

Welcome

Webinar on SEAC PFAS draft opinion consultation

30 October 2025

Adam Elwan
Communications
European Chemicals Agency



What you can expect today

- PFAS restriction at a glance
- Where we are and what happens next: current committee evaluation and upcoming milestones, including SEAC draft opinion consultation
- What the SEAC draft opinion is, its structure, coverage, and limitations
- How this consultation will run: survey format, EU survey access, security and confidentiality
- How to provide high-quality input: question types, level of detail, sector vs. general surveys, and guidance materials
- Practicalities for today: how to ask questions and where to find webinar materials



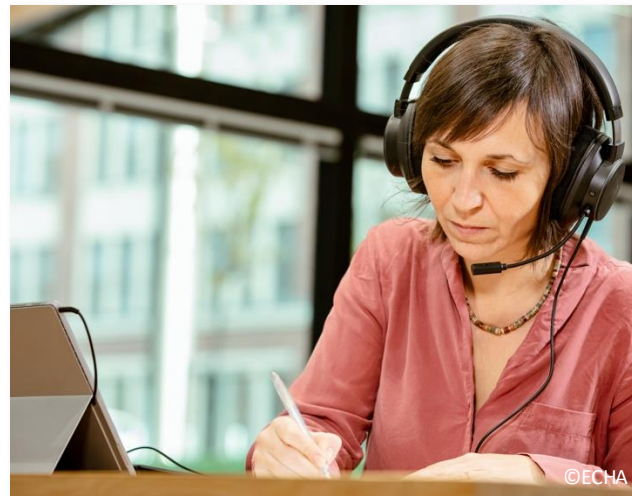
Q&A



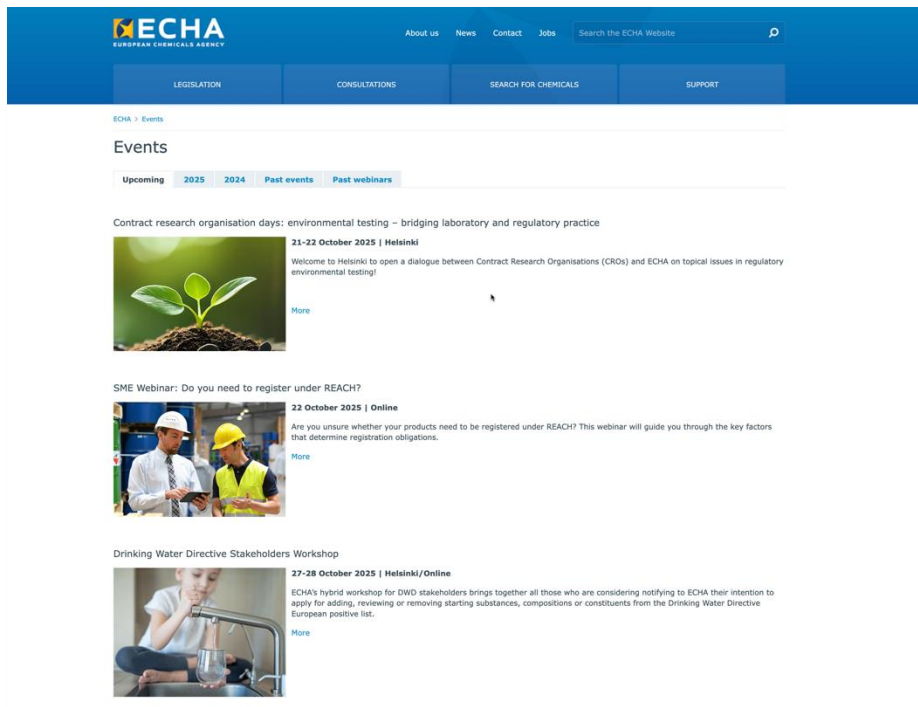
- Join Q&A at: slido.com
Event code **#pfas2025**
- Send questions throughout the event until 13:00 (EET, GMT +2)
- Only questions within scope
- Question not answered? Refer to published Q&A

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Material available



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- Video recording
- Presentations
- Q&A coming soon
- echa.europa.eu/webinars

Programme

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:00	Welcome	Adam Elwan, ECHA
11:05	SEAC draft opinion consultation • PFAS Restriction – what is it, where are we in the process, and what happens next • What is the SEAC draft opinion • What is the consultation about	Mercedes Marquez-Camacho, ECHA
11:20	Survey structure • Consultation approach • Consultation survey tool • Security and confidentiality • Consultation survey structure • Guidance materials for the consultation	Mats Holmström, ECHA
11:30	Question types (requirements and examples) • Instructions on responding to the survey • Level of detail of requested information • Further details on specific questions • Description of general questions	Christoph Rheinberger, ECHA
11:45	Conclusions	Adam Elwan, ECHA
11:50-13:00	Webinar Q&A kept open for answering remaining questions.	

