

# EU Member States Initiative Group on PFAS

Road map on PFAS research and regulatory needs

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# EU MS Initiative Group on PFAS

- Objectives
  - To exchange information, identify data gaps & stimulate a community to work on those.
  - To avoid duplication of work with existing platforms/data exchanges/assessments.
- Organisation
  - Steering board (SB), for sharing science to policy concerns
  - Risk assessors team (RAT), for in depth sharing of and discussing scientific themes
- Role EFSA
  - TMA granted by EFSA
  - Hosting platform
  - Participant

# EU MS Initiative on PFAS: timeline



## Background

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): group of **synthetic chemicals** used as components in a wide range of industrial applications and consumer products (enhanced water-resistant properties)
- **Persistence and widespread use:** found in the environment. **Residues** detected in humans and in wildlife, prompting concern about **impacts on health**
- Beginning of the 21st century: **environmental** impact and **toxicity** to human and mammalian life studied in depth
- PFAS commonly described as **persistent organic pollutants** or "**forever chemicals**" because they remain in the environment for long periods of time
- PFAS: **issue of high and growing concern** for risk managers, risk assessors and general public worldwide

Discussions  
during the 86<sup>th</sup>  
AF meeting  
December  
2022

Initiative  
group on PFAS  
launched:  
meetings in  
July and  
September  
2023

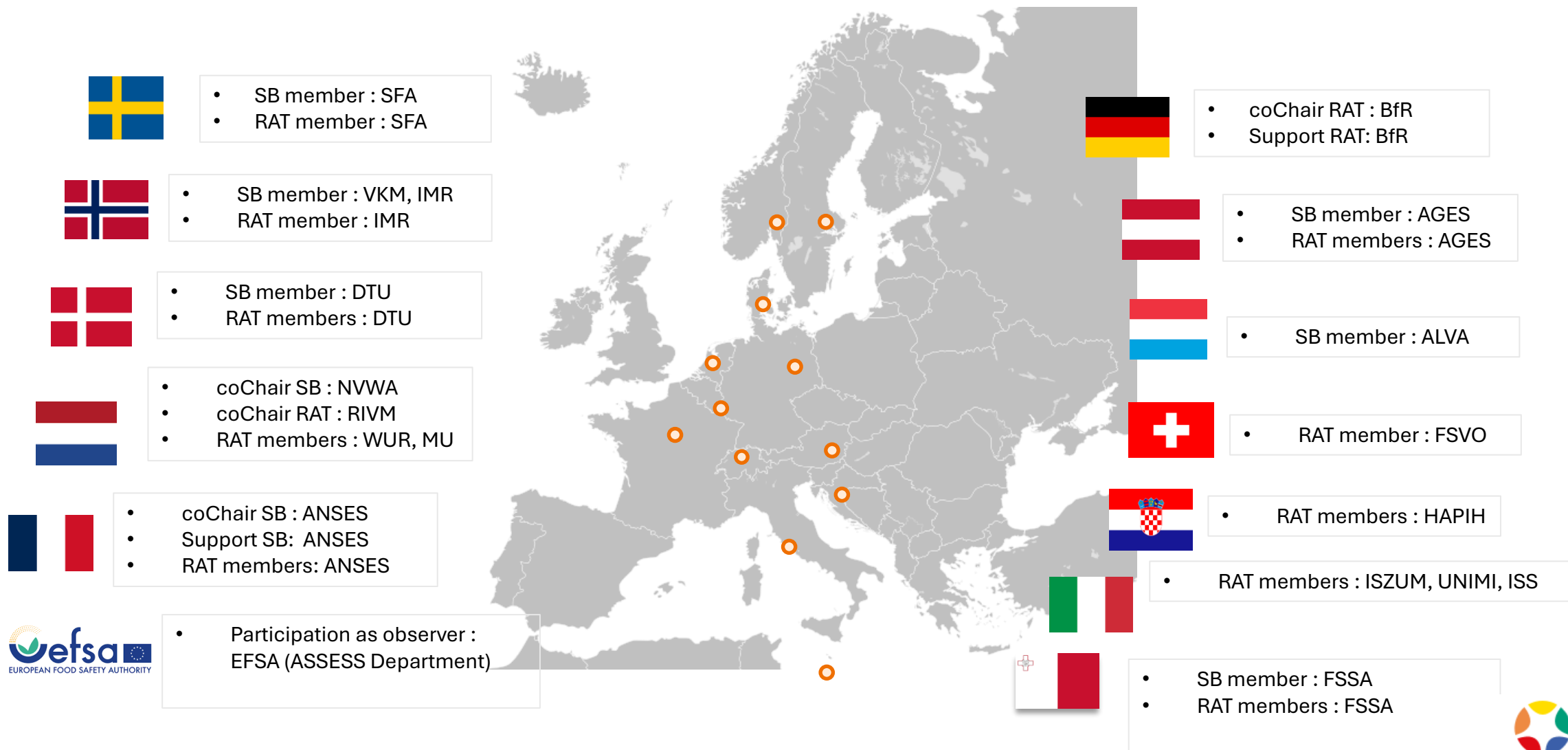
Organisation  
of the  
discussion  
groups, set-up  
of Terms of  
Reference  
2024

Discussions  
during the 87<sup>th</sup>  
AF meeting  
March 2023

Kick-off  
meeting of  
risk  
assessment  
experts  
January 2024

Regular meetings of  
Steering Board and  
Risk Assessors  
TEAM, Activity  
report 2024-2025

# PFAS initiative : the project's participating countries



# EU MS Initiative on PFAS: cooperation and avoiding duplication of work

- Ties strengthened
  - Example: AT and CH working closely together on toxicology of PFAS beyond EFSA-4
- Avoiding duplication of work
  - Example: Advance notice of Transfer studies on cows in NL allows DE to concentrate on other species

# EU MS Initiative on PFAS:

## Road map on PFAS research and regulatory needs

### Summary main regulatory needs

- Expand scope of PFAS beyond EFSA-4
- Analytical methods needs for broader groups of PFAS in various matrices
- Monitoring needs of PFAS in food, feed, water, air, and soil as well as in hot spots and human biomonitoring (blood).
- Environmental sources and fate
- Toxicology: intake, ADME, transfer, reference values (human health guidelines), NAM's, grouping assessment
- Risk assessment expertise, methodology and experiences
- Risk communication
- Risk mitigation and risk management
- (Continued) International cooperation
- (Continued) Repository, including continuously updated oversight of research programs and projects
- (Other) Regulatory needs

# EU MS Initiative on PFAS: requests

- Requests to Member States
  - Continue participating in the SB and / or RAT
  - More MS are encouraged to join
  - Coordinate regulatory needs at a national level and provide feedback to the Initiative Group
- Requests to EFSA
  - Continue hosting the platform for exchange of information on PFAS
  - Keep this item on the AF agenda at regular intervals
  - Where possible, facilitate liaisons with 'Brussels, other European agencies or global organisations
  - Where appropriate, provide financial support for research on PFAS