



# CoolNews

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

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## AREA AFFAIRS

### **AREA spring General Assembly meeting**

On behalf of AREA President Per Jonasson, you are cordially invited to attend **AREA 2016 General Assembly** meeting due to take place on **13-14 May in Dublin**. The event is kindly organised by the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland.



As usual the event will start on the Friday morning. Whilst delegates will attend meetings, partners have the possibility of taking a historical tour of Dublin. In the evening, all participants will be taken to a tour of the [Guinness Brewery](#) and dinner will take place at the [Angles Rest, Chapelizod](#). The event will finish on the Saturday after lunch.



The General Assembly hotel is the [Jury's Inn Custom House Hotel](#), located in the financial district.

**Please register by 14<sup>th</sup> April!**

<http://instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie/area-ga-registration-2016>

## LEGISLATION

### **Fgas – France takes measures on sale of precharged equipment**

France has adopted implementing legislation (“décret”) specifying the conditions under which pre-charged equipment can be sold. The Fgas Regulation indicated that non-hermetically sealed pre-charged equipment shall only be sold to the end user where evidence is provided that the installation shall be carried out by a certified undertaking. Such evidence must take the form of indicating the name, details and certification number of the undertaking that will perform the installation. Each Member State is then free to “translate” this requirements.

France obliges distributors to keep records in a register that must contain the following information:

- Date of the sale
- Type of equipment sold
- Category of refrigerant
- If the buyer is a distributor, its name and identification number
- If the company is an installer, its name, identification number and certification number
- If the buyer is a consumer, his/her name and the name, identification number and certification number of the installer contracted to perform the installation. A copy of the contract must be annexed in the register

For more information, please see the [French text](#).

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### **Assessment of low GWP alternatives in commercial refrigeration**

AREA has replied to a questionnaire assessing low GWP alternatives in commercial refrigeration. The questionnaire will feed in a study to be carried out by Öko-Recherche on behalf of DG CLIMA.

This request is linked to article 21(3) of the Fgas Regulation where the Commission is tasked to assess the 2022 ban on new multipack centralized refrigeration systems > 40 kW operating with refrigerants with a GWP of 150 or more, while allowing for a limited use of HFCs in some special types of cascade systems (refrigerants with a GWP of up to 1,500 will still be allowed in primary circuits of cascade systems).

In its reply, AREA repeated its concerns on safety risks posed by alternative refrigerants with which most refrigeration contractors have little experience. It was also explained that contractors are invited to advise their clients to change equipment and/or gases as soon as possible. However, investment costs are likely to form a barrier to a swift change. Meanwhile, AREA works on training (e.g. guidance, REAL Alternatives).

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## **EPBD**

The review of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive has been launched last year. The European Commission intends to table its proposal for a revised EPBD in September 2016.

A stakeholder meeting took place on 14 March. The results of the public consultation are available [here](#). As a main result, the EPBD is assessed as a good framework for improving energy performance in buildings, especially new buildings, and raising awareness. However, the renovation rate of the existing building stock is much too low and measures are needed to address this.

As regards building systems, untapped potential in operating of building systems have been identified. However, split stakeholder opinions have been raised on options: material manufacturers support focus on building envelope, while others, are for moving more into systems and RES (integrated approach beyond building envelope).

It is interesting to note that a few stakeholder called for requirements for indoor air quality in building systems requirements, Energy Performance Certificates or other suggested tools such as 'Building passport' (renovation roadmap). The role of contractors has also been underlined a few times during the public consultation and discussions on the installation of efficient equipment, consumer awareness and certification.

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## **AREA replies to consultation on Renewable Energy Sources Directive**

AREA responded to the public consultation on the review of the Renewable Energy Sources Directive. Apart from some general considerations on the need to further encourage the use of renewable energy sources, AREA made it very clear that there is no lack of knowledge by certified heating & cooling installers regarding supplying information and offering renewable energy solutions to their principals. The problem often lies in the preference for lower initial investment instead of lower lifecycle costs. It was pointed out that public information campaigns would be useful to raise users' awareness.

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## **Publication of heating & cooling strategy**

European Commission DG Energy [published](#) a Communication 'An EU Heating & Cooling Strategy' on 16 February 2016. AREA had been feeding in the discussions that led to the adoption of the document. The 'strategy' is a framework for integrating efficient heating and cooling into EU energy policies. It targets heating and cooling in two sectors: buildings and industry. The document thus gives direction to the reviews of the EPBD, EED, RES Directive and electricity market reform, which will be adopted in all likelihood in September 2016.

