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Fluoropolymers Recognised: FPG's Statement on ECHA's Updated PFAS Background Document

With the recent publication of the updated PFAS Background Document by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA), the Fluoropolymers Product Group (FPG) recognises the efforts made by the dossier submitters in reviewing and integrating new data and evidence from the public consultation. FPG also welcomes the further recognition of the significant socio-economic benefits of fluoropolymers.

In their document, the authorities are proposing extensive derogations for the manufacturing of fluoropolymers, providing operations are under controlled conditions. This approach reflects the voluntary manufacturing programme set forward by the FPG. These developments are an encouraging step in recognising the critical role of fluoropolymers to enable a wide variety of products of high societal value, vital for achieving key European policy objectives and strategies – particularly those aiming for the sustainable transition of the EU economy.

Nonetheless, recognising the strategic importance of these materials and the fact that they can be responsibly managed across their lifecycle, FPG remains convinced that fluoropolymers should be afforded a full exemption from the restriction, based on the weight of scientific evidence.

The updated Background Document was prepared by regulatory authorities from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden, and may be further amended as ECHA committee reviews continue. The publication of the Background Document is an important step in ensuring transparency in the process.

We remain committed to supporting the ECHA process in the coming months by providing scientific evidence and data to inform decision-making.

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About Fluoropolymers Product Group (FPG):

The FPG is part of Plastics Europe, the industry association representing European polymer producers. It operates in accordance with the Plastics Europe governance rules, including Competition Compliance Rules. Plastics Europe covers the EU, plus UK, Norway, Turkey and Switzerland.

About Fluoropolymers:

Fluoropolymers are advanced materials that provide unmatched durability, chemical and thermal resistance, and stability in extreme environments. Their unique set of properties makes them essential in many industries, from healthcare and renewable energy to transportation, aerospace and semiconductors.