



KIMO and the North Sea Commission call for ambitious action against PFAS pollution in the marine environment

Waiting in anticipation

We, KIMO (Local Authorities International Environmental Organisation) and the CPMR North Sea Commission, henceforth referred to as NSC, are united in our efforts to preserve and enhance the marine environment in the North-East Atlantic, North Sea, Irish Sea and Baltic Sea. Together we represent 27 regions and 80 coastal municipalities across eleven countries (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, UK, Ireland, Faroe Islands, Germany, Belgium, France, and Lithuania).

We cannot risk the health of the marine environment, and the European Union has a responsibility to act. The revision of the REACH Regulation presents an important opportunity for the European Commission to pave the way for ambitious PFAS regulation within the European Economic Area and beyond.

1.



In order to enforce a comprehensive ban that demands action from industry, we urge the European Commission to be ambitious and ban the use of all PFAS Compounds and decide on a stepwise approach that sets a clear path moving forward.

2.



To address the limited and vastly different types of monitoring, we urge the European Commission to establish a common monitoring approach and facilitate systemic reporting. It is important that this systemic approach extend beyond a focus on drinking water and look at the presence and implications of PFAS in the marine environment while still allowing flexibility for local communities to monitor additional indicators of local relevance: KIMO and NSC urges the European Commission to establish a common monitoring approach and facilitate systematic reporting.

4.



We urge the European Commission to close the knowledge gaps by using its research call mechanisms to allocate funding to research that thoroughly examines the presence and implications of PFAS within and beyond the EU.

3.



We urge the European Commission to adequately address the burden on coastal communities by facilitating research that increases our understanding of the burden posed by PFAS to coastal communities and to take a 'polluter pays' approach, dedicating financial support to coastal communities struggling with this type of pollution.

PFAS

are a group of thousands synthetic chemicals which persistence in the environment and potential health risks have earned them the nickname "forever chemicals." Although two of the most well-known PFAS have been largely phased out in many countries newer PFAS compounds remain in use. PFAS are found everywhere in the marine environment and the implications of their presence to the marine ecosystem