



To: Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission

Brussels, 29 January 2025

Re: PFAS pollution: European affected communities' call for action and request for a meeting

Dear President von der Leyen,

As European citizens deeply affected by the devastating consequences of PFAS pollution, we are writing to express our profound concern and to urgently seek your support. Recent [investigative reports](#) have revealed how the PFAS industry has successfully lobbied to delay and undermine for decades critical legal measures intended to safeguard the health and well-being of Europeans. To allow this to continue under your Presidency would be in direct contradiction to the commitment you made in 2019 to ensure that "*no one is left behind.*"

We kindly request a meeting with you in Brussels during the first quarter of 2025 to share our experiences and testimonies on how pollution has profoundly impacted our lives.

PFAS pollution has left European communities in peril, with 23,000 PFAS-contaminated sites just in Europe, including more than 2,100 sites considered to be "PFAS hotspots" across the continent. Those of us living near these sites, along with our children, bear a toxic burden one hundred times greater than the average European citizen. The impact on our health, environment, and livelihoods has been profound, and urgent action is needed to address this ongoing disaster.

Affected communities from Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, The Netherlands, among other citizens from PFAS-contaminated sites across Europe, wish to present firsthand testimonies of the devastating effects caused by PFAS pollution and the shortcomings in EU legislation that regulates it. These accounts will illustrate the widespread contamination of soil, food, and water, which has endangered public health and undermined the well-being of entire communities and highlight the urgent need for stronger EU legislation to stop further pollution, help affected communities and clean up existing contamination.

This meeting is vital to advancing the European Green Deal's commitment to a Toxic-Free Environment. Specifically, we call for accelerated action on harmful chemicals like PFAS. Direct engagement with those most affected will provide invaluable insights and reinforce the need for swift, ambitious and effective measures.

We also urge you to champion bold initiatives to protect European citizens and the environment. This includes:

- **Banning PFAS chemicals** to stop further harmful pollution at source – the proposed universal PFAS restriction is the most effective way to do this.
- **Comprehensive monitoring and remediation** of contaminated water and soil from all European PFAS pollution hotspots.

European Environmental Bureau

• Rue des Deux Églises 14-16, 1000 Brussels, Belgium • ☎ +32 228 91090 • eeb@eeb.org • www.eeb.org
International non-profit association • Association internationale sans but lucratif (AISBL) • EC register for interest representatives: ID number: 06798511314-27 • BCE ID number: 0415.814.848 • RPM Tribunal de l'entreprise francophone de Bruxelles

- **Health, psychological, legal and financial redress** to those harmed by decades of negligence, ensuring justice and relief for victims.
- **Ensuring the polluters pay** the monitoring, remediation and compensation costs.
- **Accelerating the development and adoption of safe alternatives** to PFAS.

We trust in your leadership to prioritise people over profits of individual companies and to address the broad health, environmental and economic challenges posed by PFAS pollution. Your presence at this critical dialogue would demonstrate your commitment to protecting the health and well-being of all Europeans.

We kindly request your attendance and support for this critical dialogue. Please do let us know of your availabilities in the first quarter of 2025 to set up the meeting. We look forward to your response and to working together to achieve a healthier, toxic-free future for Europe.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick ten Brink
Secretary General, EEB

Olga Vuković
Executive Director, WeMove Europe

On behalf of:



1. Toon Penen – Grondrecht vzw – Belgium
2. Denis Bariod – Générations Futures Lyon – France
3. Michel Tachon – Générations Futures Avignon – France
4. Jérémie Suissa – Notre Affaire à Tous – France
5. Francesco Romizi – ISDE, International Society of Doctors for Environment – Italy
6. Giovanna Dal Lago – Mamme no PFAS – Italy
7. Giovanni Fazio – CILLSA – Italy
8. Marzia Albiero – Rete G.A.S. vicentina – Italy
9. Mirella Benazzo – Ànemos – Italy
10. Luigi Lazzaro – Legambiente Veneto – Italy
11. Alice De Marco – Legambiente Piemonte e Valle d’Aosta - Italy
12. Alberto Peruffo – PFASLand – The Netherlands
13. Joop Keesmaat & Kees van der Hel – Stop PFAS Stop Chemours & Gezondheid voor Alles – The Netherlands
14. Nienke Blauw & Anneke van Veen – Worried residents living around Chemours – The Netherlands

Post-Scriptum: Victims’ Testimonies

Kees van der Hel, from Sliedrecht (The Netherlands), Stop PFAS Stop Chemours:

“If Chemours had ever been obliged to give their PFAS a red colour, the entire world would now be coloured red. That’s how all-encompassing their PFAS emissions are!”

Michela Piccoli, from Trissino province of Vicenza (Italy), Mamme no PFAS:

“PFAS are a bomb triggered in our children's bodies, you don't know when it will explode, you don't know which organ it will affect—whether the reproductive system, the thyroid, the heart, the kidneys or whatever. You have the certainty that they are in their blood and tissues. These molecules must not be there. When the institutions are unable to protect our children, it is up to us mothers.”

Toon Penen, from Zwijndrecht (Belgium), Grondrecht:

“This isn’t just about Zwijndrecht—this is about protecting the health of people and ecosystems across Europe. PFAS pollution knows no borders, and neither should our fight against it. We demand urgent action: stricter regulations, proper remediation, and accountability from polluters. Join us in calling on national and European leaders to prioritize a clean and healthy future for all.”