Interestingly, the paper notes that: "Lack of expertise and training affects all sectors. Too few professionals have the required expertise in energy efficient construction and in efficient and renewable energy technologies. Architects can incorporate advanced design and construction materials and smart technologies into all aspects of buildings, from insulation to lighting. But installers are the "market makers" for many technologies."

The good news is that installers are considered as market makers. The bad news is that installers are considered ill-trained and knowledgeable. However, this statement needs to be put into perspective, since all types of installers are considered under one denomination whereas their respective state of “expertise & training” on efficient heating and cooling may differ greatly.

The strategy still suggests extending the work of the BUILD UP skills campaign to improve training for building professionals, in particular through a new module for energy experts and architects. This will have to be monitored by AREA to ensure RACHP contractors are not imposed superfluous obligations.

Amongst other interesting issues, the papers indicates that synergies between waste-to-energy processes and district heating/cooling will be looked at in an upcoming Commission’s communication on waste-to-energy. The Commission also announces it will look into setting up a website with price comparison tools on the lifetime costs and benefits of heating and cooling systems.

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## **Ecodesign**

The Regulatory Committee (Member States) approved the ecodesign requirements (see [Regulation](#) and [Annex](#)) for air heating products, cooling products and high temperature process chillers (Lot 21) in December 2015.

This new regulation targets air heating products (rated capacity <1MW), air and water based cooling products, high temperature process chillers (rated capacity <2MW), and fan coil units. The first requirements will apply from January 2018 and will be reviewed by 2022.

It should be noted that such requirements should not apply to heating and cooling product covered by other ecodesign measures. Also, a long list of exclusions is foreseen, for example, for specific comfort chillers and high temperature process chillers, cogeneration equipment, custom-made products assembled on site (made on a one-off basis). Equipment manufacturers identify potential loopholes with reversible chillers.

This regulation has been sent to the Parliament and the Council: they have until end of April to object, which is very unlikely. As regards next steps, the publication in the Official Journal is expected in May or June 2016.

As regards commercial refrigerated equipment (Lot 12), the European Commission decided to put in standby possible ecodesign and energy labelling requirements for refrigerated commercial display cabinets. They will wait until the revised Energy Labelling Directive is agreed. Consequently, the adoption of these measures is postponed to 2017.

As regards the horizontal Ecodesign framework, standardisation bodies accepted to develop material efficiency standards by March 2019. These standards should, as much as possible, apply to all energy-related products. However, the intention is to set product-specific requirements in individual ecodesign measures, and not a horizontal material efficiency measure. Aspects to be covered are product life time, upgradability, reparability, re-use of components and material in new products as well as recycling of material at the end of life.

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## **Review of the Energy labelling Directive**

Members of the European Parliament were very active on this dossier in the past weeks. The Rapporteur: MEP [Dario Tamburrano](#) (Italian, EFDD Group) tabled its draft report and substantially amended the Commission proposal.

In its [draft report](#), MEP Tamburrano suggests making printed labels mandatory extending the labelling to a wide range of new information. Suppliers would have to provide information on other resources during the use phase and product life-cycle, as well as product environmental and performance characteristics. Then, members of the [Industry, Research & Energy \(ITRE\) Committee](#) tabled almost 700 amendments.

The suggested database proposed by the Commission and supported by the Council and the Parliament raised concerns of equipment manufacturers. While market surveillance need to be improved, the database is likely to result in additional burden in terms of costs and human resources.

As regards the rescaling, the Commission initially suggested going back to an A-G labelling scale. The Rapporteur Tamburrano strengthens the rescaling mechanism to review current labels in a systematic manner. However, other amendments suggest rescaling only when it is duly justified and the top class is saturated. MEPs views are also split on the necessity to leave class A & B empty as well as the transition period requiring producers to provide two labels for one product, “old” and “new” label.

Further to current MEPs discussion on the draft report and subsequent amendments, the vote is scheduled on 24 May 2015. As regards next steps, informal negotiations between the Council and Parliament are likely to be launched after the EP ITRE Committee vote, i.e. June 2016.

