

April 2022

EFCTC welcomes the European Commission proposal to reinforce the controls on F-gases

BRUSSELS, 6 April 2022 – The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee (EFCTC) welcomes the publication of the European Commission’s proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases.

In particular, EFCTC welcomes the proposed new provisions to improve enforcement and prevent illegal trade in F-gases in the European Union. The introduction of a Single Window Environment for Customs to help monitor imports, the mandatory inspections of companies using and supplying HFCs, and the introduction of designated customs offices authorised to close transit declarations are all helpful measures that will help the legislation deliver on its climate objectives. The inclusion of minimum penalties should however still be considered to ensure the regulation is even more effective.

EFCTC strongly reiterates the concern expressed by user industries that the earlier and more severe proposed phase-down could undermine the goals of the REPower EU Action Plan, which has set targets to roll out 10 million heat pumps in Europe over the next five years. The proposed new provisions under the F-gas Regulation could potentially slow down the much-needed adoption of heat pumps in Europe as well as other energy efficient technologies. These technologies support the energy transition and investment plans for a decarbonized economy and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Dr Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, noted “The European Commission proposal for the revision of the F-gas Regulation is a step forward in improving enforcement and managing emissions of HFCs. However, the views of the user industries that provide societal important applications such as refrigeration, air-conditioning, heat pumps, foam insulation and medical aerosols must be taken into consideration during the co-decision process”.

Campbell continued “The alignment with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is very much welcome. It will also ensure consistency with the commitment made under international agreements, which is widely supported by the industry. EFCTC and its member companies look forward to working constructively with the European Commission, Council and Parliament to revise the F-gas Regulation in a way that protects the environment, encourages increased investment by European companies and drives energy efficient solutions that support the objectives of the European Green Deal and Fit for 55.”

April 2022

Furthermore, EFCTC welcomes the other improvements and clarifications in the proposal, such as proposed changes to the F-gas Portal and reporting. The elimination of the 100t CO₂e threshold provides the appropriate response to address the abuses under the current system. The introduction of a charge for suppliers of HFCs allocated quota to purchase their quotas is, in principle, a good step to ensure the reliability of suppliers. EFCTC believes that such income could benefit the operation of the F-gas Portal and reporting mechanisms, the handling and treatment of confiscated illegal material and provide custom officials with equipment needed for the identification of illegal materials. In addition, the charge must be proportionate and the necessary enforcement mechanisms and resources must be in place to ensure this measure does not lead to increased illegal trade in HFCs nor to a reduction in available supply to the market.

The proposal for the revision of the F-gas Regulation will now be discussed during the co-decision procedure by the European Council and the European Parliament and the final revised Regulation can be expected to enter into force at the earliest by January 2024.

About EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a Cefic Sector Group that monitors legislation related to HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), 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.

Contact: EFCTC Chairman: Dr. Nick Campbell, nick.campbell@arkema.com
EFCTC Secretariat: Eszter Komaromi, eko@cefic.be

Disclaimer: The present press release represents the views and opinion of the EFCTC Sector Group, not necessarily of Cefic as a whole.