



PRESS RELEASE

Agreement on F-Gas Regulation: a clear message in support of refrigerant choice, energy efficiency and containment to reduce emissions of fluorinated gases

Brussels, 1st February 2006: On the 31st January an agreement was reached at the first conciliation meeting between Parliament and Council on a Regulation on Fluorinated Gases (F-Gas Regulation) intended to strengthen actions to protect the climate and the environment. EFCTC commends the Parliament and the Council of Ministers for achieving a workable compromise that strengthens actions to protect the climate and the environment. The agreement sends a clear message in support of refrigerant choice, the importance of energy efficiency and a system of containment to reduce emissions of fluorinated gases (f-gases) across Europe.

By focusing on containment, monitoring and controlling emission of f-gases the Regulation supports the need for the continued use of HFCs in applications, across Europe, including refrigeration, stationary air conditioning and thermal insulation.

“This is a positive result for the environment and all users of well maintained refrigeration and air-conditioning systems,” said Nick Campbell, EFCTC Chairman. *“The Regulation sets a high level of environmental protection across Europe and at the same time recognises the importance of keeping the harmonized rules of the internal market, for products and equipment that contain f-gases”.*

“Industry will continue to deliver progress on containment of all fluorinated gases. The opportunity exists to demonstrate real and effective emission reduction across all applications that rely on innovative equipment using these energy efficient gases,” added Campbell. *“Businesses, that use f-gases are increasingly focused on reduced leakage, improved system design, improved efficiency and recovery and recycle at end of life”.*

EFCTC believes that HFCs should continue to have a part to play in delivering energy efficient equipment in all Member States, however, it was expected that certain countries would reject harmonization across the EU internal market for this regulation and would seek to maintain national Regulations. It is not yet clear what impact the outcome of the conciliation will have on the infringement procedures against the national bans on f-gases imposed by Austria and Denmark.

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For more information, contact:

Nick Campbell
Chairman EFCTC
Tel. + 33 1 49008476
nick.campbell@arkemagroup.com

Véronique Garny
CEFIC
vga@cefic.be

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