Thank you

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SEAC draft opinion consultation

Webinar on SEAC PFAS draft opinion
consultation

30 October 2025

Mercedes Marquez-Camacho
Team Leader – Restrictions
European Chemicals Agency



Outline

- What is the PFAS restriction about
- Where we are in this process
- What happens next
- What is the SEAC draft opinion
- What is the consultation about



What is the restriction about? (1/2)

- Targets all PFAS (except a few potentially fully degradable sub-groups)
- Covers all uses (except firefighting foams), including manufacturing
- Proposes a ban with some derogations for specific uses, either for a limited (5 to 12 years) or unlimited time
 - Based on assessment of 14 sectors of use

What is the restriction about? (2/2)

Sectors of use assessed (14 sectors)

- Ski wax
- Cosmetics
- Metal plating and manufacture of metal products
- Consumer mixtures and miscellaneous consumer articles
- Petroleum and mining
- Food contact materials (FCM) and packaging
- Textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel, carpets (TULAC)
- Construction products
- Applications of fluorinated gases
- Transport
- Medical devices
- Energy
- Lubricants
- Electronics and semiconductors

Where are we in the process? (1/2)

- Restriction proposed by five countries (NL, DE, DK, SE, NO) - January 2023
- Consultation: March–September 2023, more than 5 600 comments/100 000+ pages
- Update of proposed restriction (“background document”) - June 2025
 - Assessment of 8 additional sectors of use
 - Proposal to implement measures to control risks
- Evaluation ongoing by ECHA’s Committees, RAC and SEAC



Where are we in the process? (2/2)

Additional sectors of use (8 sectors)

- Printing applications
- Sealing applications
- Machinery applications
- Other medical applications
- Military applications
- Explosives
- Technical textiles
- Broader industrial uses

What happens next?

- RAC and SEAC evaluation expected to conclude in March 2026
 - Adoption of RAC opinion (end of RAC process)
 - Agreement of SEAC *draft* opinion
- Launch of **SEAC draft opinion consultation**
- Adoption of SEAC opinion expected by November/December 2026
- Combining both opinions into one and submission to European Commission expected by December 2026
- Decision by European Commission and EU member states



What is the SEAC draft opinion? (1/2)

- Presents SEAC's conclusions on whether proposal is *"most appropriate to address risks taking into account proportionality of its benefits to its costs"*
- Structured by sections:
 - *General sections (full scope of restriction):*
 - *Analysis of alternatives*
 - *Cost, benefits and proportionality*
 - *Practicality, etc.*
 - *Sector specific sections (14 sectors and PFAS manufacturing)*

What is the SEAC draft opinion? (2/2)

- Important to keep in mind:
 - SEAC draft opinion contains separate sections on the evaluation of specific aspects related to PFAS manufacturing and original 14 sectors of use identified by dossier submitter in original restriction proposal
 - The draft opinion **does not** contain separate sections on the evaluation of 8 additional sectors of use assessed by dossier submitter in updated restriction proposal

What is the consultation about? (1/2)

- Launches soon after agreement of SEAC draft opinion in March 2026
- Lasts for 60 days
- Focuses on **content** of SEAC draft opinion:
 - Relevant comments to be analysed and considered for SEAC final opinion
 - Comments on other aspects of restriction (e.g. risks, emissions) not considered



What is the consultation about? (2/2)

→ **Covers full restriction scope**

- Interested parties are invited to provide comments related to all aspects of the opinion, including all sectors of use (14 sectors with specific sector evaluation by SEAC + 8 additional sectors + PFAS manufacturing)
- In addition, specific information related to the SEAC sector evaluation of 14 sectors of use and PFAS manufacturing to be requested in a structured way

