

EFCTC welcomes EU's industrial strategy and proposed enforcement actions

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee ([EFCTC](#)) today welcomes the launch of the European Commission's [Industrial Strategy](#) and within it the *Long-term action plan for better implementation and enforcement of single market rules*, the *action plan on the Customs Union in 2020 to reinforce customs controls*, including a legislative proposal for an *EU Single Window to allow for fully digital clearance processes at the border* and the establishment of a new *Chief Trade Enforcement Officer*.

Commenting on the *Long-term action plan* Tim Vink, Vice-Chair of the European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee ([EFCTC](#)) and Director of Regulatory Affairs at Honeywell, said:

"We support any and all initiatives that contribute concretely to better border controls in view of stopping the import of illegal imports of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Illegally imported HFCs actively undermine the implementation and desired effect of the EU's F-gas regulation, and work against the climate efforts of the EU, Member States, industry, the refrigerant value chain and end consumers. Because of the current lack of enforcement at the EU's borders, Europeans may unwittingly and unwillingly be supporting organised crime and disrupting the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We must all work together to stop illegal imports. As part of industry's contribution to resolving this problem we have set up an Action Line to report illegal F-gas products and trade. We have had very good traction with the Action Line so far. In the first ten months alone, 228 reports of illegal activities were received. As the draft action plan suggests, we need better border enforcement to make sure existing EU environmental regulations, such as the F-gas regulation, are implemented effectively and consistently across the EU."

The F-gas regulation binds industry to progressively reduce HFC consumption through a strict quota system. While producers are committed to this phase-down, illegal HFCs have flooded the European market, undermining the EU's progress towards its climate goals. Fully enforcing existing regulations is a prerequisite to proposing new more stringent regulations.

The EFCTC Action Line for anonymous reporting of illegal F-gas products and illegal F-gas trade is available at: <https://efctc.integrityline.org/index.php>

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About EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) and is represented by the companies Arkema, Chemours, Daikin Chemical, Honeywell and Koura. Its main objectives are to provide up to date information about applications, safety, health and environmental effects for HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins), and the relevant European and international legislation.

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