



CoolNews

Quarterly periodical for the European contractors society working in the Refrigeration, Air-Conditioning and Heat pump sector

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Cracking down on illegal refrigerants

CNI's work with Spanish authorities contributes to the seizure of some 27,000 kg of illegally HFCs

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AREA AFFAIRS

EPEE's new DG introduces himself to AREA's Board



Folker Franz, who took over from Andrea Voigt as EPEE's Director General, introduced himself to AREA's Directors on the occasion of the last Board meeting on 10th September 2021.

Folker is a German national and public affairs professional who comes most recently from Hitachi ABB Power Grids and the ABB Group, a multinational corporation active in power and industrial automation technologies, where he was the Head of Government Relations for the EU. Before joining ABB in 2012, Folker worked at BusinessEurope, the European business federation, as Industrial Affairs Director.

Folker and Federica Rizzo, EPEE's Public Affairs Director, then met informally with the aim of continuing the strong collaborative relationship the two organisations have built over the years.

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

LEGISLATION

F-gas Regulation

Revision of the F-Gas Regulation

The release of the proposal for a revision of the F-gas Regulation is likely to be postponed to March/April 2022. Such a delay would also affect the ODS proposal, which is due to be published at the same time.

The reason seems to be that the Impact Assessment is not yet finalised, notably as it is proving challenging to evaluate certain costs. The completion of an Impact Assessment, which must then be adopted by an Impact Assessment Board, is a mandatory step in the European Commission's internal process before a proposal is published. AREA is keeping close contacts with DG CLIMA.

Meanwhile, EPEE has adopted an official position on the future F-Gas Regulation. EPEE advocates to maintain the current phase-down timetable and not to add further bans. Some recommendations are also made, notably:

- Using electronic logbooks to move towards an EU-wide overview on leakage and recovery
- Extending the collection and reporting requirements on containment and recovery to all refrigerants.
- Extending training and certification requirements to all refrigerants
- Introducing more stringent penalties for non-compliance
- Preventing national measures on F-gases which would undermine the EU single market.

Most issues are aligned with AREA's views. AREA and EPEE remain in close contacts in preparation for the revision.

Enforcing the F-Gas Regulation

The UK Environment Agency has issued penalties totalling over £1m on a UK company for breaches of the F-gas regulations. The Breaches cover various requirements of the regulation, notably in relation to quotas, reporting on imports and record keeping. This is only the second penalty imposed in the UK for breaches of the F-gas regulations, and the first since a government ruling in 2018 which allowed the Environment Agency to apply civil penalties for transgressions.

Illegal trade of HFCs

The fight against illegally traded HFCs initiated by EFCTC is producing results with some encouraging recent developments.

First, several high-profile seizures have been recorded, [notably 27,000kg in Spain](#) (pictures below) and [17,200kg in Greece](#). In Spain, AREA member [CNI is working closely with the authorities](#). They have notably organised seminars to explain technical details of installers' work and the complex F-Gas commercialisation activity.



The [EFCTC Action Line](#) is also playing a positive role, enabling anonymous reports that can result in investigations, seizures and convictions.



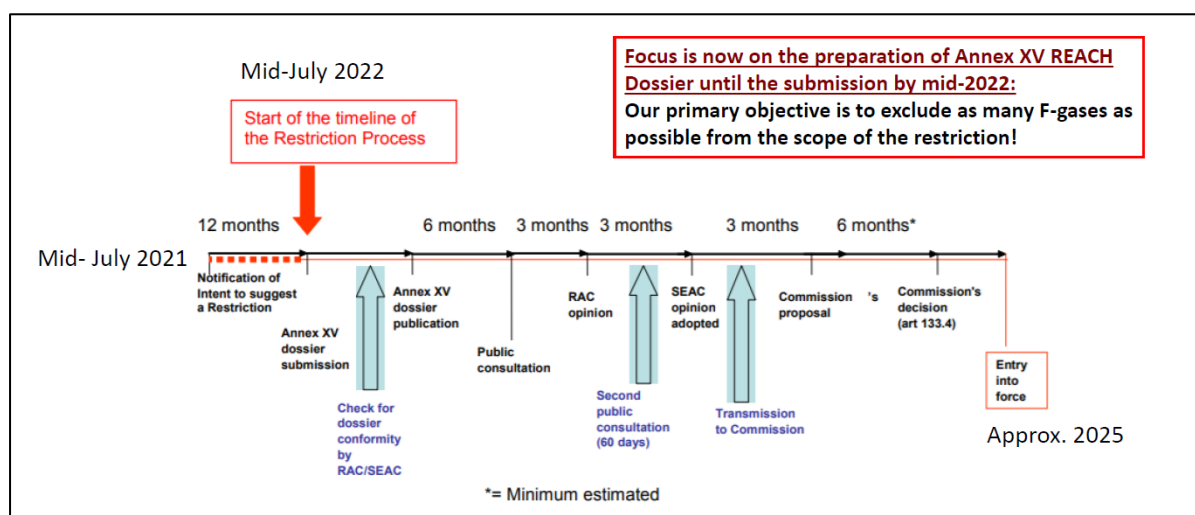
In Germany, a new Chemical Act is increasing transparency throughout the HFC supply chain and going further than the F-Gas Regulation by demanding everyone selling HFCs to provide appropriate documentation.

