

EUROPEAN HEATING & COOLING INDUSTRY (EPEE): EU COMMITMENTS TOWARDS REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM HFCS

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Our members directly employ over 200,000 people and record over 30 billion euros in annual turnover. EPEE member companies operate manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which are leading innovation in the global market.

Introduction: The Request for Concrete Action

In September 2014, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon will convene an extraordinary Climate Summit to prepare for the 2015 UNFCCC Summit. The landmark 2015 Summit will aim to reach a global climate agreement between all participating nations through the UNFCCC.

"I challenge you to bring to the Summit bold pledges. Innovate, scale-up, cooperate and deliver concrete action that will close the emissions gap and put us on track for an ambitious legal agreement through the UNFCCC process." -
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

In this context, Ban Ki-Moon has called upon industry to pledge concrete action at the 2014 Climate Summit to support negotiations moving forward and revive countries' efforts to tackle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Context: The EU Response

Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) emissions are on the rise globally, and the heating, cooling, refrigeration and heat pump industry in Europe continues to support international action to reduce their consumption.

The European Union has undertaken concrete and ambitious action in this regard since 2006, notably through the introduction of the EU F-gas Regulation. This F-gas Regulation has recently been amended with a view to further reducing F-gas emissions, and an ambitious phase-down of HFCs will see a decline in their consumption by 79% and consequently a fall in their emissions by 2030. The EU is the first region in the world to take such far-reaching steps to reduce F-gas emissions.

The European heating, cooling, refrigeration and heat pump industry represented by EPEE supports the EU's measures. It also believes in global action to tackle and reduce HFC consumption collectively with other regions in a way that is economically viable, compatible with high safety standards, and continues to observe energy efficiency as a fundamental objective at EU level.

The EU cannot be a credible leader if the rules do not work. Compliance remains a key challenge in Europe, and non-compliance can seriously undermine the EU's environmental ambitions.

EPEE'S PLEDGE

Our industry is strongly committed to making the EU F-gas rules work. We will take concrete, proactive action to facilitate their implementation in order to help the EU and its Member States reach their targets and remain a leader in the reduction of GHG emissions. To fulfil this commitment, EPEE will undertake activities in the fields of:



EDUCATION



TACKLING AND TRACKING BARRIERS





EDUCATION: RAISING AWARENESS & PROMOTING THE RULES



EPEE will organise **regular and tailored events across the EU** to raise awareness of the new F-gas rules throughout the whole supply chain. The format of the events will be adapted to respond to local industry needs and, where possible, will always involve those authorities that are responsible for ensuring compliance and control (i.e. ministries, customs, etc.)



EPEE will develop **specific communication tools** to enhance the industry's understanding of its new obligations and responsibilities. The tools will be made available online and – where appropriate – in different EU languages. Examples of communication tools include: **Frequently Asked Questions & Guidance** documents, **Factsheets & Brochures**, and **Webinars & Videos** to explain in layman's terms the most complex provisions of the legislation.



EPEE will **cooperate and collaborate with other organisations** such as owners and installer organisations or schools to ensure that all players across the industrial chain understand the significance of the new rules and the value and obligations of their role in tackling HFC emissions.



TACKLING BARRIERS: SUPPORTING A SMOOTH & VIABLE TRANSITION TOWARDS LOWER EMISSIONS TECHNOLOGIES



EPEE will establish a **Low Emissions Task Force** to assess the barriers that currently prevent the uptake of relevant lower emissions technologies. This Task Force will cooperate with other sectors, as well as with public authorities, in order to overcome these barriers. Within this Task Force EPEE will also examine existing technologies and aim to enhance industry's understanding of containment, reclaim, recovery and recycling practices.



EPEE will support governments and the European institutions **in tracking the efficiency and effectiveness of the EU rules** by continuing to provide data and regular independent studies on the evolution of the market and industry.



In addition to supporting global action to tackle HFC consumption, EPEE will also **raise awareness at the international level** of the EU rules, their efficiency and their challenges, with the aim of facilitating and progressing global negotiations on HFCs.



With this pledge, our industry commits to being an active and supportive industry player. Our activities can help the EU retain its environmental leadership and tackle the global warming impact of HFCs emissions. Our activities will lend support to:

Full and harmonised understanding across sectors and authorities of the new rules



Efficient monitoring tools to enable public authorities to track the effectiveness of the rules



Elimination of barriers to ensure that industry can move to safe, energy-efficient, lower GWP solutions.