

EEA reports on PFASs



EFSA workshop on latest advancements of PFASs risk assessment
17 November 2025



PFAS in textiles in Europe's circular economy

- Publication date: September 2024
- Underpinned by consultancy report

PFAS pollution in European water bodies

- Publication date: December 2024
- Based on country data reported under the WFD

PFAS polymers in focus: supporting Europe's zero pollution, low-carbon and circular economy ambitions

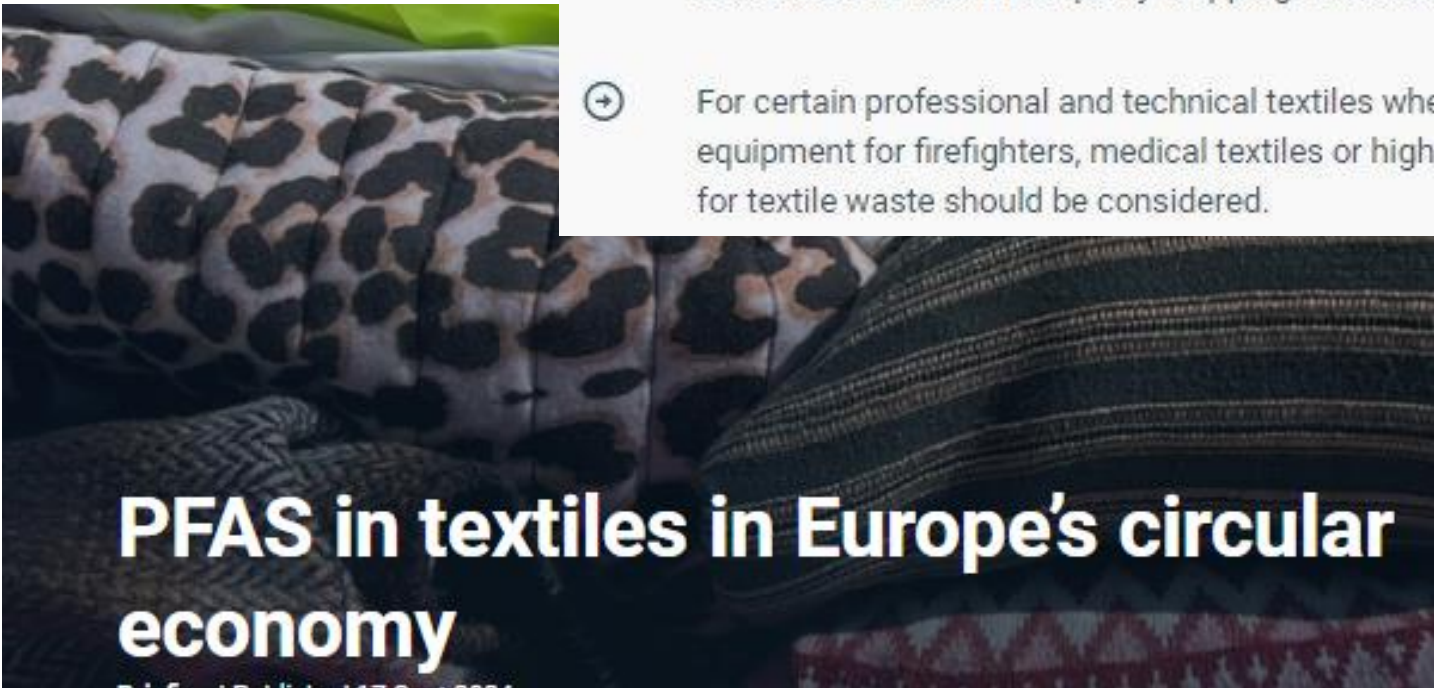
- Publication date: April 2025
- Underpinned by ETC report (published in 2021)



