



EFCTC Position

EFCTC welcomes the Council and Parliament agreement on the revision of the F-Gas regulation

Brussels, 17 December 2013

EFCTC welcomes the European Council and Parliament first reading agreement on the revision of the European F-Gas regulation following the 4th trilogue negotiations.

“We are aware that there have been difficult discussions on sector and sub-sector bans in insulating foams, refrigeration and air-conditioning,” noted Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, “but the final agreement seems to provide a workable compromise. We should not forget that the cap and phase-down of HFCs in the revised regulation will deliver the required environmental outcome whilst allowing industry to respond in a practical and cost-effective manner.”

EFCTC notes that whilst the revision of the F-Gas regulation will phase-down the use of HFCs within the EU, as well as restricting imports of equipment containing HFCs, the main initial focus is on the higher GWP HFCs. Lower GWP HFCs still have an important role to play in providing energy efficient, safe solutions in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulating foams as well as medical and technical aerosols. The revision also sends a positive signal to the international negotiations on controlling HFCs, and supports the important processes of embracing lower GWP solutions and the research and development of new technologies.



“Many alternatives to higher GWP HFCs have to be chosen on a case-by-case basis, for example, some do not work in higher temperature regions”, stated Dr Campbell, “the bans on individual uses within the revision and the cap and phase down will give the clarity that companies need, in order to move more quickly towards lower GWP solutions, including those based on HFCs, whilst allowing energy efficient and safe equipment to continue to be placed on the market.”

The European Council and the European Parliament are expected to give final approval for the revised regulation early 2014 and it is expected to enter into force in January 2015.

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