Finally, the European Commission has recently introduced new registration requirements for importers. Regulation (EU) 2019/661 has been [amended](#) and now requires importers to enter the EORI number of the importing entity in the F-gas registry.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)

On 15th July, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, the Netherlands and Norway published the [informal intention](#) (registry of intention – ROI) for a PFAS REACH restriction proposal for F-gases. The announced scope of the restriction is extremely broad (reaching approx. 9,000 substances). It would lead to cover all PFAS F-gases involved, including HFCs and ultra-low GWP HFO refrigerants.

The publication of the ROI marks the beginning of a long procedure that could lead to a restriction measure on HFCs by 2025. A consultation (call of evidence) is now ongoing as part of the preparation of an Annex XV restriction dossier, expected mid- 2022.



Graph: timeline REACH process PFAs (source: EPEE)

EPEE is working actively on the matter, on its own, as well as within a couple of industry platforms that have been set up in the past few months (one of which AREA is taking part in). EPEE's main priority is now to ensure that F-gases are not part of the restriction proposal that the 5 countries will be presenting in 2022. The argument is that F-gases are already adequately controlled through the F-Gas Regulation and that further measures through REACH would be inadequate and disproportionate. AREA is supporting this work where appropriate. PFAS will be discussed at the next AREA WG Refrigerants meeting on 18th October with the participation of Federica Rizzo, EPEE's Senior Policy Director who is closely working on the issue.

Finally, you may note that the UK Environment Agency has published a [PFAS report](#).

Recognising indoor air pollution as a health risk

Proper use of air quality systems will help reduce transmission of COVID-19 in office spaces, according to research. However, the European Union does not currently recognise indoor air pollution as a risk to human health in the way it does outdoor pollution.



Leading European indoor Environmental Quality associations have issued a statement to assert the dangers of indoor air pollution and outline proposals that would clean up indoor air.

Proper mechanical ventilation can reduce half the virus concentration by a factor of 10, and alternatives include window airing, air treatment technologies and Building Automation and Control Systems.

But the lack of a coherent EU legislative framework for addressing indoor air pollution makes the upcoming revision of EU policies a key opportunity to support reduced air transmission of COVID-19.

The statement proposes adding quality standards and policies to a range of relevant directives, frameworks, such as the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, the Occupational Safety and Health, Strategic Framework, and public procurement practices.

The statement as well as the Press Release are available on [AREA website](#).

Heating and Cooling Roadmap

The publication of the “Policy Support for the Heating and Cooling Decarbonisation” study, carried out by Trinomics on behalf of the European Commission – DG Energy, aiming to produce a Roadmap report on the respective topic, is expected in early October and will be open for feedback until 21 October.

As a reminder, this Roadmap will serve as a practical tool for policy makers at local, national and EU level to help design tailored approaches to decarbonise the heating and cooling (H&C) sector.

Already on 16 July, AREA sent its position paper on the study to the consultants and the relevant contacts from the Commission. It expresses the concern that there is too little focus on cooling, emphasises the role of RACHP contractors, raises the importance of renewable electricity and heat pumps take up, and the necessity of maintaining contractors’ skills and knowledge.