PFAS in textiles in Europe's circular economy

Key messages

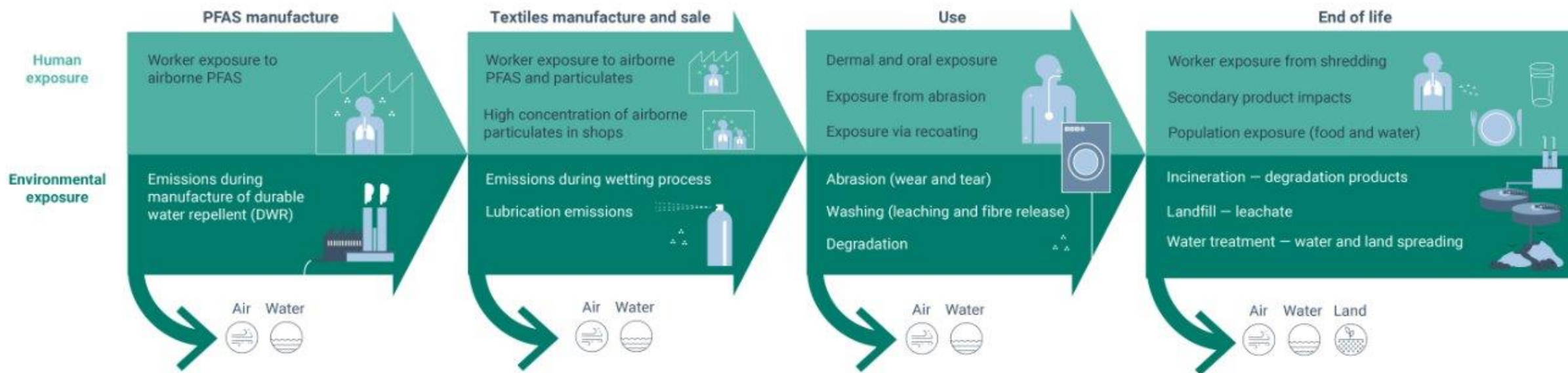
- ⊕ Textiles are one of the biggest sources of PFAS pollution in Europe.
- ⊕ PFAS in textiles represent a barrier to circularity through longer use of textile products, reuse and recycling as the risk of contamination and release increase.
- ⊕ The use of PFAS in most types of textiles is not a technical necessity. There is an opportunity to significantly reduce PFAS use and risk in Europe by stopping non-essential uses of PFAS in textiles since feasible alternatives already exist.
- ⊕ For certain professional and technical textiles where alternatives are not yet available (e.g. personal protective equipment for firefighters, medical textiles or high-performance filters), separate collection and destruction procedures for textile waste should be considered.



PFAS in textiles in Europe's circular economy



PFAS in textiles in Europe's circular economy

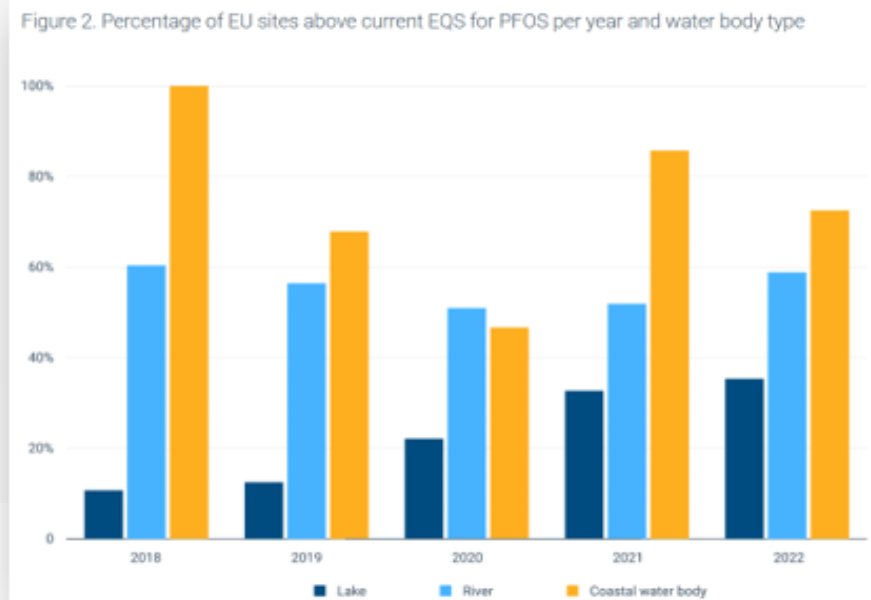


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PFAS pollution in European water bodies

