

Für Mensch & Umwelt

Umwelt
Bundesamt 

„PFAS in soil – forever pollution, forever concern?“ on 25 – 26 March 2025 in Berlin

PFAS in soil and the broader perspective of chemicals regulation

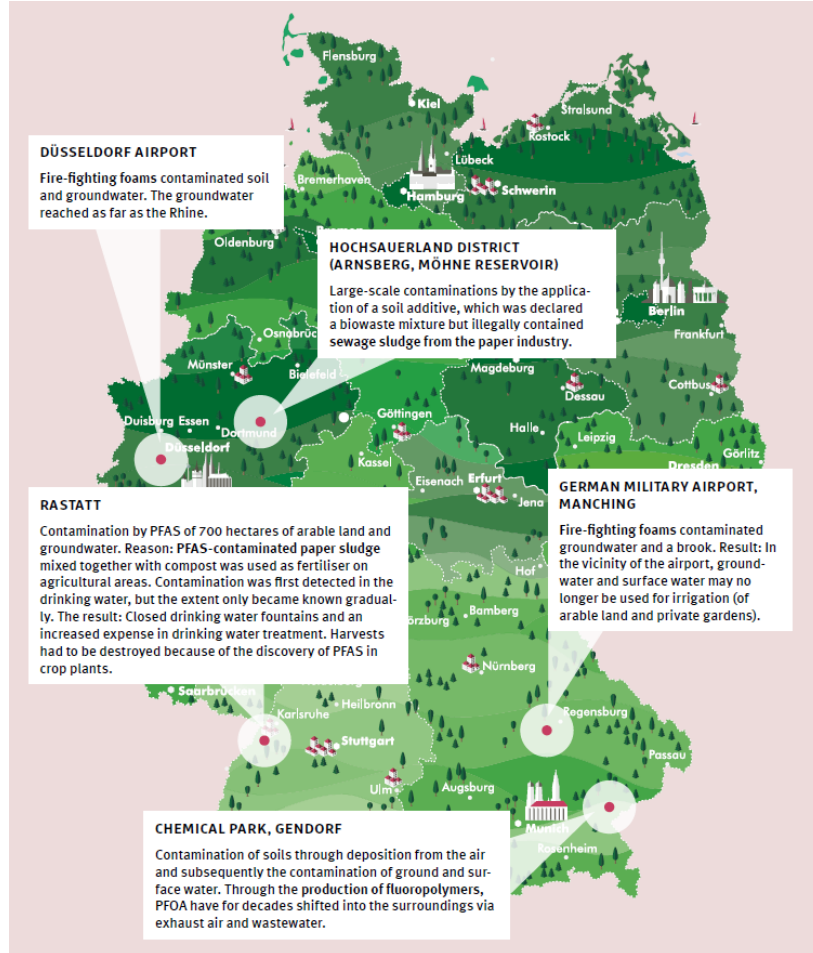
Dirk Messner
President of the German Environment Agency



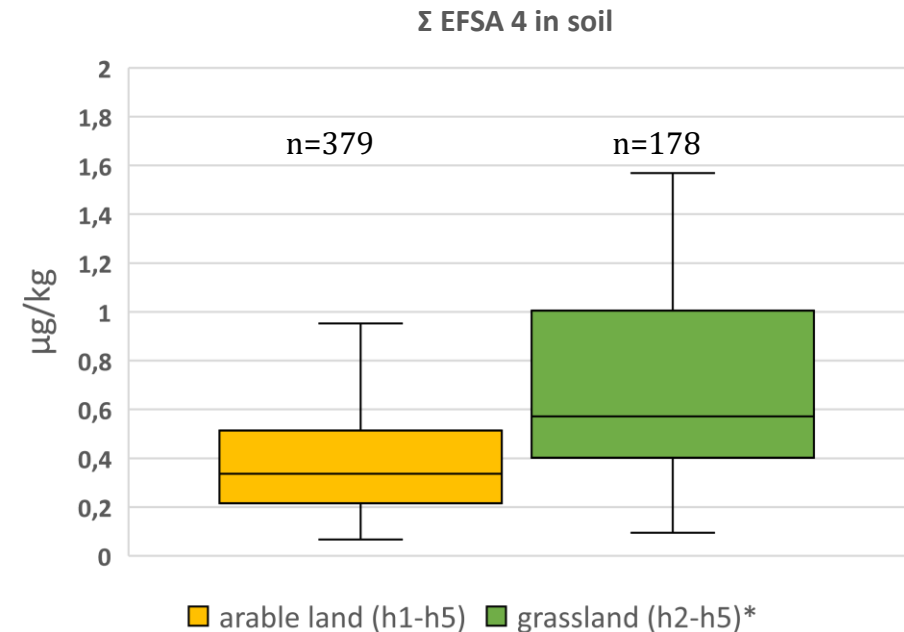
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PFAS in soil – Hotspots and ubiquitous background concentration

Examples of contaminated sites (hotspots)