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Structure

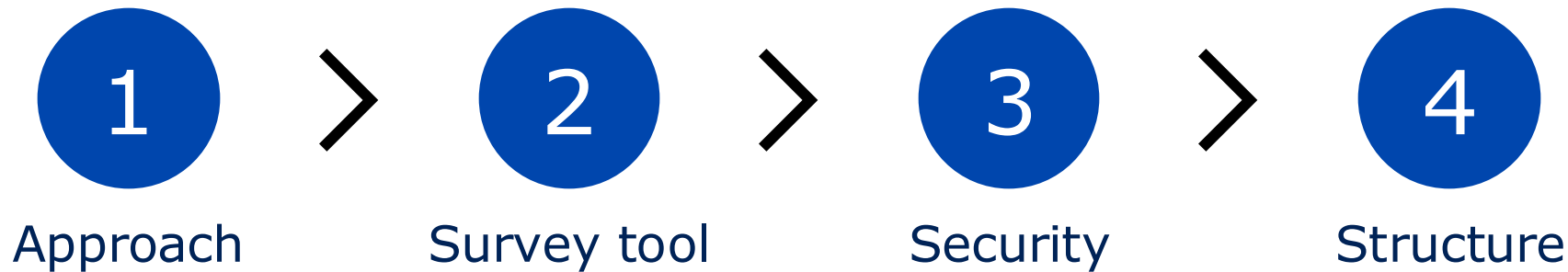
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Mats Holmström
Economist
European Chemicals Agency



Outline



+ Information on support materials

1. Approach

Feature

Supported

Choice-based questions

✓

Numerical questions

✓

Free text questions

✓

Attachments

-

Tables

-

Links

-



ECHA may request additional information

2. Survey tool: EU Survey

- **EU Survey:**
European Commission's official survey tool
- **EU Login (ahead of consultation):**
 - Create an account
 - Register mobile device for multi-factor authentication
- **FAQ and support documentation:**
ec.europa.eu/eusurvey



3. Security and confidentiality



Secure data infrastructure



Responses can be marked **confidential**



Anonymous responses not possible

Access survey only through ECHA's website

4. Consultation structure

General survey



General sections of
SEAC draft opinion

Sector-specific surveys



14 sectors
+ PFAS
manufacturing

Sector-specific evaluations in
SEAC draft opinion

Guidance

1. Survey guidance document

What: Survey questions and instructions for responding

When: Mid December

2. Use mapping

What:

- Stage 1: List of uses evaluated by SEAC to date
- Stage 2: Description of uses evaluated by SEAC
- Stage 3: Further elaborated description of uses evaluated by SEAC

When: **S1:** Right after webinar / **S2:** Mid-Dec / **S3:** Before consultation

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Question types

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Christoph Rheinberger
Senior Economist
European Chemicals Agency



General instructions for consultees

- Types of questions: numerical, text, choices (multiple or best)
- Evidence: where possible, back up choices with additional information
- Uncertainty: pick what seems to be most plausible
- Perspective: what is the reporting unit for multisector companies?



Level of detail

- Different levels of detail for general and sector-specific questions:
- Answer general questions to best convey your information
 - Answer sector-specific questions at most granular level
 - Where necessary, add missing uses to sector-specific inquiry



Example: TULAC sector

→ Evaluation levels in *textiles, upholstery, leather, apparel and carpets* (TULAC) sector survey:

1. **Use:** Home Textiles
2. **Use:** Consumer apparel
3. **Use:** Professional apparel & PPE
 1. **Sub-use:** Professional Sportswear and uniforms
 2. **Sub-use:** PPE
 1. **Application:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) intended to protect users against risks as specified in Regulation (EU) 2016/425, Annex I, risk categories III(a) and III(c).
 2. **Application:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) intended to protect users against risks as specified in Regulation (EU) 2016/425, Annex I, risk categories III(b) and III(d-m)
 3. **Application:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) intended to protect users against risks as specified in Regulation (EU) 2016/425, Annex I, risk categories other than III.
 4. **Application:** Personal protective equipment (PPE) specifically designed for armed forces, the maintenance of law and order and other emergency response workers
 5. **Application:** Impregnation agents for re-impregnating of articles referred to above
4. **Use:** Leather

Background information

- Affiliation of respondent
- Name (only for organisations)
- Email address (in case of follow-up)
- General information on organisation
- For companies:
 - Size, turnover, entity type, role in supply chain, NACE industry code
- Country of domicile



Sector-specific questions: alternatives

- Short description of PFAS use
- Use volume to substitute:
 - Tonnes/year of polymeric PFAS, non-polymeric PFAS and fluorinated gases
- Analysis of alternatives:
 - Conclusion, brief justification
- Possibility to develop alternatives