Key messages

- Monitoring data indicate that perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) is widespread throughout European waters, often exceeding regulatory threshold levels set to avoid potential risk to human health and the environment.
- From 2018 to 2022, 51-60% of rivers, 11-35% of lakes and 47-100% of transitional and coastal waters exceeded the annual average environmental quality standards (EQS) for PFOS.
- Monitoring activities need to be expanded to provide more information on a greater range of PFAS across a wider geographical area; more sensitive analytical methods are also required.
- The widespread presence of PFOS and potentially many other PFAS in Europe's water is a clear challenge to the EU's zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment. It also compromises the EU policy target of achieving good chemical status for Europe's water bodies by 2027 at the latest, as laid out in EU policy.



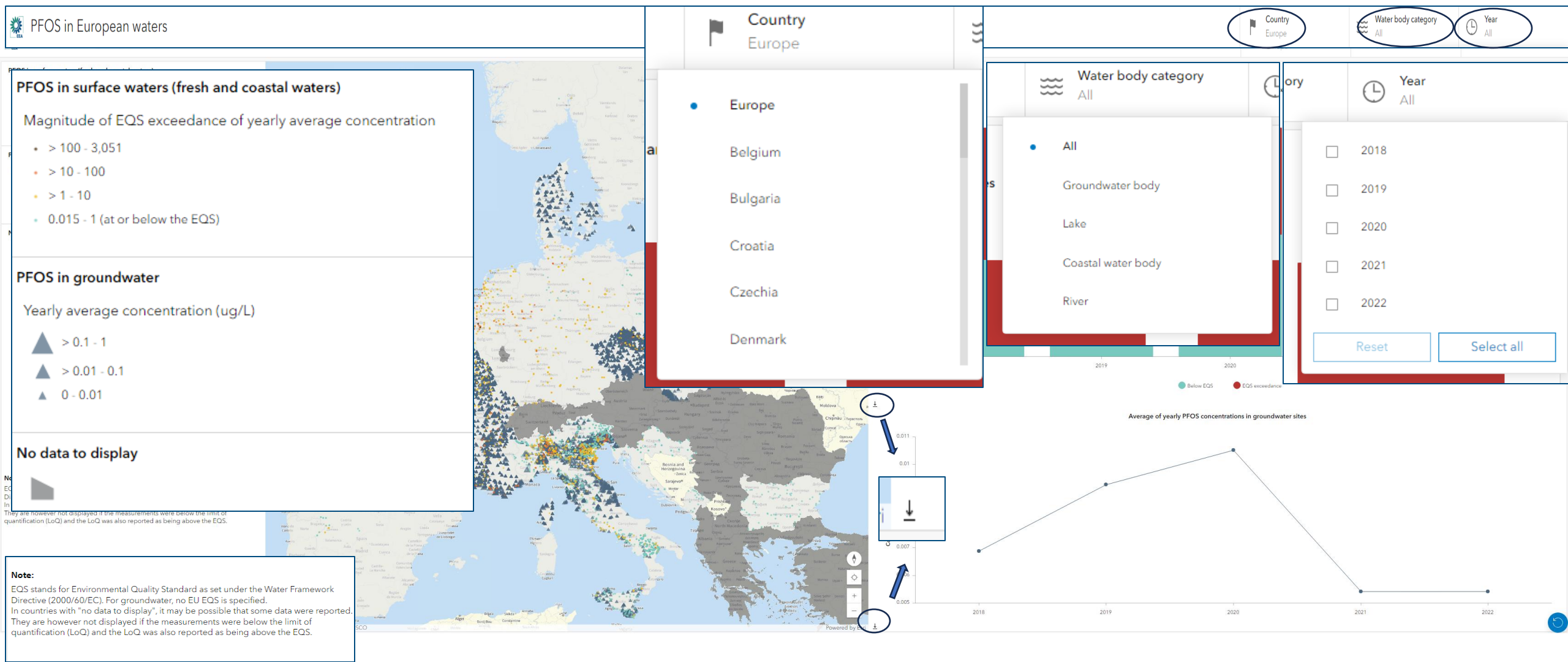
[PFAS pollution in European waters | Publications | European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)

