



EFCTC Position

EU Parliament ENVI Committee proposes bans and taxes detrimental for EU industry with no environmental benefit

Brussels, 20 June 2013

EFCTC has expressed its support for a cap and phase down to control the use and emissions of HFCs. Whilst the adoption of a series of amendments in the European Parliament yesterday has supported a reduction in HFC use through a cap and phase down, they also propose a number of bans on specific refrigeration, foam insulation, technical aerosol and air-conditioning applications that will put pressure on users of these applications while many alternatives are not fully commercially available.

The European Parliament also proposed the introduction of a tax on the *sale* of HFCs within Europe of up to €10/tonne CO₂ equivalent.

"With the EU struggling to recover from the economic crisis, it is unbelievable that the European Parliament have introduced a new unilateral EU tax on EU business and consumers," said N.J. Campbell, "It can be estimated that this tax could cost EU companies and consumers up to €1.2 billion per year. This will clearly have a negative impact on companies, especially SMEs that make up the majority of refrigeration and air-conditioning users as well as users of their products. Furthermore, after the HFCs are sold, they are used for many years in enclosed systems and can be recovered, so such a tax on sales has no direct environmental benefit."

He further noted that "such a tax is totally unnecessary as the phase down process will have the desired environmental impact of reducing HFC use and emissions in the EU."

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EFCTC hopes that in the negotiation with the Council, the European Parliament proposals for the carbon tax as well as those for specific bans will be dropped in order to allow the market-based cap and phase down to act as the main instrument to manage the control of HFCs in an environmentally friendly and cost-effective manner.

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