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## **Review of the Energy Efficiency Directive**

The European Commission launched a review of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) and intends to table its proposal in September 2016 together with the revised EPBD and RES. The primarily objective is to reflect the new EU energy efficiency target: at least 27% of energy savings by 2030.

As a reminder, the heads of government of EU Member States agreed on a new EU energy efficiency target: 27% by 2030. They also requested the Commission to review this target to move toward 30%. In parallel, the European Parliament called for a 40% target. Therefore, in the context of the EED, the Commission will analyse 4 scenario of target levels from 30% to 40%.

Unlike the EPBD Directive, only few parts of the EED are assessed. Besides the target, this partial review focuses on the purchase of products, services and buildings by public bodies, obligation schemes for energy distributors/retailers as well as metering and billing information. Provisions on district heating and cooling are excluded.

A stakeholder meeting took place on 14 March. The results of the public consultation are available here. As a main result, the EED is assessed as a good framework and a key driver of initiatives in Member States. However, additional guidance is necessary for Member States require, notably to accurately characterise energy efficient products, services and buildings. Various participants believe that procurement rules should also apply to public bodies at regional and local levels.

## **BRIEF NEWS**

### **EU heat pumps sales decline on 2014**

Sales of heat pumps in the EU declined to 1.7 million in 2014 from just under 2 million the previous year, according to research by EurObserv'ER. The slowdown was mainly due to a slump in the Italian market and, to a lesser extent, lower sales in France, the report said.

The market in Italy contracted by 17.3% year on year, because of a slowdown in the construction industry and the already high uptake of heat pumps in the country, the report said. But the decline mainly relates to reversible air-to-air. If the market falls in Italy and France are taken out of the 2014 data, the overall sales figures for the EU would show growth of almost 2%, the authors said.

The market for hydrothermal heat pumps grew 3.6% in 2014, while sales of air-to-water units was up 10%. However, the number of ground-source heat pumps fell by 8.8%.

Future growth could come in the UK, where the penetration rate for heat pumps is low. Germany could also see further growth because of favourable policies, such as an energy saving law adopted in 2014.

A positive outlook for the construction industry "gives more grounds for hope" for the heat pump sector, backed up by EU laws requiring more stringent energy performance rules for buildings. Renewable energy output from heat pumps could reach 12.7m tonnes of oil equivalent by 2020, up from 8m in 2014, the report said. Longer term growth in the heat pump industry will "depend on the political will of Europe's governments, because environmental heating solutions of the [heat pump] type are costlier than traditional more energy-hungry technologies", the report concluded.

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### **Canada proposes HFC phase-down**

The Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) has issued a revised set of proposed regulatory measures to address HFCs. The plan is to propose a phase-down mechanism consistent with the North American amendment proposal (to phase-down HFCs under the Montreal Protocol) to complement its sector-based controls. Those sector-based controls target foams, aerosols, motor vehicle air-conditioning, refrigeration and stationary air-conditioning.

ECCC will accept comments on this revised proposal no later than April 29, 2016. The proposed regulations will then be published in Part I of the Canada Gazette, likely in late 2016 or early 2017, after which it is anticipated there will be a brief, additional public comment period.

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### **Spanish authorities rewarded for their fight against illegal trade of R22**

The ECA Ozone Protection Award for Customs & Enforcement Officers will be presented to Spain's Public Prosecutor Office for the Protection of the Environment and the SEPRONA, the environmental protection unit of the Civil Guard at a forthcoming UNEP meeting in Turkmenistan.

In 2013 and 2014, the Spanish authorities focused investigations on online trading in refrigerants, both legal and ozone-depleting. Nearly 200 tonnes of R22 were seized between 2012 and 2014 in Spain.



## **Shecco launches survey on natural refrigerants training**

Shecco has recently launched a survey on natural refrigerants training. The collected survey results will be used to produce for two publications, GUIDE to Natural Refrigerants Training in Europe & GUIDE to Natural Refrigerant Training in North America, which will be released later in 2016.