PFAS pollution in European water bodies: data

- Time coverage: 2018-2022
- Geographic coverage: 22 EU Countries
- Focus on PFOS: regulatory threshold (EQS) and most monitored PFAS compound
- Data are downloadable (CSV file)
- Methodology of data analysis provided in the briefing (box)
- Increasing trends in:
 - number of samples
 - geographical coverage
 - monitoring sites
 - EU countries
 - matrices analysed



PFAS pollution in European water bodies: interactive map



PFAS polymers in focus: supporting Europe's zero pollution, low-carbon and circular economy ambitions

Key messages

- ➔ PFAS can be divided into polymeric and non-polymeric forms. PFAS polymers make up a significant part, 24-40%, of the total volume of PFAS on the EU market.
- ➔ PFAS polymers are widely used in consumer products, industrial production and increasingly in green technologies.
- ➔ PFAS polymers may have severe and irreversible impacts along their life cycles. These include toxic effects as well as impacts on climate change and ozone depletion. They may also hinder the recyclability of products. However, many of these impacts are still not well understood.
- ➔ A proposed restriction under REACH may significantly reduce PFAS use within the EU. This includes PFAS polymers.
- ➔ It is essential to adopt a full life-cycle perspective on PFAS polymers when evaluating their impacts and deciding on their future use.

- Based on ETC report from 2021 - updated with recent information from:
 - REACH Restriction dossier
 - OECD synthesis reports on Side-chain fluorinated polymers (2022), Perfluoropolyethers (2024) and Fluoropolymers (not yet published)
 - Scientific publications
- Provides a brief overview of the current knowledge as well as uncertainties and knowledge gaps

PFAS polymers: the importance of full lifecycle perspective

Production

- Potent greenhouse gasses and ozone depleting substances can be emitted in the production of PFAS polymers (e.g. HFC-23 and HCFC-22)
- Areas close to factories heavily polluted with e.g. PFOA and GenX

Use

- Washing of textiles – release to wastewater – application of sludge to agricultural soils – degradation of polymers to smaller and bioavailable PFAS compounds

End-of-life

- Consequences for recycling
- Incineration may lead to the formation of e.g. TFA
- Landfilling may be a source of PFAS pollution via slow degradation over time to smaller and bioavailable PFAS compounds

[PFAS polymers in focus: supporting Europe's zero pollution, low-carbon and circular economy ambitions | Publications | European Environment Agency \(EEA\)](#)

PFASs signals in the EEA Zero Pollution Dashboard

- **Risks of PFAS for human health in Europe**
- Publication update: May 2025
- [Risks of PFAS for human health in Europe \(Signal\) | Indicators and signals | European zero pollution dashboards \(EEA\)](#)

- **PFAS in European seas**
- Publication update: May 2025
- [PFAS in European seas \(Signal\) | Indicators and signals | European zero pollution dashboards \(EEA\)](#)

- **Treatment of drinking water to remove PFAS**
- Publication update: April 2025
- [Treatment of drinking water to remove PFAS \(Signal\) | Indicators and signals | European zero pollution dashboards \(EEA\)](#)

- **PFAS contamination and soil remediation**
- Publication update: March 2025
- [PFAS contamination and soil remediation \(Signal\) | Indicators and signals | European zero pollution dashboards \(EEA\)](#)

Upcoming EEA products

- **The polluter pays principle and environmental justice - briefing**
- Publication date: 2026.
- Based on case studies on PFAS pollution
- **PFASs other than PFOS in EU waters - signal**
- In progress



Thank you for your attention



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