

Commission F-gas review report: EFCTC believes that a market-based phase-down approach is the most appropriate way to reduce emissions

Brussels, 27 September 2011: The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC)

The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) welcomes the report from the European Commission on *“the application, effects and adequacy of the Regulation on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (Regulation (EC) No 842/2006).”*

Given the short time the Regulation has been in force, it has made a good first step in controlling emissions of the fluorinated greenhouse gases that are used for many important societal needs such as refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat pumps, foam insulation and medical aerosols. Clearly a number of shortcomings have been identified and must be addressed in the forthcoming review.

In order to achieve the overall EU objective to cut emissions of all greenhouse gases by 80-95% by 2050, it is clear that further reducing emissions of fluorinated gases will play a role. EFCTC believes that the introduction of a phase-down in GWP-weighted quantities of fluorinated gases placed on the market will enable those industries relying on fluorinated gases to manage the transition to new products and technologies.

“The Commission report is a step in the right direction.” said Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, “Many applications use HFCs as they provide energy efficiency and safety benefits over other alternatives and it is important that these industries which have made the costly transition away from using CFCs and HCFCs are given both the certainty and time to adapt their technologies to reduce emissions whilst not losing the benefits of using these gases.”

The extensive assessment prepared by Öko-Recherche consultants for the Commission provides a detailed overview of the variety of applications where F-gases are used. EFCTC will critically review the assumptions and the ensuing results during the stakeholder consultation period.

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He further noted that, “a market-based phase-down is, therefore, a much better way of managing this transition than outright bans on use and marketing prohibitions. EFCTC looks forward to working with the Commission during its stakeholder consultation on this issue.”

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