Sector-specific questions: impacts

- What would a ban of **your** use of PFAS entail for your organisation?
- Assume no derogation for **your** PFAS use was granted. What would be:
 - Expected annual profit loss
 - Expected job loss in the EU
 - Other negative impacts on society



Sector-specific questions: conditions

- Restriction option 3:
 - Continued use (time-limited or unlimited) under certain conditions
- Not in original proposal
- Now, chance to describe impacts



General questions

- Apply to full restriction scope
- Possibility to indicate to which sector of use responses apply
- Information may refer to any use, including those not evaluated or identified in SEAC's draft opinion
- Follow structure of draft opinion general sections



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Conclusions

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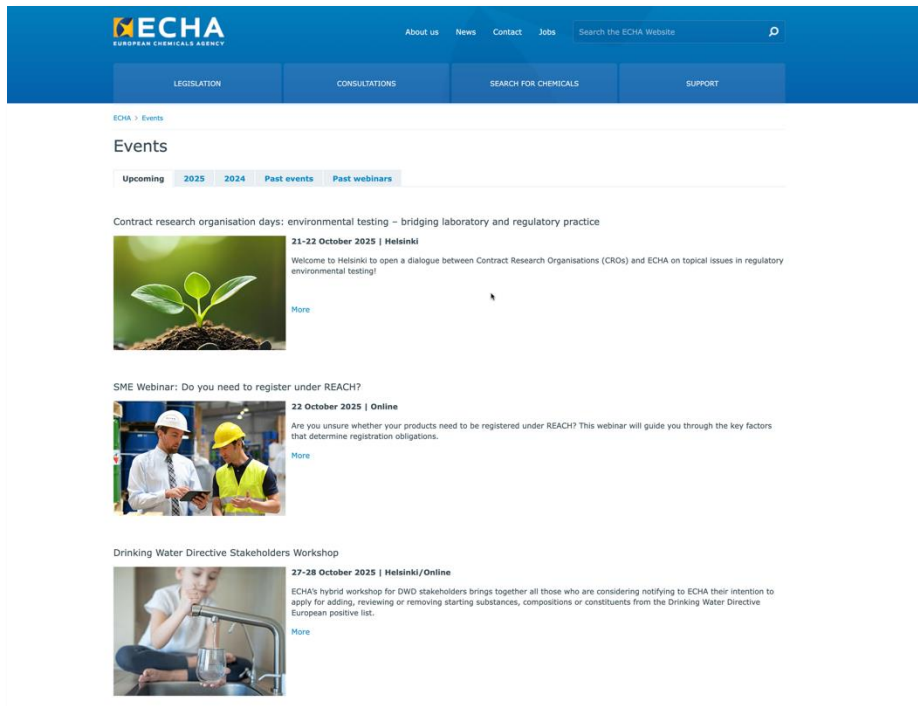


Conclusions

- What SEAC's draft opinion is and how your evidence will inform final opinion
- Consultation timeline: opens shortly after draft agreement (**expected March 2026**) and runs for **60 days**
- How to submit: EU Survey with EU Login; use sector-specific and general surveys; no attachments, links not opened; mark confidential items per question
- What to focus on: alternatives, impacts and precise, sector specific use data
- Support: guidance document and use-mapping to be provided



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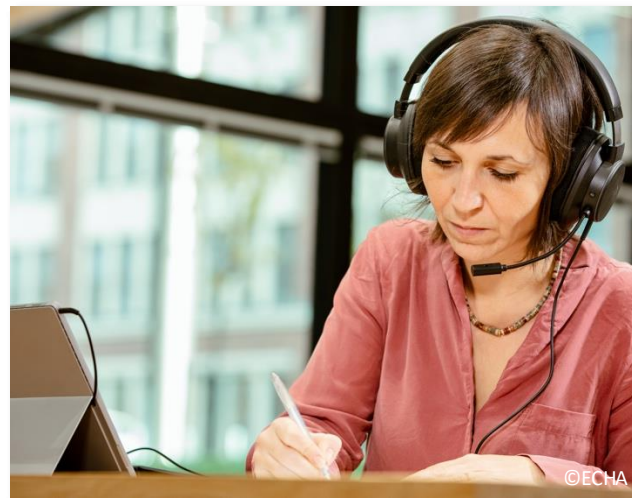
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