

EUROPEAN SMALL BUSINESS ALLIANCE FOR FLUOROPOLYMERS

WHAT IS ESBAF?

Under a recently proposed REACH restriction of PFAS, **the EU is banning fluoropolymers** safely used in countless manufacturing processes for critical applications, such as hydrogen, semiconductors, or medical devices.

The proposed PFAS restriction allows for temporary derogations for strategic or critical end-uses but ignores their supply chains consisting of numerous European SMEs that are utilizing fluoropolymers.

While fluoropolymers have proven to be safe and are widely used in various industrial processes, the complex nature of supply chains has led to a lack of awareness among regulators regarding the potential threat this restriction poses for a large number of European SMEs.

Recognizing the significance of this issue, a coalition of European small businesses directly involved in the fluoropolymer supply chain has come together to form the European Small Business Alliance for Fluoropolymers (ESBAF).

ESBAF is uniquely positioned to leverage its collective understanding of the supply chain to ensure that the EU is aware of the consequences of its proposed actions and drafts a more proportionate PFAS restriction. Our membership represents the whole supply chain: compounders, manufacturers, distributors, and OEMs, all of them European SMEs.

OBJECTIVES

- **Unite European SMEs** safely using fluoropolymers to advocate for a balanced PFAS restriction.
- **Raise awareness** among EU decision-makers about the potential negative consequences of the proposed PFAS restriction on European SMEs along complex supply chains.
- **Submit input to the EU's public consultation** on the PFAS restriction to ensure that the voices of SMEs are considered.

THE EU PFAS RESTRICTION

On 7 February 2023, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) published the Annex XV REACH restriction report for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that has been prepared by 5 Competent Authorities from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden. The restriction dossier proposes a near-total ban on all PFAS substances, including fluoropolymers.

As the dossier does not consider the complexity of supply chains and the crucial role that fluoropolymers play in many manufacturing processes.

The restriction as it now stands would ban components necessary for ongoing chemical and manufacturing processes. Many small businesses in Europe would be forced to find sub-standard alternatives or to close; with a real perspective that entire industries could lose their competitiveness and innovation potential.

CONTACT US

If you are a European SME using fluoropolymers, consider joining our alliance to ensure that your voice is heard.

ESBAF is supported in Brussels by Dentons Global Advisors.

For more information:

ESBAF@dentonsglobaladvisors.com

