

# BLACK MARKET FOR HFCS

## THE COLD, HARD TRUTH BEHIND EUROPE'S REFRIGERANTS



### THERE IS A GROWING BLACK MARKET FOR ILLEGALLY-IMPORTED HFC (HYDROFLUOROCARBON) GASES IN THE EU, WHICH HAMPERS EUROPE'S CLIMATE GOALS

HFC is commonly used in:



#### Airconditioning

in cars, homes, hotels, hospitals, data centers and other buildings

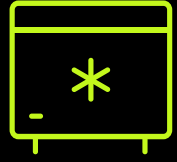


#### Fire extinguishers, sprays and insulation



#### Heat pumps

used for space, water and manufacturing process heating



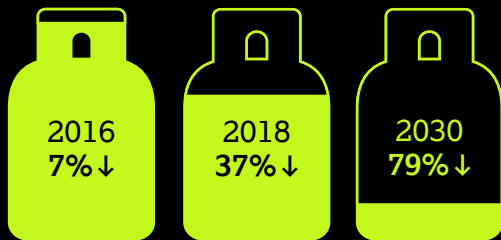
#### Refrigeration

in supermarkets and industry

### THE EU F-GAS REGULATION

To help combat climate change and stimulate alternative solutions, the 2014 EU F-gas Regulation bound industry to reduce emissions through a quota system.

The EU and legitimate producers are committed to this phase-down. However, illegitimate products are now flooding the EU market, funding organised crime.



### ILLEGAL HFCS ARE SMUGGLED ACROSS EU BORDERS

Customs officers regularly confiscate illegal HFCs, but most go unnoticed. Issues with the system include:



**Complex shipping routes and reseller markets**, which render the activity hard to track



**Low fines**, which do not deter criminals

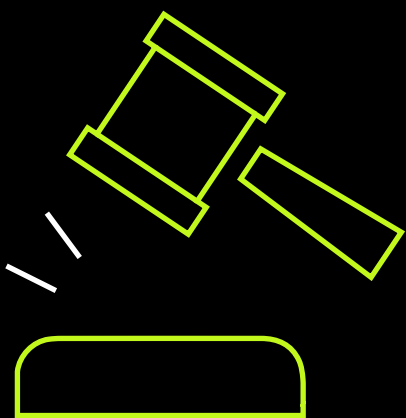


Non-quota compliant HFC canisters are **not easily identifiable targets** for customs officials, unlike drugs, arms and animals



**Retroactive reporting** of legitimate products under quota prevents customs from having real-time info on suppliers

### LET'S WORK TOGETHER AND TAKE ACTION NOW



#### BETTER ENFORCEMENT

EFCTC supports customs to better identify illegal HFCs and calls for a system that connects customs data to the HFC registry.

#### REPORTING ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

The EFCTC Action Line allows everyone to report illegal activity, anonymously.

#### APPLYING MORE STRINGENT MEASURES

Harmonisation and consistent application of (higher) fines are key to ensure a better regulation.



## STOP SMUGGLING. START TRACING.

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