



The European parliament's environment committee adopted its opinion on draft EU controls on climate-altering fluorinated gases (F-gases) on Tuesday

EFCTC¹ (Brussels), 17 March 2004. “The Environmental committee has retained the Commission's emphasis on F-gas containment regarding stationary air conditioning, refrigeration and foams applications” underlined Nick Campbell, chairman of EFCTC.

However, EFCTC regrets the decision of the Environment Committee to dictate the choice of technology in mobile air-conditioning (MAC), effectively seeking to force the introduction of CO₂ systems which are far from being ready today.

The ban of HFCs with GWP > 50 in MAC for new vehicle types from 1 January 2014 excludes any choice and flexibility like enhanced HFC 134a systems which could offer an equivalent total environmental performance in MAC.

As far as the ban of fluorinated gases in ready-to-plug refrigerating and freezing equipment, is concerned, EFCTC considers this to be unhelpful technically and environmentally, and the ban may not be compatible with safety standards for larger refrigerant charges. Some of the systems that would be banned are used for a wide range of medical storage applications such as vaccine coolers, egg storage with extremely low refrigerant leakage and this would undermine reliability and performance of these critical applications.

EFCTC is also concerned about the decision to base the future regulation equally on the EU treaty's internal market and environment articles. This could lead to market distortions as some member states might impose stricter controls than others.

Eventually it is important to underline once more that the key driver for such important regulatory decisions should be based on the global environmental performance of the applications rather than on the intrinsic but misleading properties of HFCs. It is in this perspective that EFCTC strongly recommends that the regulation allows to adopt the most energy efficient, safe and technically effective means to control the climate impact of the many applications involved and often essential to our daily life.

For more information, contact:

Nick Campbell

Chairman EFCTC

nick.campbell@atofina.com

Véronique Garny

CEFIC

vga@cefic.be

You can also visit the website: www.fluorocarbons.org

¹ EFCTC, the European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee, represents European producers of fluorinated gases. For more information, go to the website: www.fluorocarbons.org