Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) - "the big picture"

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Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are a large family of over 3,000 chemicals that have been used in numerous industrial and consumer applications since the 1940s. Due to their high persistence, bioaccumulation potential and toxicity, considerable efforts have been made over the past decade to understand and limit the environmental and human exposure to the so-called "long-chain" PFASs, in particular perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their major precursors. However, there are still many other PFASs on the global market that are structurally similar to the long-chain compounds, including overlooked legacy compounds and novel alternative substances developed to replace long-chain PFASs. Many of these are still largely non-assessed and unregulated, although scientific knowledge regarding some of them has started to emerge.

This Satellite Event aims to bring together scientists from different disciplines, regulators and industry representatives to present and discuss the "big picture" of emerging and novel PFASs in light of available scientific knowledge regarding them and lessons learned from the long-chain PFASs. In particular, the Event intends to analyze and identify [i] which emerging and novel PFASs are relevant for future actions and [ii] which scientific knowledge should be targeted and prioritized. The session hopes to attract active students, researchers, regulators and industry representatives that are interested in exploring beyond our current knowledge and moving towards a sustainable future.