

Priority Written Question to the European Commission

An article published today states that PFAS pollution is creating a food and water crisis in Europe¹. It points to serious problems with Commission guidelines on PFAS in drinking water. A key degradation product of PFAS, in particular of pesticides and F-gases, is trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), which is found in high concentrations in drinking water. Technical guidelines adopted by the Commission in August 2024² recommend an approach according to which high levels of TFA in drinking water could escape non-compliance.

It is important to know that so far, it has been proven near impossible to remove TFA from drinking water, or extremely expensive. Without taking action at the source, its concentrations will continue to increase, and its toxic and polluting effects will be difficult to reverse.

1. When will the Commission revise its guidelines to ensure that levels of TFA alone above the limit value of PFAS total of 0.5 µg/L are considered as non-compliant and addressed appropriately?
2. When will the Commission revise the Drinking Water Directive to ensure systematic monitoring of key PFAS degradation products and set adequate quality standards?
3. When will the Commission propose comprehensive bans of major TFA sources, in particular of PFAS pesticides and all F-gases?

¹ <https://www.ftm.eu/articles/pollution-crisis-threatens-europe-lobbyists-sway-brussels>

²

<https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/65764c73-4a57-45dc-8199-473014cf65bf/library/fe19925b-4d93-4e09-80cf-c21c5b3e5365/details>