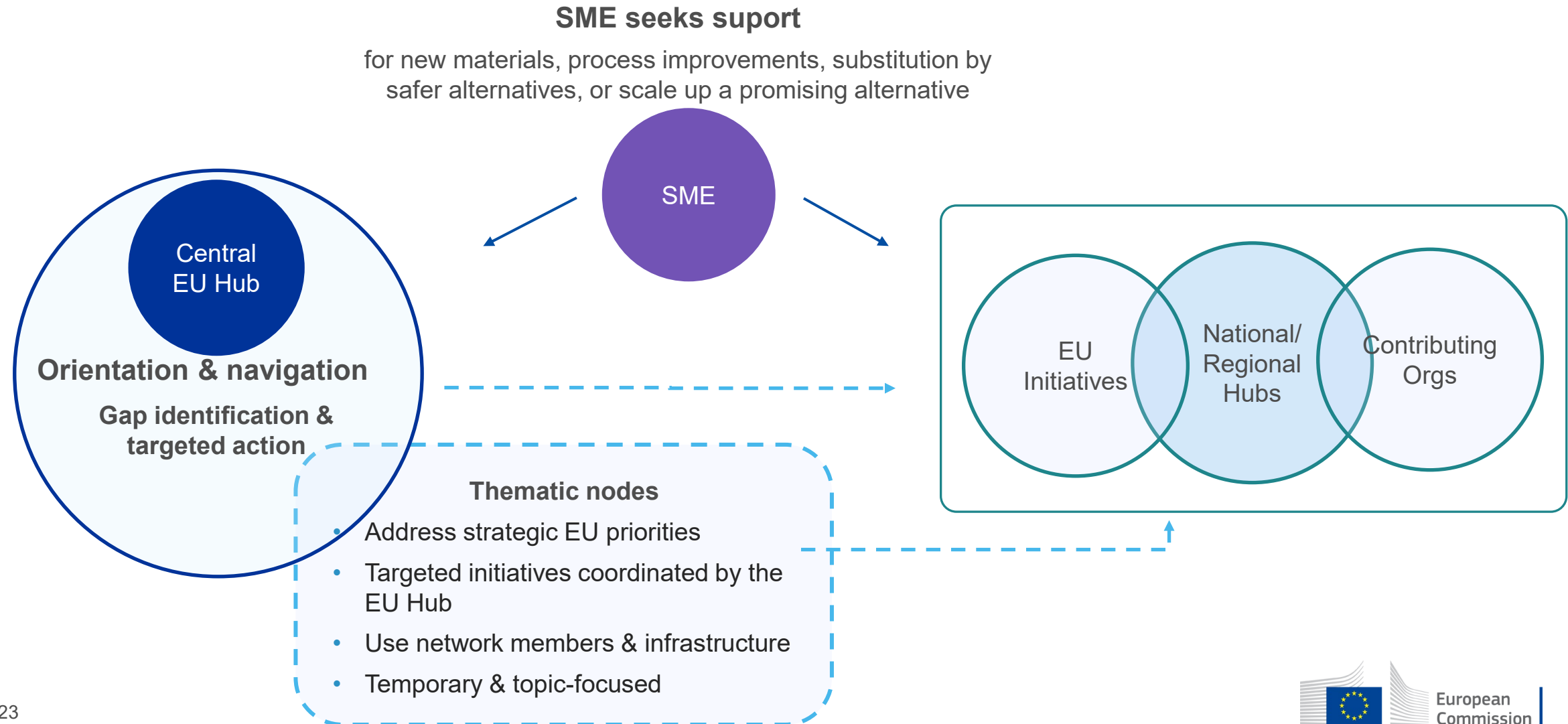


Facilitate **substitution of targeted hazardous** substances



Provide evidence-based **guidance** for policy & innovation

How does it work in practice?



EU Chemical and Innovation and Substitution Hubs - Study structure to test several angles

Four lots, running until July 2027:

- Lot 1: EU substitution centre or **network of substitution centres** (started end 2024, c.a. 500€k)
- Lots 2, 3 and 4: **Testing** how support to substitution on **concrete substances in concrete uses** (c.a. 350€k)
 - ⇒ *PFAS in batteries (started end 2024)*
 - ⇒ <https://pfas-substitution-batteries.eu/>
 - ⇒ *Hard chrome plating (started end 2024)*
 - ⇒ <https://www.substitution-chrome-plating.eu/>
 - ⇒ *Brominated flame retardants (started end 2025)*
 - ⇒ <https://www.hefestoshub.com/>

Alternatives to PFAS – R&I continuous support through



Safe and sustainable alternatives to PFAS coatings (call 2022)

Call 2022 - 20M€ total EU contribution - projects finishing 2026 achieving TRL 5 at the end of the project

Projects: [Tornado](#), [Proplanet](#), [ZeroF](#), [Bio-sushy](#)

Scope:

Development of durable : hydrophobic, oleophobic, non-sticky, anticorrosion, anti-soiling, high wear, thermal and mechanical stress resistance coatings; replacing PFAS coatings. Targeting the textile, food and cosmetic manufacturing (machines) and glass market.

Safe and sustainable alternatives to Substances of Concern (SoC) (call 2024)

Call 2024 - 70M€ total EU contribution- projects finishing 2028 achieving a TRL 7 at the end of the project

Projects: [Desiderata](#), [Radar](#), [Planets](#), [Biosafire](#), [Alchemissts](#)

Scope:

Focus on alternatives to PFAS but also to other SoC.

Development of safe and sustainable alternatives to flame retardants, plasticisers, and surfactants.



Alternatives to PFAS – R&I continuous support through



More projects coming soon:

Development of safe and sustainable alternatives to PFAS

[WP 2025](#) -30 M€ total EU contribution for 5-6 projects – TRL 6-7 by the end of the project

Projects: proposals under evaluation, projects to start Q4 2026

Scope:

Applications in the area of electronics, electrical appliances and grids, construction technologies, technical textiles and automotive parts

Development of safe and sustainable alternatives to substances of concern

[WP 2026](#) - 38 M€ EU funding for 5-6 projects to start Q1 2027 – TRL 7 by the end of the project

Projects: proposals under evaluation, projects to start Q4 2026 – Final TRL

Scope:

Applications in the areas of energy, mobility, construction, electronics, technical textiles and medical devices.



Thank you



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