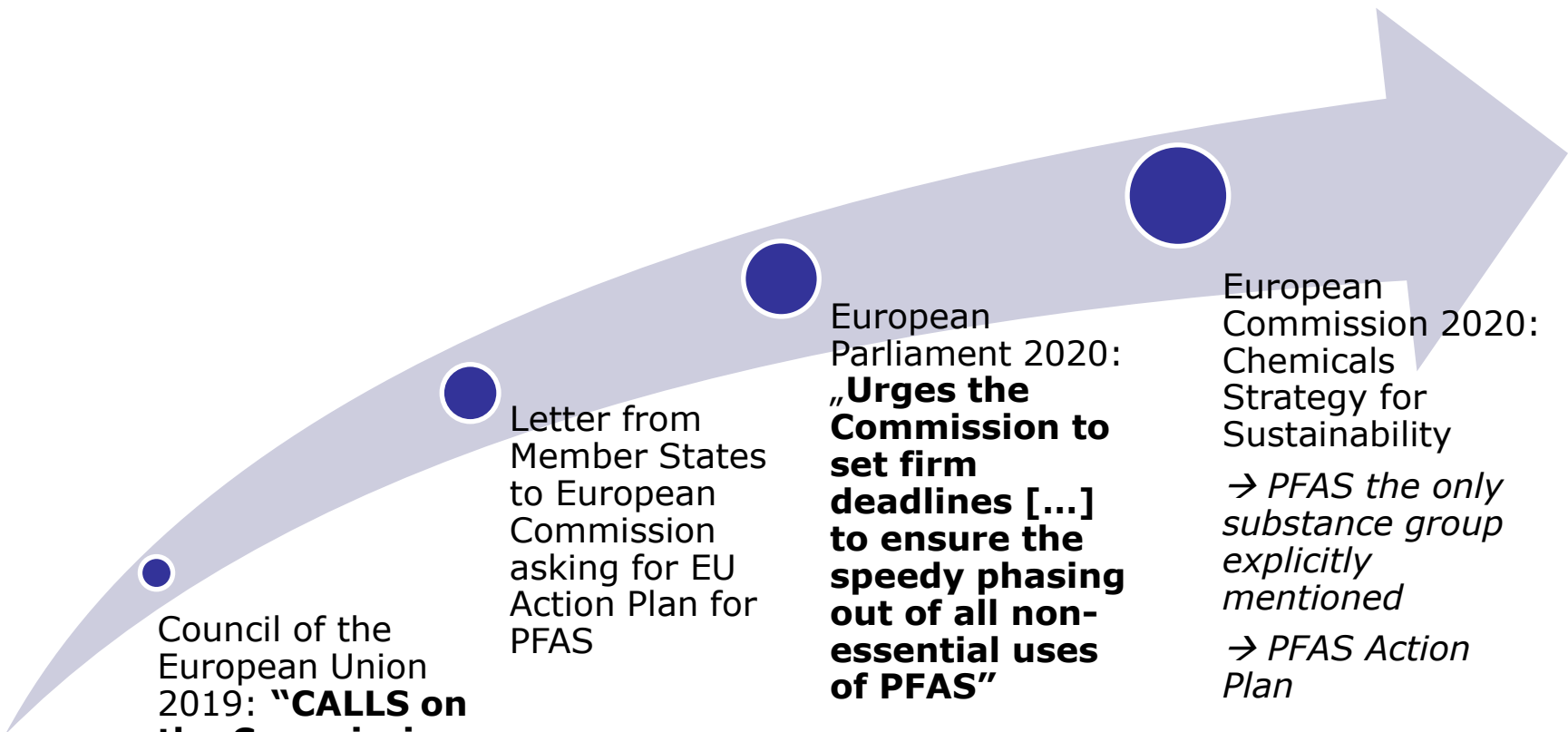




Regulating PFAS in the EU

**FPP4EU workshop
15 June 2022**

**Valentina Bertato
European Commission
DG Environment**



Council of the European Union 2019: **“CALLS on the Commission to develop [...] an action plan to eliminate all non-essential uses of PFAS”**

Letter from Member States to European Commission asking for EU Action Plan for PFAS

European Parliament 2020: **“Urges the Commission to set firm deadlines [...] to ensure the speedy phasing out of all non-essential uses of PFAS”**

European Commission 2020: Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
→ *PFAS the only substance group explicitly mentioned*
→ *PFAS Action Plan*

