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2002 General Assembly 3

On Wednesday, 30 October 2002, EPEE held its General Assembly in Brussels. The meeting was well attended by members. It allowed members the occasion to take stock of EPEE's year so far and look to 2003. The meeting reviewed key milestones from the year and the various activities taken as well as the budget.

Madrid Workshop 3

EPEE and European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) jointly organised a F-gases workshop on the 7th of November in Madrid. The objective of the workshop was to bring the dialogue on the future F-gas regulation to Spain.

Update on the f-gases proposal 3

Commissioner Margot Wallström has confirmed the timing for the adoption of the f-gases proposal. The f-gases proposal is expected to be adopted in spring 2003. The Commission has further confirmed that the legislative tool for the proposal will be a stand-alone Regulation, which conforms to what EPEE has been calling for.

WEEE/RoHS - conciliation outcome 3

A final agreement was reached on 11 October 2002 at the Conciliation Committee on the WEEE and RoHS proposals. On the selective treatment annex of the WEEE proposal, the wording confirming that equipment containing gases that are ozone depleting or have a global warming potential (GWP) above 15, such as those contained in foams and refrigeration circuits, must be properly extracted and properly treated, was adopted

Energy efficiency in EEE 4

The European Commission is working on the drafting of a proposal for a Directive concerning eco-design requirements for end use equipment (EuE). A public meeting will be organised by the Commission on 18 November to discuss the working document on the issue.

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On 31 October 2002, EPEE's Steering Committee appointed a new Chairman, Gilbert Marchiol, CEO of Tecumseh Europe. His Vice-Chairs are Berndt Wilkes, Solvay, and Frans Hoorelbeke, Daikin Europe.

EPEE is a business partnership committed to responsible global energy and environmental policy.

EPEE

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EDITORIAL

**EPEE's Voice**

I gather that there is still an element of prejudice against EPEE that it is steered by the USA, solely supports HFC interests, and advocates only for the chemical industry. All this is wrong, although obviously some keep this image alive – by knowing better – for whatever reasons.

EPEE's leadership is European. EPEE is open to all refrigerants. According to its mission statement and policy, the objective must be to optimise the use, the best refrigerants for the right application, for our society, safety, health and energy efficiency.

Our arguments are based on a realistic and practical approach; emotions are not beneficial for our daily lives and our people.

EPEE's members support the responsible use of all refrigerants, and in this sense we support a European approach, which we have documented by our permanent Committee in the ECCP (European Climate Change Programme).

EPEE started a first dialogue with Eurammon just recently to improve co-operation (not confrontation). We are open in all directions as long as the discussions are run fair, impartial and fruitful. One of our guiding principles is to act on facts.

Should any member or other interested party like to raise any comments, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to hear from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Friedrich P. Busch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Friedrich Busch
Director General

2002 General Assembly

On Wednesday, 30 October 2002, EPEE held its General Assembly in Brussels. The meeting was well attended by members. It allowed members the occasion to take stock of EPEE's year so far and look to 2003. The meeting reviewed key milestones from the year and the various activities taken as well as the budget.

EPEE Chairman Nicolas De Gregorio stressed the fact that 2003 is an important year for discussions on HFC-policy in Europe. EPEE stands ready to play an active role in these discussions and represent the European RAC sector in 2003 and beyond. The meeting also saw the election of a Steering Committee for EPEE for 2003.

Madrid Workshop

EPEE and European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) jointly organised a F-gases workshop on the 7th of November in Madrid. The objective of the workshop was to bring the dialogue on the future F-gas regulation to Spain.

More than 120 participants from the political, industrial, scientific and media world attended the workshop. All participants were familiar with the subject and showed a serious interest in a European solution of the GHG problem.

Phil Callaghan from DG Environment announced during his presentation the Commission's decision on the legislative instrument for the F-gases proposal – a stand-alone Regulation.

All briefings and scripts of the workshop will be posted on the EPEE and EFCTC website in the coming weeks.

Update on the f-gases proposal

In a speech delivered on 15 October at a Eurelectric Workshop on Implementing Kyoto and managing carbon risk, Commissioner Margot Wallström confirmed the timing for the adoption of the f-gases proposal. The f-gases proposal is therefore expected to be adopted in spring 2003. The Commission has also reached a decision on the legislative instrument for the F-gases proposal. It will be a stand alone Regulation, which conforms to what EPEE has been calling for.

WEEE/RoHS - conciliation outcome

A final agreement was reached on 11 October 2002 at the Conciliation Committee on the WEEE and RoHS proposals. The European Parliament managed to maintain its position and agreed:

- on individual financing over collective financing;
- that the costs of collection, treatment and disposal will not be shown separately at the time of the sale of new products;
- that Member States can take action against clever chip development (technology preventing reuse);
- that the collection target is binding and is set at 4kg per year, a mandatory target will be established in 2008.

