EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS

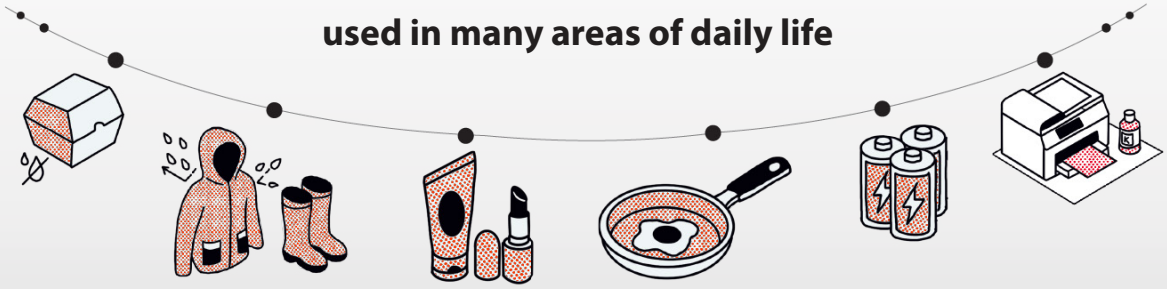
SPECIAL REPORT 31/2026
EU approach to forever chemicals (PFAS)

Key facts and findings

PFAS

"forever chemicals" which degrade extremely slowly over time

>1400
used in many areas of daily life



Harmful effects on human health and the environment

The EU was among the first to act, and committed itself to phasing out all non-essential uses of PFAS

What did we find?

- Complex and lengthy EU procedures are not fit to tackle the problem: many PFAS remain unregulated
- EU limits on PFAS in food and drinking water are not based on the most recent scientific data
- Many EU countries do not check compliance with PFAS restrictions

The EU is making slow progress in a race against time

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