

Report

Tackling PFAS pollution: a pro-active and systemic approach

Date: 1.02.2024

Present: see annex 3

Moderator: Karen Van Campenhout (dOMG), Wim Gabriels (VMM)

Reporter: Maja Mampaey (dOMG), Griet Van Gestel (OVAM)

Subject: Innovative monitoring to reach a PFAS-free environment

1 MONITORING PFAS IN WATER, BIOTA AND AIR

Presentation by Maarten De Jonge – Flanders Environment Agency (VMM) – see annex 1

During the presentation, there was no possibility to ask some questions, speakers were available after the session, during the coffee break for clarifications or questions.

2 MONITORING PFAS IN SOIL AND GROUNDWATER

Presentation by Laetitia Six – OVAM – see annex 1

During the presentation, there was no possibility to ask some questions, speakers were available after the session, during the coffee break for clarifications or questions.

3 HUMAN BIOMONITORING TEENAGERS STUDY IN THE AREA OF 3M

Presentation by Maja Mampaey – Departement Omgeving – see annex 1

During the presentation, there was no possibility to ask some questions, speakers were available after the session, during the coffee break for clarifications or questions.

Question 4: If you could nominate one substance or substance group for future monitoring, which one would that be?

99 answers were received. Pesticides, endocrine disruptors and micro- and nanoplastics are most cited.



Question 5: What are the arguments for applying human biomonitoring complementary to environmental monitoring networks?

96 answers were received. Exposure assessment, risk evaluation and 'bringing pollution more personal' are mostly indicated.

Question 6: What message or comment would you like to give us as feedback on this session or recommendation for the future?

63 answers were received. Combining data, expand the monitoring network, engaging people and strengthen collaboration are some of the interesting answers.

6 KEY MESSAGE

The last 3 years Flanders has performed intensive monitoring activities in the different environmental matrices (water (surface, ground, drinking), (indoor) air, soil, self grown food, ...), focussing on hot spots and a more general (background) monitoring. Combining environmental monitoring with Human Biomonitoring proved to be an efficient tool to identify human uptake routes of PFAS allowing to take effective preventive health measures. A close collaboration between all involved departments and agencies was the key factor. Also on an European scale, an Intensive collaboration is indispensable to further develop and align the different monitoring activities as a basis for concrete policy actions. PARC plays a key role and will set the tone for a sustainable and state-of-the-art environmental and human monitoring programme. Pesticides, microplastics and endocrine disruptors as a whole should be the focus and new analytical techniques like non-target screening will help to address the diverse policy needs.

Annex 1 - Presentations

- Flanders Environment Agency (VMM) - Maarten De Jonge: Monitoring PFAS in air, water and biota
- Public Waste Agency Flanders (OVAM) - Laetitia Six: Monitoring PFAS in soil
- Environment & Spatial Development Department - Flanders, Belgium - Maja Mampaey: Human biomonitoring in the region around 3M – Zwijndrecht, Belgium
- Ineris France - Valeria Dulio: European PFAS baseline in PARC (Partnership for the Assessment of the Risks for Chemicals - Horizon Europe)

Annex 2 – Report on Slido session

Annex 3 – List of participants

PARTICIPANTS INNOVATIVE MONITORING (156)

Flemish Government (Departement Omgeving, Departement Zorg, OVAM, Kabinet minister Demir, Departement Mobiliteit en Openbare Werken - afdeling Maritieme Toegang, Department for Business and Trade) - 3M Belgium bvba – ABO – AECOM – Agoria - Allnex Belgium – APPLiA - Aquafin NV - ARCHE Consulting – Arkema - Atlas Copco – ATMOSphere - BASF Antwerpen - BAYER AGRICULTURE BV - Belgische Baksteenfederatie - bioMérieux SA - BK-Ecosys - Bond Beter Leefmilieu – CEBEDEAU - CHEM Trust – Chemours – Chemviron - COMMON FORUM on Contaminated Land in Europe – CONDR - Cornet & Renard – daa - Dancet Company BV - De Tijd – Deloitte - Environment Agency Austria – ERM – Essenscia - ESVM for ACEA - European Commission – ExxonMobil - FOD Volksgezondheid en Leefmilieu - German Environment Agency - Growth Inc. - iFLUX – Imec – Indaver - Industrious Law – Ineris – Injectis – InOpSys - Joint Research Centre (European Commission, JRC Geel) - KoBae Trading & Consulting – CommV – KULeuven - Liedekerke Wolters Waelbroeck Kirkpatrick - Materia Nova - Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management - MSD Animal Health – OECD - Panasonic Europe – Ramboll - RCS Environmental Solutions – Renewi - Rudy Dams Consulting – Salesforce - SARPI Remediation nv – Sciensano - Sodecon NV - SPAQUE SA - Svenskt Vatten - Tauw België nv - Tectero BV – TotalEnergies - Platform Antwerp - Tractebel Engineering - University of Antwerp - Veolia nv/sa - VITO – VIVAQUA - Voka - Kamer van Koophandel Antwerpen-Waasland - water-link - Witteveen+Bos Belgium nv - Zwijndrecht Gezond