

If you know of others who may be interested in receiving this Newsletter, please share using the link [here](#) rather than forwarding. Thank you!



AN IMPORTANT YEAR AHEAD FOR FLUOROPOLYMERS

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year from the Fluoropolymers Product Group!

We hope you enjoyed the winter break as the start of a new year provides an important chance to look ahead to the opportunities and challenges we foresee with a reinvigorated spirit.

With the upcoming EU PFAS restriction proposal, 2023 promises to be an important year for the fluoropolymers sector. This special edition of our newsletter will explore what to expect in the first half of the year, including key milestones and opportunities to get involved in the restriction process.

In 2023, the Fluoropolymers Product Group will continue to engage with policymakers to advocate for a balanced regulatory environment. Our aim will be to ensure that the PFAS restriction proposal differentiates between fluoropolymers and other PFAS, reflecting their safe use and importance in key applications, and exempting fluoropolymers from unjustified regulatory action.

If you would like us to deep dive into a specific use of fluoropolymers in 2023 or would be interested in seeing one of your projects featured as a case study in our newsletter, do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We believe that the voice of our industry stakeholders should be heard!

As ever, please also feel free to share this newsletter with your wider network and invite people to sign up by emailing me at nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org. Thank you in advance!

Kind regards,
Nicolas Robin

Director, Fluoropolymers Product Group
nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org



THE EU PFAS RESTRICTION PROPOSAL

Over the past three years, the national authorities of Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have been preparing a restriction proposal covering a wide range of PFAS. After several delays, the restriction dossier has now been finalized and the

process will formally start both at the technical and political levels.

Let's go through the steps of the PFAS restriction proposal together.

Submission of the dossier

The five competent authorities submitted their dossier to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on 13 January 2023. ECHA will now run the required administrative checks before the proposed restriction and supporting documents are made publicly available on 7 February 2023, the day of the pre-publication of the dossier.

Evaluation of the dossier

At this stage, ECHA's scientific committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and for Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) will check that the proposed restriction meets the legal requirements of REACH before beginning their evaluation of the proposal. To support this process, a six-month consultation is planned to start on 22 March in order to gather input from relevant stakeholders.

Finalization of the restriction

While the opinions of RAC and SEAC are usually planned to be ready within 12 months, ECHA has anticipated that the process may last longer due to the complexity of the proposal and the extent of information that is expected from the consultation. Once the opinions are adopted, they are sent to the European Commission which will make a final decision on a potential restriction, alongside Member States.

Overview of 2023 milestones



- **13 January:** ECHA received the dossier submission from Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.
- **07 February:** ECHA will publish the pre-final PFAS REACH Restriction Proposal and supporting documents on its website.
- **February:** The Fluoropolymers Product Group will hold a first webinar to discuss our initial views on the pre-final PFAS REACH Restriction Proposal.
- **13-17 March:** ECHA's Committees for Risk Assessment (RAC) and Socio-Economic Analysis (SEAC) will check for the conformity of the dossier during their March plenary meetings.
- **22 March:** ECHA is expected to publish the official PFAS REACH restriction dossier and launch the 6-month stakeholder consultation on the Annex XV restriction report.
- **End of March:** The Fluoropolymers Product Group will hold a webinar to discuss the final restriction dossier, and to guide you through the consultation process.
- **05 April:** ECHA will organize an online information session to explain the restriction process

Our commitment for 2023

The Fluoropolymers Product Group will continue to advocate for a restriction proposal which differentiates between fluoropolymers and other PFAS, recognizes

their safe use and importance in key applications, and exempts fluoropolymers from unjustified regulatory action.

Through our newsletter and dedicated webinars, we will continue to update you on the current state of play and will guide you on how to be involved throughout the restriction process.



INDUSTRY STATEMENT ON THE EU PFAS RESTRICTION

Ahead of the EU PFAS restriction proposal, the Fluoropolymers Product Group and 21 associations have co-signed an open letter to the Competent Authorities of Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, encouraging them to differentiate between fluoropolymers and other PFAS groups, taking into account the different risk profiles and uses of each group separately.

The open letter recalls that while fluoropolymers have been categorized as PFAS when based solely on their molecular structure, their environmental and

toxicological profiles are distinctly different to the majority of other lower molecular weight PFAS. They do not display the environmental and toxicological profiles associated with some PFAS that could be considered of concern, and a vast majority meet the OECD Polymer of Low Concern criteria.

Significant benefits are generated along the value chain via the use of fluoropolymers, making them critical in numerous technologies, industrial processes and everyday applications. At the same time, assessments of alternative materials have shown that, when available, they frequently cannot meet the critical performance characteristics of fluoropolymer-based materials.

Recognition of the safe uses of fluoropolymers, as determined by prior rigorous evaluation and of their importance for many applications, should result in an exemption for fluoropolymers from any regulatory action under the REACH restriction.

For more information, including the list of signatories, you can find the full letter [here](#).



We hope you enjoyed this edition of the newsletter.

You received the newsletter because you have shown an interest in fluoropolymers and the work of the Fluoropolymers Product Group. Should you wish to be removed from the mailing list, please [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Fluoropolymers Product Group or find us on [LinkedIn](#).

Contact details:

Nicolas Robin

Director of the Fluoropolymers Product Group,
PlasticsEurope

E-mail: nicolas.robin@plasticseurope.org

Tel: +32 (0)2 792 30 99

[Email Nicolas](#)

Feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues or members! If you are not yet registered to receive this newsletter, please email us at BrusselsBCWFluoropolymers@bcw-global.com.

We process your email address to send you our newsletter.

To know more about the way we process personal data, take a look at our [Privacy Notice](#).

You can unsubscribe at any time by clicking on the [unsubscribe](#) button.



[Forward](#)

PlasticsEurope's Fluoropolymers Product Group
Rue Belliard 40, Box 16
1040 Brussels - Belgium
+32 (0)2 792 30 99

You are receiving this newsletter as you have previously expressed interest in the Fluoropolymers Product Group's work.

Please do not unsubscribe if you were sent this email by a third party and not the Fluoropolymers Product Group. Thank you!

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)