



EFCTC NEWSLETTER

An update on fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride

ISSUE 17 – October 2004

POLITICAL AGREEMENT REACHED BY MEMBER STATES ON PROPOSAL TO CONTROL AND MONITOR GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

14 October 2004

EFCTC, the European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee, the organisation that represents the fluorocarbon producers in Europe, welcomes the decision by the Environment Council of the EU today to reach a political agreement on the proposal for an EU regulation on fluorinated gases.

"We are pleased that the Council solved the difficult issues of legal base and the list use restrictions", stated Dr Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, "but we are concerned that the Council agreed to phase out the use of HFC-134a in mobile air-conditioning systems, when alternatives are still in the development phase and no mass-produced commercial system, that provides demonstrable economic, safety and environmental benefits is yet available."

See [EFCTC Press release](#)

FLUOROCARBONS AND THE RATIFICATION OF THE KYOTO PROTOCOL

With the Russian Government announcing that it will ratify the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, sending the accord to the Duma for final approval, the entry in force of the Protocol becomes a next reality. The entry in force makes the Protocol's provisions binding for the ratifying Parties.

On the EU level, the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP) has already undertaken extensive analysis of how to meet EU future obligations under the Protocol. This has resulted, in the case of Fluorocarbons, in the Draft Regulation on fluorinated gases. The Draft passed the EU Parliament First Reading, and was recently discussed at the Council level. It will be then presented for the EU Parliament Second Reading.

It is vital that Member State representatives and EU Parliamentarians understand the positive impacts that HFCs have in improving energy efficiency and in combating climate change, when used responsibly.

ART AND CHEMISTRY, A CEFIC EXHIBITION AT THE EU PARLIAMENT

CEFIC is presenting at the EU Parliament, from October 11 to 15, the Exhibition "Art and Chemistry" on the role of chemical processes and products in restoring and safeguarding the world's cultural heritage.

To unsubscribe: vno@cefic.be

For further information about EFCTC: Valentina Bertato: vbe@cefic.be

Cefic/EFCTC – Avenue E Van Nieuwenhuyse 4, Box 2 – 1160 Brussels

Tel : 32 2 676 72 40 – Fax : 32 2 676 72 41



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One of the themes, *Saveguarding our written heritage* ("Saving the word") will illustrate the deacidification process using HFC for the preservation of precious ancient books (see also [EFCTC Special Uses for Fluorocarbons](#)).

More information on [CEFIC website](#)

PROCESS COOLING AT THE BMW MOTORS PRODUCTION PLANT (Steyr, Austria)

The company BMW Motoren GmbH exists in Steyr, Austria, since 1979. It is today the largest motor facility in the BMW Group, producing yearly around 600.000 motors in workshops having a surface of 170 000 sq m.

The installed machinery requires of course important quantities of cold water, to be obtained by refrigeration. In Steyr, 4 units based on R134a were installed, with a total capacity of 11 000 kW.

COMBINED DISTRICT HEATING AND COOLING (Stockholm, Sweden)

To replace small privately owned heat pumps, the City of Stockholm has invested in a combined district heating and cooling system, delivering heat and cold to private households. A significant advantage of this solution is to improve the system global efficiency, as, firstly, part of the cooling is provided by seawater, and, secondly, the coupling of cooling and heating allows to recover heat from the cooling system condensers and to inject it in the heating circuit.

Of course, replacing many small heat pumps by a central one implies to install large heat pumps, for which technical and safety criteria are decisive criteria. The selection of R134a as refrigerant, demonstrates the implication of Fluorocarbons in sustainability. They contribute here to save energy, as local units would use twice as much power as the centrally optimized system.

For the Stockholm project, three R 134a units were installed, delivering each up to 12 000 kW cooling capacity.

Source: Wärmepumpe aktuell – 3/2000

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NEW ON OUR SITE

[Press room](#)

EFCTC Press Release: "Political agreement reached by Member States on proposal to control and monitor fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions: an important step for industry and the environment"

EPEE Press Release: "Users of the fluorinated gases welcome political agreement reached by Member States on proposal to control and monitor greenhouse gas emissions"