



JOINT ACTION ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND OPERATING PERFORMANCE NEEDED FOR SUSTAINABLE REFRIGERATION

Brussels, 3 October 2006: The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) and the European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee (EFCTC) hosted a half day conference entitled *“Keeping Cool: Sustainability and energy efficiency in refrigeration and air conditioning.”*

Currently 15% of the world’s electricity is used to drive refrigeration and air conditioning. All participants to the event agreed that inefficient use of energy is a waste of a valuable resource and most of the global warming effect of such systems comes from generating the energy to drive them. The conference brought together a range of stakeholders who manufacture, use, install and specify refrigeration and air conditioning systems and appliances.

In the first keynote speech, Klaus Toepfer, Former Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme stated that: *“From an environmental and economic perspective, increasing energy efficiency is as important as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Cooperation between Europe and other parts of the world in this respect is crucial.”*

In the second keynote speech, Terry Wyatt, Consultant at Hoare Lea consulting engineers introduced the concept of ‘*Low Carbon Cooling.*’ based on four concepts: 1) minimising demand; 2) design of energy efficient systems and equipment; 3) proper installation and commissioning; and 4) ensuring effective operation monitoring of actual performance.

Professor Wyatt stated *“Only once these foundations are secure can the use of renewable energy be applied in the sector to move towards an objective of zero carbon cooling.”*

The conference’s panels addressed two key aspects: the global efficiency of refrigeration and air conditioning systems and their operational efficiency:

Sustainable Markets for energy efficiency - A challenge? The first panel touched on issues such as system/equipment design for energy efficiency, the concept of eco-efficiency, marketing and sales of energy efficiency equipment and the need for educational/awareness campaigns for consumers. The proposed concept of eco-efficiency - shifting the focus from a purely refrigerant approach to a system performance approach over its lifetime - showed the importance of total energy demand.

Sustainable Operation –Good for the planet and your wallet This panel focused on the use and running of such equipment over its lifetime looking at the role of installation, repair and maintenance of equipment and the appropriate training of technicians to carry out this work as well as ensuring a responsible approach at the end of life. Within such a frame, it appears that the responsible-use of refrigerants, such as HFCs, is one sustainable option. This was taken into account in the recent EU Regulation on F-gases, in application since July 2006 which is scheduled to be reviewed in four years time.



This conference was held ahead of the publication of the EU Energy Efficiency Action Plan, which, a European Commission representative at the event stated, will include ‘*dynamic energy performance requirements for energy-using products, buildings and services.*’

Closing the conference the EPEE Chairman Wolfgang Sandkoetter recalled that heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration systems and applications are much used in day-to-day life. These products provide many advantages, like food preservation and safety, and provide comfort, productivity, health and safety benefits.

“I welcome, he concluded, the opportunity this event offered stakeholders to focus, for the first time, on the importance of combining energy efficiency, system performance and refrigerant choice. The development of environmentally sustainable products is a moral and economic responsibility.”

For further information on the event, please contact:

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Notes to the Editor:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) is a group of businesses involved in the development and manufacture of equipment which relies on HFCs as a refrigerant in cooling, heating and air conditioning applications where energy efficiency and safety are important. It represents a broad-based group of responsible companies, national associations and European associations active in the European air-conditioning, heat-pump and refrigeration industry. Further information can be found on-line at www.epeeglobal.org.

The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) that represents the producers of fluorocarbons in the EU and the European Chemical Industry Council (CEFIC) working party on Climate Change. Further information can be found on-line at: www.fluorocarbons.com