The final Roadmap will be officially presented at a stakeholder conference on 27 October 2021.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

Revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

The European Commission is expected to adopt its revision proposal on the [Energy Performance of Buildings Directive](#) (EPBD) on 14 December 2021. Its main goals are to facilitate achieving the EU's 2030 and 2050 climate and energy objectives through the decarbonisation of the buildings sector, delivering on the [Renovation Wave](#) targets for 2030, and fostering deep renovations.

The discussions in the European Parliament and Council are expected to commence in January or February 2022 and the trialogue negotiations in the second quarter of that year.

Parliament Own-Initiative Report on the Implementation of the EPBD

The European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) launched an Own-Initiative report on the Implementation of the EPBD. This current draft calls for measures to increase the current annual renovation rate of 1%, with more focus on energy performance of buildings. It also demands stronger and more detailed long-term renovation strategies (LTRS) framework, the promotion of one-stop-shops, smart technologies, and the introduction of minimum energy performance standards (MEPS). Lastly, it also urges the Commission to further promote renewable energy in the H&C sector.

This report is legally non-binding, but it aims to inform the Commission about its future stances on the upcoming revision of the EPBD.

The document will be voted in the ITRE Committee on 18 November and thereafter again during Plenary in a date that will be confirmed in the near future.

Smart Readiness Indicator

As you are aware, under the EPBD umbrella, the European Commission developed a Smart Readiness Indicator (SRI), which is established by the following [Delegated Regulation](#) and [Implementing Regulation](#) acts, which are in force since 10 January 2021.

The first step of the implementation of the SRI is an optional testing phase in the EU Member States (MS), to which DG Energy invited all countries on 19 August.

To support the SRI, the Commission granted a two-year service contract to a team comprised of a number of consultants and research institutions that will set up a helpdesk, training material and assist in the establishment of a SRI Platform. A call to express interest in joining the Platform will be issued in the autumn of 2021 and will be launched by the end of the year.

For more information and updates:

- [SRI Newsletter](#)
- [SRI Documents](#)
- [SRI Training Package](#)
- **SRI Assessment Package:** calculation sheet and practical guide available on request at support@smartreadinessindicator.eu
- [SRI FAQ](#)

Renewable Energy Sources Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive

Fit for 55 package

On 14 July, the European Commission adopted a package of 12 legislative proposals, namely the '[Fit for 55 package](#)', aiming to make the EU climate, energy, transport, and taxation policies fit for achieving the EU Climate objectives under the European Green Deal and the European Climate Law.

Among those proposals are the revision of the [Renewable Energy Sources Directive](#) (RED II) and the recast of the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#) (EED).

Some of the key proposed changes in the RED II revision include:

- Increase of the EU's overall renewable energy target to 40% in comparison to the current 32%.
- Increased target for H&C in buildings of 49% by 2030, accompanied by a 1.1% binding baseline annual increase in the national share of final energy consumption of renewable energy.
- Provisions to facilitate electrification accompanying the binding targets.
- Updated calculation method of the share of energy from renewable energy sources (RES) to include such from non-biological origin, and exclude the renewable electricity used to produce renewable fuels of non-biological origin.
- Update of the qualification and certification requirements for installers, and obligation on technology providers and vendors that enough trained and qualified installers are available to service the growth in renewable H&C installations in buildings and industry.

Some of the key proposed changes in the EED recast include:

- A new provision for the mandatory application of the Energy Efficiency First (EE1) principle in policy, planning and investment decisions.
- Decreased targets for final and primary energy consumption by at least 36-37% and to 39-41% respectively by 2030.
- Increased annual savings obligations to 1.5% from 2024 to 2030, accompanied by specific requirements to ease energy poverty.
- Obliging that minimum 3% of the total floor area of all public sector heated and/or cooled buildings are renovated annually to at least be transformed into nearly zero emission buildings (NZEBs).
- Comprehensive H&C assessments shall become part of the national energy and climate plans (NECPs). Furthermore, MSs shall encourage local authorities with more than 50.000 inhabitants to prepare local H&C plans.
- Obligation on MSs to ensure availability on qualification, accreditation and certification schemes for different energy services providers, auditors, managers, and installers.

Additionally, on 28 September, the Commission published new [Recommendation](#) and [Guidelines](#) on the EE1 Principle, which aim at providing concrete measures to encourage the conversion of the concept from principle to practice.