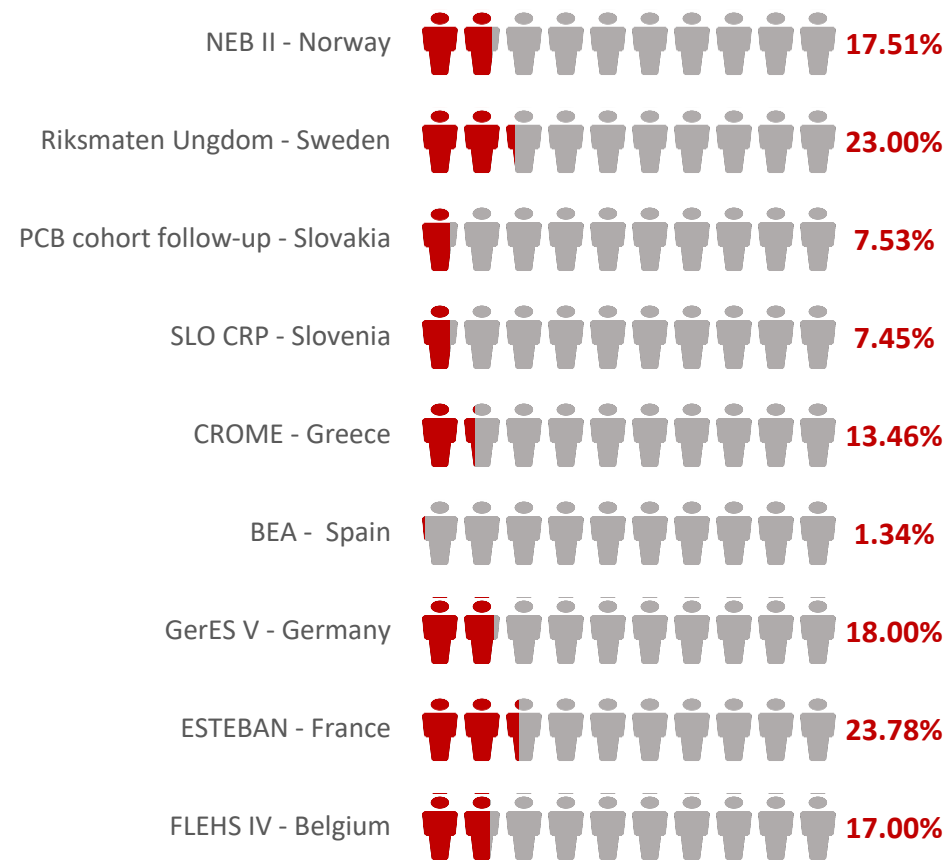


Background concentration



(Results of an UBA research project)

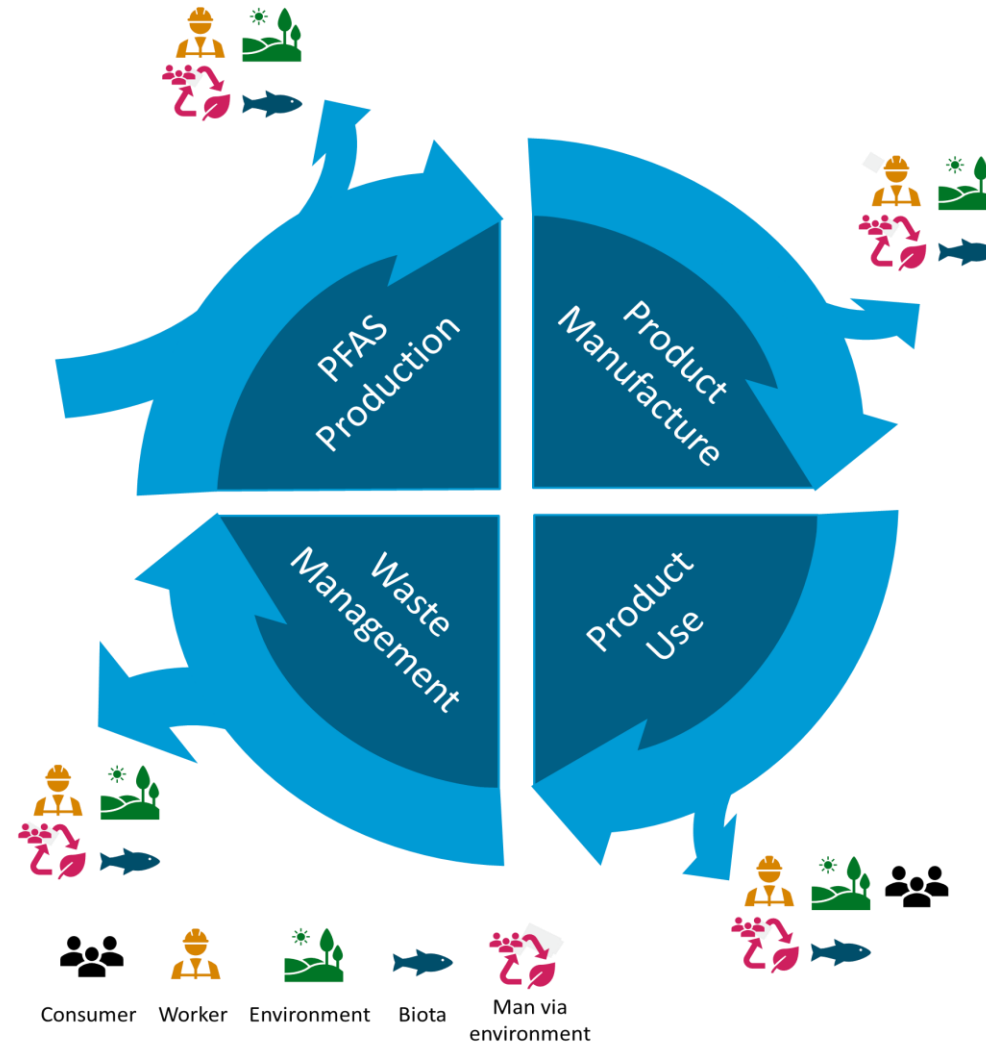
European teenagers have PFAS in their blood



