

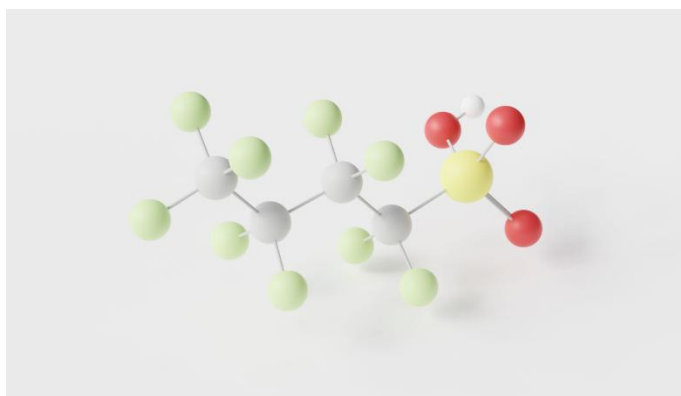
PFAS implementation questions sharpen for adhesive tapes sector

Afera continues to monitor evolving implications across the value chain

As ECHA's PFAS restriction process moves further towards implementation, new discussions around sector assessments and derogations are bringing the implications for the adhesive tapes value chain into sharper focus.

Europe's proposed restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under REACH continues to advance as regulators move from broad scientific assessment towards implementation and sector-specific assessment.

Following publication of the Committee for Risk Assessment's (RAC) final opinion and the Committee for Socio-economic Analysis' (SEAC) draft opinion earlier this year, Afera held a dedicated PFAS task force follow-up Meeting under its Regulatory Affairs Working Group (RAWG) on 30 April 2026 to assess what the latest developments could mean for the adhesive tapes value chain.



The discussion focused on how evolving sector assessments, implementation timelines and derogation frameworks may affect applications and manufacturing processes relevant to the industry. Afera Regulatory Affairs & Sustainability Manager Pablo Englebienne subsequently circulated a follow-up note to Members highlighting several practical concerns and encouraging action at company and value-chain level.

ECHA reinforces broad scope and emissions focus

Many of these themes were reinforced during ECHA's webinar, *PFAS restriction: ECHA Committees' opinions and next steps*, held on 7 May 2026.

During the webinar, ECHA reiterated support for the broad OECD definition of PFAS and stressed that PFAS emissions should be minimised because of their persistence and accumulation in the environment over time. The webinar also confirmed that

- fluoropolymers remain within scope
- additional sector assessments are still expected later in 2026
- derogations are expected to remain limited and evidence-based
- the process is continuing towards eventual European Commission and Member State decision-making.

For the adhesive tapes value chain, this reinforces the importance of understanding where PFAS may appear across products, processes and supply chains.

Attention shifts towards implementation and evidence

As discussions continue, increasing attention is being placed on the evidence needed to support potential derogations or transition periods. The SEAC draft opinion consultation remains open until 25 May 2026, with ECHA continuing to encourage stakeholders to provide technical, evidence-based information capable of substantiating sector-specific impacts and derogation needs. Additional sector-specific opinions expected later in 2026 may also shape how the restriction ultimately applies across different industrial applications and value chains.

Afera continues to support Members

PFAS remains one of the leading files under Afera's REACH watchlist. Through the RAWG and dedicated PFAS task force, the Association continues to monitor developments closely and support Members in understanding how evolving regulatory decisions may affect the adhesive tapes value chain. A more detailed Member brief — covering Afera's latest PFAS task force discussions, ECHA's newest assessments and the emerging implementation questions facing the sector — is available in the [Members-only section](#).

Further information

- [Rewatch ECHA webinar: PFAS restriction: ECHA Committees' opinions and next steps](#)
- [ECHA PFAS restriction information page](#)