As next steps, the Commission will accept feedback on the proposals by 19 November 2021, which will be presented to the European Parliament and Council with the aim of feeding into the legislative debate between the three institutions and reach a common position, which will then become EU law.

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling

Ecodesign Working Plan 2020-2024

To remind you, the study on the Ecodesign and Energy Labelling Working Plan 2020-2024, which will guide the European Commission's work on individual product categories for the next years, is completed and all final reports are available [here](#). Furthermore, the Commission's published its [Roadmap](#) on 5 May 2021.

On 13 July, the Commission held a Consultation Forum on the Working Plan 2020-2024, during which country representatives, industry stakeholders and NGOs took part.

Some of the key information that the Commission shared include:

- No Ecodesign & Energy labelling measures will be proposed for refrigerating containers, compressors, kettles, and windows, because of their low energy savings potential.
- Measures will proceed for fans (labelling rescaling will be the key element), mobile phones, photovoltaic products, hair dryers, servers, ventilation units and professional refrigeration.

The Commission also presented the product groups and cross-cutting measures selected by the supporting study, namely lightweight design, durability, recyclability and repairability, which were discussed by the participants.

As next step, the Commission will publish the final Work Plan 2020-2024 by the end of 2021.

EVENTS

World Ozone Day 2021

On **16 September**, AREA, together with his partner UNEP and all the ozone family celebrated the World Ozone Day (WOD) 2021. This year theme was the Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool!

We celebrated the success of the international agreements which have brought our world to partially rebuilding the ozone layer and reducing the climate change impact.

Visit [UNEP Ozone website](#) for more information on the Montreal Protocol, United Nations Secretary-General's message and worldwide activities.



Food Systems Summit 2021

On **20 September**, AREA President Marco Buoni took part in the Food Systems Summit 2021.



His speech on *“Progress at industry level, focusing on servicing sector trainings – the experience in the European Union.”* testified of the key role of HVAC/R Sector in ensuring that food distribution always happens in the safest, most efficient and sustainable way possible.

The full Press Release and agenda of the summit are available on [AREA website](#).

ATMO Europe Summit 2021

The 11th edition of the ATMOSphere Europe Summit took place online **on September 28-29**.



At the conference, key representatives discussed the latest developments in the F-Gas Regulation review, as well as standards impacting natural refrigerant adoption in Europe. ATMOSphere Europe will also address hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs).

More information on [ATMO website](#)

The Installer CNI Professional Week

From **25 to 29 October 2021**, CNI celebrates The Installer CNI Professional Week with :

- two daily online conferences,
- a keynote address,
- and the CNI award for the most innovative Installation 2021 on Friday.

More information (in Spanish) is available on [CNI website](#). More information, and complete programme, to be available soon!



Frixis seminars during the Cool & Comfort Conferences

Our Belgian member Frixis will be present during the Cool & Comfort Conferences on **27 October 2021**, with 2 seminars:

10.00 - 12.00 - The future of refrigerants glows flammable.
How do we handle this?
Jurgen Buckinx - Frixis (National President)

14.00 - 15.30 - Frequently asked questions and answers at Frixis
Erik Van Laer - Frixis (Director)

More information on [FRIXIS website](#) (NL/FR)



NEWS

Energy Efficiency and Indoor Climate in Buildings Newsletter

The September 2021 edition of the “Energy Efficiency and Indoor Climate in Buildings” newsletter contains relevant information on the Air Infiltration and Ventilation Centre ([AIVC](#)), the platform for resilient ventilative cooling ([venticool](#)), the building and ductwork airtightness platform ([TightVent Europe](#)), the Indoor Environmental Quality - Global Alliance ([IEQ-GA](#)), the [Dynastee](#) network & EU relevant information.

The paper is available at the first week of every month at: <http://news.inive.org/>

Brief on Vaccines cold chain technology



UNEP and IIR have published a [Vaccines Cold Chain Technology Brief](#).

The objective is to build knowledge of National Ozone Units (NOUs), government officials, policy makers, and refrigeration stakeholders about key aspects of such applications including; temperature control, types of different vaccine cold chain applications, good operational practices of vaccine cold chain applications, types of refrigerants being used, and challenges related to this sector.

This newsletter is reserved to AREA members

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