



EFCTC Press Release

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EFCTC POSITION ON THE DRAFT REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL ON FLUORINATED GASES

The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC), a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council, CEFIC), is disappointed with the draft report of the rapporteur on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on fluorinated greenhouse gases.

At the recent F-Gas hearings in the European Parliament, organised by the rapporteur, Bas Eickhout, many expressed that, whilst alternatives existed for many of the various uses of HFCs in refrigeration, air-conditioning, foam insulation, solvents and technical aerosols, many of these alternatives were toxic or flammable or lacked the energy efficiency. Moreover, a number were in early stages of technical development. Concerns were expressed over the time needed for these to become both technically and commercially available as well as over their use in the different climatic regions in Europe.

“This report is disappointing in that it introduces further unnecessary bans as well as well accelerating the proposed bans” said Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, *“Bans in the use of HFCs are not necessary as emissions are strongly managed under the “proposed “cap and phase-down. We also believe that the report focuses too much on the Global Warming Potential and too little on the material Global Warming Impact”*.

“Furthermore,” he added, *“the proposal introduces taxation on HFCs hitting hard industries that have just invested huge sums to phase out CFCs and HCFCs. This idea clearly goes against promoting economic growth to enable a recovery from the current economic crisis and could reduce investments in research and development to both innovate and develop the next generation of alternatives to HFCs. The*

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proposed tax levels could also result in possible undesirable side effects such as theft from installations in the field, illegal imports and harmful misrepresentation through labelling etc."

The tax proposal also would encourage a shift to less energy efficient solutions with the current carbon prices at € 5/T CO₂. EFCTC sees greater benefits in the mandatory deposit scheme as proposed by the Rapporteur, as there is already positive experience of deposit schemes in some Member States. Deposits will encourage recovery and re-use. "In that sense, the rapporteur is inconsistent", added Dr. Campbell.

In response to the Rapporteur's proposed amendment on emission reduction at production sites, EFCTC notes that these emissions are already regulated under the EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Legislation. *"In our view, the amendment is in conflict with the principles of Better Regulation and legal certainty"*, noted Dr. Campbell.

EFCTC will propose a number of amendments that will try to make the draft report more realistic and practicable to encourage a rapid but technically and economically viable phase-down of HFCs that will reduce emissions and give industry the time needed to develop and introduce safe energy efficient products that meet the safety, economic and technical requirements for the wide range of applications covered.

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