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## **News from AREA fellow trade organisations**

### ***EFCTC (fluorocarbon producers)***

Newsletter [issue 135](#)

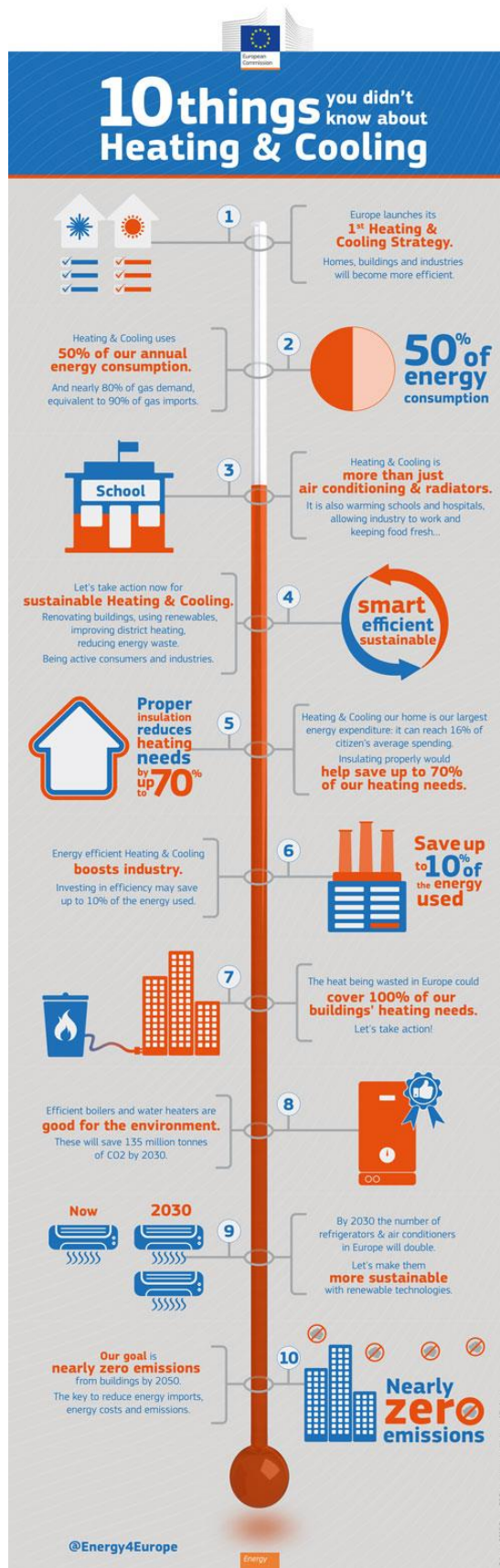
EFCTC has [communicated](#) on the need to verify quantities of fgases placed on the market. This plea follows on [data published](#) by the European Environment Agency, according to which large quantities of HFCs were imported in 2014 and stockpiled in anticipation of the phase-down scheme that came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Factsheet on the contribution of HFCs to climate forcing***

See: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/factsheet\\_velders\\_hfc.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/factsheet_velders_hfc.pdf)





Infographics on heating & cooling  
(Source: European Commission)

## **EVENTS**

### ***MOP27, October 2015, Dubai***

UNEP has just published interviews of the experts, among which AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni. See: <https://youtu.be/H4cRpXkXlnY>

### ***AREA gives assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina on strengthening the recently created RAC associations in Sarajevo, 20 November 2015***

National refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations play a crucial role in implementing national HCFC phase-out management plans. The Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia (ECA network) has involved managers of RAC associations in its network activities since 2009 and supported the creation of such associations in several countries including the recently created association in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina requested country-to-country assistance to strengthening the recently created RAC associations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the activity has been included in the approved ECA work programme 2015.

The main objective of the activity is to share the experience of RAC experts on how to operate and strengthen a national RAC association in terms of membership promotion, services provided to members, outreach activities including publications, news services & website, national stakeholder meetings / conferences, income generation and the potential role RAC associations in HPMP implementation, training and certification of technicians.

The workshop took place in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the premises of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations which will coordinate the activity. AREA took part in the event and in the launch of the newly formed Bosnian Association.



**Swiss Cooling Expo Fribourg, Switzerland 25<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

At the first Swiss Coling Expo jointly organized by the 3 associations of Switzerland SVK Schweizerischer Verein für Kältetechnik, ASF Association Suisse du Froid, ATF Associazione Ticinese Frigoristi, AREA VicePresident presented the EU Fgas Regulation 517/2014 to the Swiss Technicians. Even if Switzerland has its own different regulation (called ORRChim 2015) the European changes will affect the global market.



**This newsletter is reserved to AREA members**

For any enquiry, please contact

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