European Green Deal

Zero pollution ambition for a toxic free environment

Very persistent chemicals

**CSS and PFAS Action
Plan**

**Circular economy
action plan**

**Zero pollution action
plan**

Soil Strategy

Chemicals strategy for sustainability

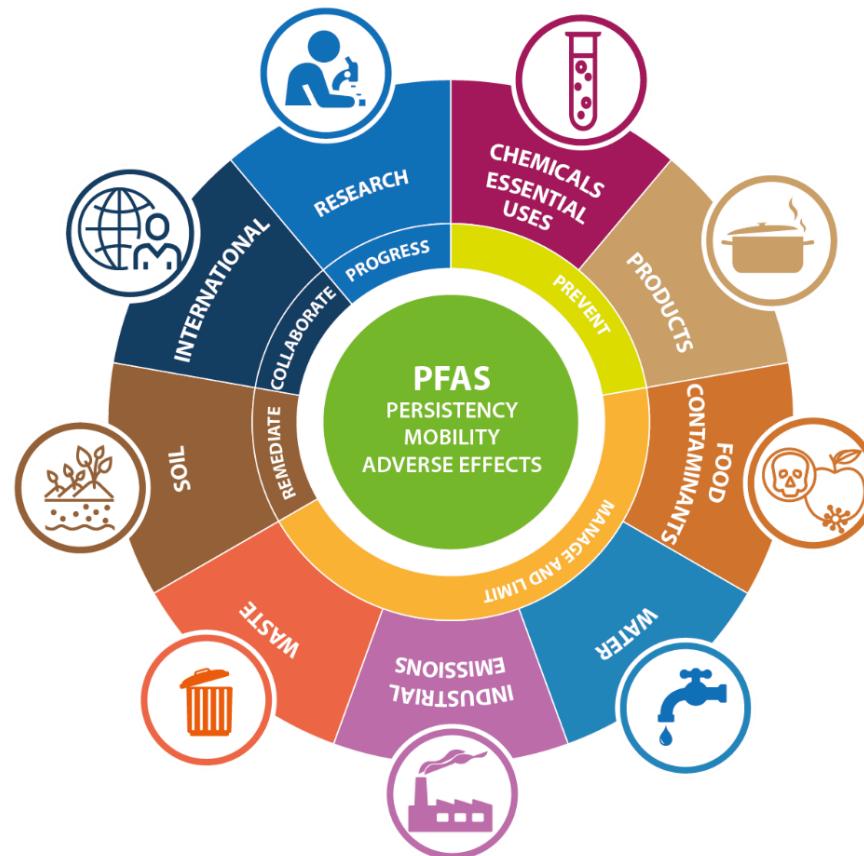
***Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** require special attention, considering the large number of cases of contamination of soil and water - including drinking water - in the EU and globally, the number of people affected with a full spectrum of illnesses and the related societal and economic costs. That is why the Commission proposes a comprehensive set of actions to **address the use of and contamination with PFAS**. Those aim to ensure, in particular, that the use of PFAS is phased out in the EU, unless it is proven essential for society.*

***The Commission will ban all PFAS in fire-fighting foams** as well as in other uses, allowing their use only where they are essential for society*

Chemicals strategy for sustainability

- *define **criteria for essential uses** to ensure that the most harmful chemicals are only allowed if their use is necessary for health, safety or is critical for the functioning of society and if there are no alternatives*
- *propose new hazard classes and criteria in the CLP Regulation to fully address environmental toxicity, **persistence, mobility and bioaccumulation**;*
- *introduce **endocrine disruptors, persistent, mobile and toxic** and **very persistent and very mobile substances** as categories of substances of very high concern*

PFAS action plan



Soil strategy

- *Preventing the release of hazardous substances into soil (including PFAS)*
- *Soil Health Law: legally binding provisions to*
 - **identify contaminated sites,**
 - **set up an inventory and register of those sites and**
 - **remediate the sites that pose a significant risk to human health and the environment by 2050.**

Actions on PFAS under REACH

- *PFHxA restriction: COM received ECHA's Committees opinion*
- *All PFAS in fire-fighting foams: ECHA submitted the dossier on January 14th; PC until 23 September*
- *All other uses of PFAS: dossier under preparation by NL, DE, DK, SE, NO (submission January 2023)*

<https://echa.europa.eu/hot-topics/perfluoroalkyl-chemicals-pfas>

Thank you

Links to relevant EU strategies:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/zero-pollution-action-plan_en

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/strategy/chemicals-strategy_en

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/publications/eu-soil-strategy-2030_en