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EFCTC urges European governments to ratify the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol

The upcoming 40th meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol in Vienna, July 11th - 14th, 2018 will be an opportunity to continue to discuss the implementation of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which was adopted by the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on 15 October 2016. The Kigali Amendment controls HFCs and developed countries will start reducing HFCs as early as 2019, while developing countries will start later.

Nick Campbell, Chairman of the European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) stressed, *“It is essential that the Amendment is ratified and implemented to prevent unnecessary growth in the use of HFCs and to prevent them becoming a more significant source of emissions in the future. In the European Union, the EU F-Gas Regulation is reducing HFC emissions overall, however, a number of European nations have not yet ratified the Kigali Amendment and EFCTC urges the Council Presidency to finalise the ratification of the EU in July, prior to or during the next Montreal Protocol meeting in Vienna”.*

All countries will gradually phase down HFCs by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years and replace them with more efficient and lower-GWP alternatives. The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol will enter into force on 1 January 2019 after the threshold for the agreement was met on 17 November 2017, when it was ratified by 20 parties. Leading up to this meeting it has been ratified by 38 Parties. EFCTC believes that the Kigali Amendment provides a clear long-term regulatory framework and time frame that is needed for research, development and deployment to progress at the required speed and allows industry to build the capacity to invest in new lower GWP products and applications.

Nick Campbell further added *“the phase-down approach in the Kigali Amendment allows HFCs to be used for their safety and performance where appropriate and encourages innovation for the use of lower GWP alternatives and applications, but without significant disruption to the industries that use HFCs. Encouraging progress is already being made to find and adopt lower GWP alternatives for a range of applications that have important societal needs such as in the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industries. Already a number of alternative fluids have been identified and are already in use. To encourage acceleration in the transition away from higher GWP HFCs, it is essential that European countries show leadership in ratifying the Kigali Amendment prior to its entry into force on 1st January 2019.*

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a Cefic Sector Group that monitors legislation related to HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), PFCs (perfluorinated carbons) and CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons), HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) and HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins) in the EU and at global level. Fluorocarbons are used as feedstock, as refrigerants, as solvents and as blowing agents for insulation plastic foams.

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