

“Efficient, and widespread” action needed against PFAS

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In European waterways, TFA (a ‘forever chemical’) concentrations have risen fivefold since the 1990s. As TFA are dangerous to both public health, being both carcinogenic and harmful to reproductive health, and the environment, swift action is needed. In light of recent developments, Daryl McCloskey, Solutions Consultant from EcoOnline, has shared his comments.

“According to peer-reviewed studies from EPA and CEPA, PFAS (per-and poly fluoroalkyl substances) are carcinogenic and harmful to reproductive health. With an increasing presence of trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), the most common type of PFAS in European drinking water, being discovered in human blood and breast milk, and an average of 110 micrograms per litre found in wine, it’s evident that current efforts to curb the spread of PFAS don’t go far enough.

“Posing a danger to both the population and eco-systems across Europe, the rising levels of TFA necessitate swift action from regulators. Without it, growing levels of the substance will permeate the entire ecosystem for decades without breaking down.

“Looking ahead, it is imperative that all parties seek to drive efficient, and widespread, action against PFAS. For regulators, banning TFA emissions, phasing out PFAS-based pesticides, and holding polluters accountable will be crucial first steps to a more comprehensive approach. For businesses, the most favourable approach can be quickly summarised; identify, minimise, monitor. Proactive solutions are needed to conduct risk assessments, identify products within the workplace that contain PFAS, minimise exposure by putting control measures in place, substitute harmful substances where possible, and monitor methods of disposal to reduce harm to the environment. By adopting such measures, businesses can protect both their employees and the planet while ensuring compliance with increasingly stringent



regulations."