Results of a European wide human biomonitoring study (HBM4EU)

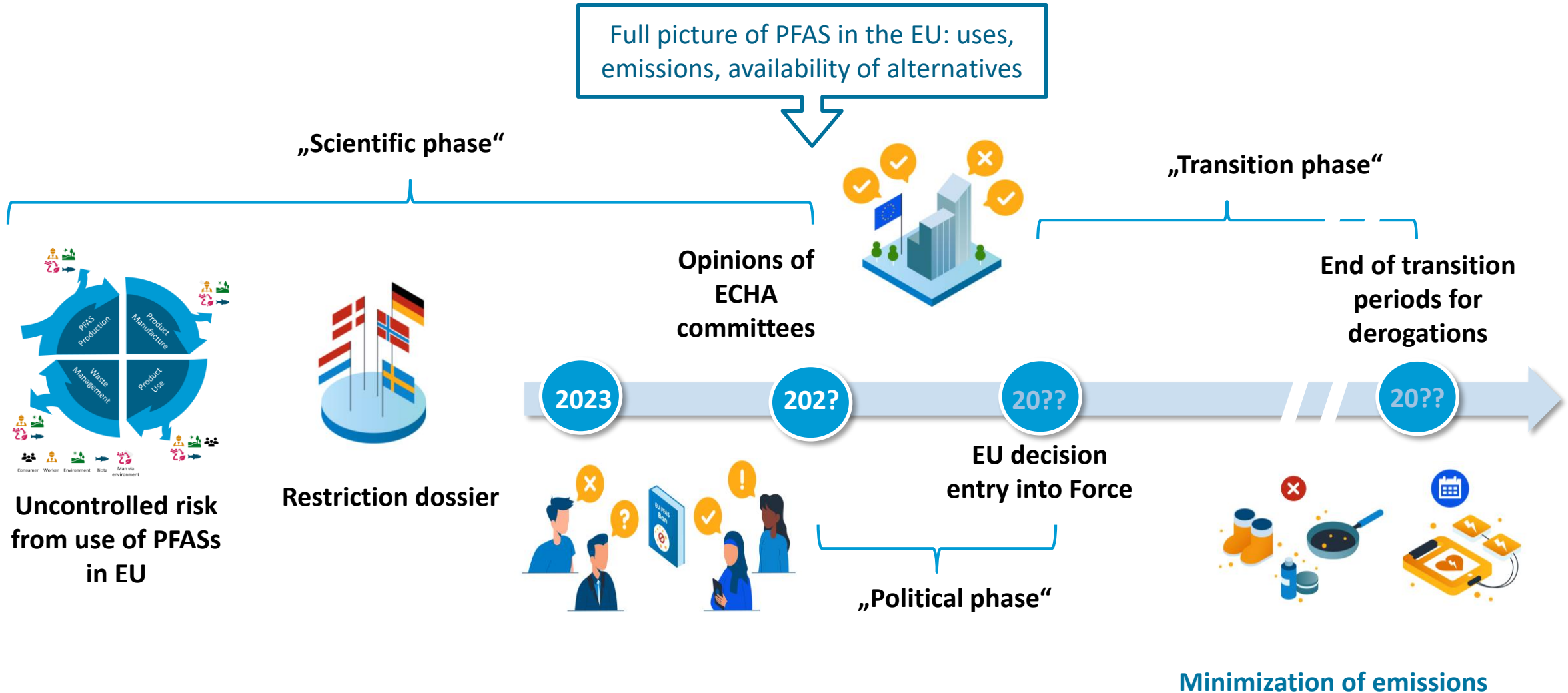
For 1-24 % of the European teenagers, the blood levels are too high for the sum of four PFAS according to threshold values derived by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

PFAS emissions along all phases of the life cycle



European Commission (2020): Commission staff working document – Poly and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
SWD(2020) 249 final. eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020SC0249

PFAS restriction process under the European Chemicals Regulation REACH



Transition in a multilayered approach

1. Decontamination of the environment
2. Minimize emissions
3. **Prevent emissions**
 - a. Substitution ongoing
 - b. Alternatives known but not yet ready for direct use
 - c. currently no alternatives known – structural changes needed including research and development



Source: ChatGPT

Thank you very much for your attention

Dirk Messner

President of the German Environment Agency



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