

EU DROPPING HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL BAN

Leaked documents show the European Commission is considering prohibiting just 1% of products containing hazardous chemicals.



In 2020 the European Commission made a pledge to ban the most harmful chemicals in consumer products, allowing their use only when essential.

The ban was expected to affect between 7000 and 12,000 harmful substances, which would prohibit them from being used in all saleable products.

Some of the notable substances that would be included in the ban include many per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These accumulate in the environment as well as human bodies, and have been linked to a number of hormonal, reproductive and carcinogenic illnesses.

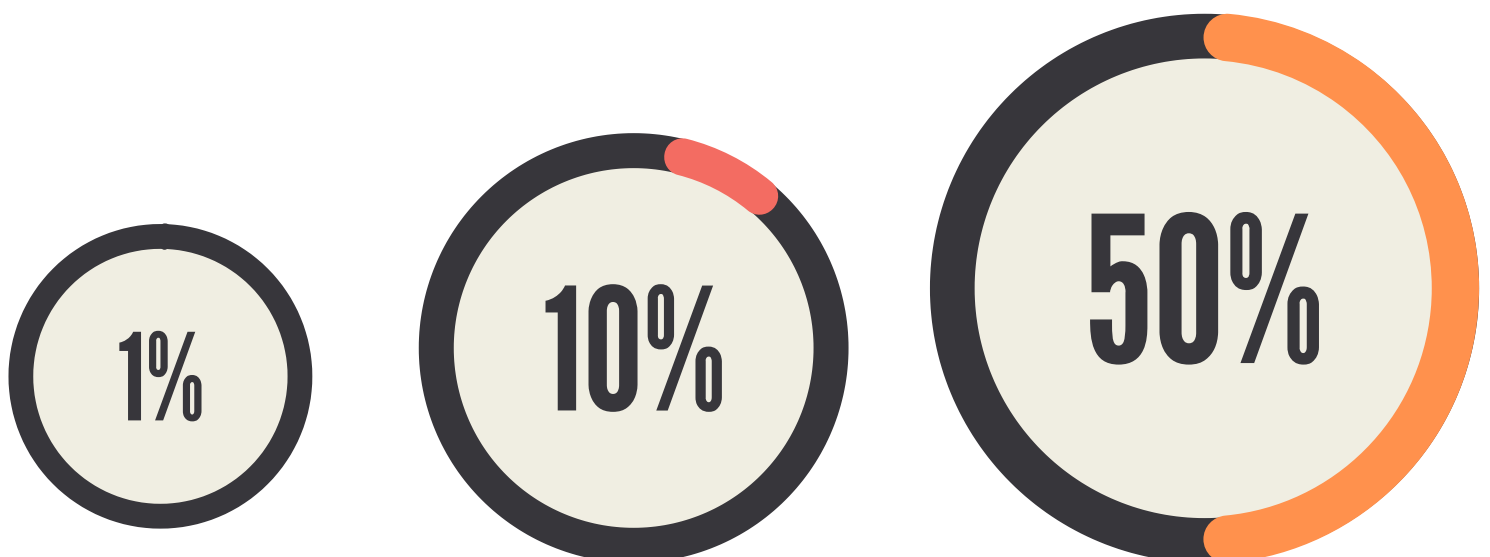
However, fast forward to 2023 and the European Commission is positioned to break their promise to outlaw all of Europe's non-essential hazardous chemicals.

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A Leaked legislative document reported on by The Guardian shows that the European Commission are considering three different options in regards to the ban.

The options are to restrict either 1%, 10% or 50% of the products on the market containing hazardous chemicals.

An EU Executive indicated that the European Commission's decision to ease on the promise made in 2020, is a result of heavy pressure from right-wing political parties and Europe's Chemical Industry, who hold the perspective that companies already suffer a lot due to current regulations on chemicals.



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In regards to the effects that can be expected if a chemicals ban were to be implemented, a draft analysis estimated that health savings would outweigh the cost to the industry by a factor of 10.

Reduced payments for treating illnesses such as cancer and obesity would amount to between £9.4bn and £26.5bn a year.

However, adjustment costs to businesses would be in the range of €0.9bn-€2.7bn a year.