On the selective treatment annex of the WEEE proposal, the following wording has been agreed on:

“The following components of WEEE that is separately collected have to be treated as indicated:

- Cathode ray tubes: The fluorescent coating has to be removed
- Equipment containing gases that are ozone depleting or have a global warm-

ing potential (GWP) above 15, such as those contained in foams and refrigeration circuits: The gases must be properly extracted and properly treated. Ozone depleting gases must be treated in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2037/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 June 2000 on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

- Gas discharge lamps: The mercury shall be removed.”

The European Parliament expects to vote on both final texts at its Plenary Session in December 2002. The legislation will be formally published once the texts have had final approval from both the parliament and EU governments in the early New Year.

See conciliation joint texts on WEEE:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+DOC-C+C5-2002-0486+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

and RoHS:

<http://www2.europarl.eu.int/omk/sipade2?PUBREF=-//EP//NONSGML+DOC-C+C5-2002-0487+0+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&L=EN&LEVEL=2&NAV=S&LSTDOC=Y>

Energy efficiency in EEE

The European Commission is working on the drafting of a proposal for a Directive concerning eco-design requirements for end use equipment (EuE). With this Directive, the Commission intends to merge two initiatives: the initiative on the impact on the environment of electronic and electrical equipment (EEE) and the initiative on energy efficiency requirements (EER).

The Directive's objective will be to establish a single legal framework for the setting of eco-design requirements (i.e. any requirement in relationship to the product or its design with a view to improving its environ-

mental performance) as well as for the integration of environmental aspects in the design and development of this equipment in order to ensure its free movement within the internal market. Member States should not be able to create any obstacles to the placing on the market or to the putting into service of EuE on the grounds of eco-design requirements if these conform to the provisions of the Directive.

This proposal will have implications for EUE in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector. In the current draft, obligations on manufactures include performing a conformity assessment and compiling an ecological profile looking at the environmental aspects of the product through its life cycle covering from raw material acquisition through to end-of-life.

A public meeting will be organised by the Commission's DG Transport and Energy and DG Enterprise on 18 November to discuss the working document on the issue. EPEE will be present at this meeting. The deadline for written comments and statements is 12 November.

Update on Germany

The deadline for comments to the German discussion paper passed on 30 October. EPEE submitted written comments before the date to the Federal Environment Ministry. The Federal Ministry of Economy has also submitted comments to the paper which, EPEE believes, highlight the fact that EU legislation is currently being prepared on this issue.

Update on Austria

The Commission still has to start examining the modified proposed Austrian legislation banning HFCs.

Update on Denmark

The European Commission has confirmed that Denmark has notified to the Commission the adoption of the Statutory Order banning the use of fluorinated gases. Denmark has submitted a substantial dossier with the text of the Order, justifying its decision.

EPEE sent a letter to Commissioner Liikanen asking the Commission to take action against the Danish Order. The letter was copied to key officials in the Member States that have sent detailed opinions and observations on the notified proposal.

COP8 negotiations and fluorinated gases

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), which deals with the issue of the HFCs and PFCs from a view point of examining the relationship between efforts to protect the stratospheric ozone layer and efforts to safeguard the global climate system, met in late October in the framework of the COP8 negotiations of the UN framework convention on climate change and agreed conclusions and a section for the final overall COP conclusions.

The body confirmed the decision taken at its meeting in June 2002 to request the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel of the Montreal Protocol to prepare a special report on HFCs and PFCs, which must be 'balanced scientific, technical and policy-relevant special report'. In addition this report must be 'policy-neutral and contain user-friendly information.' This report should be finalised by early 2005. Only then will the SBSTA resume its discussion on future policy on HFCs and PFCs.

The conclusions of the SBSTA stressed the role of dialogue with relevant industries and stakeholders to help compile the report. They also acknowledged the role of a range of refrigerants when it states that the SBSTA recognises 'the role of the use of hydrofluorocarbons, hydrocarbons, ammonia, carbon dioxide and other options in the phase-out of ozone-depleting substances under the Montreal Protocol'. Specific mention was made of the special case of developing countries where conversion has specific technical and economic implications. The SBSTA also calls on signatories to the Kyoto Protocol to continue R&D on technologies which contribute to the objectives of the Kyoto and Montreal Protocols.

Meanwhile, in the run up to the COP8 negotiations, the International Energy Agency (IEA) published a report outlining options for dealing with greenhouse gas emissions beyond the Kyoto Protocol. IEA proposes different approaches to addressing climate change to be adopted in different countries. This would be done by choosing the most appropriate combination of better technology, energy efficiency measures and transport demand containment for each country. For further information, see press release at: <http://www.iea.org/new/releases/2002/3pubs.htm>

Update on Climate Change developments in Spain

A Spanish national trade union confederation has published a report which concludes that Spain's greenhouse gas emissions rose in 2001 1.5% to 35% over the 1990 baseline. This further widens the gap with Spain's commitment under the Kyoto protocol to increase emissions by no more than 15%.

The report is available in Spanish at: <http://www.environmentdaily.com/docs/spain2.htm>

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S C A L E N D A R

N o v e m b e r

7 Madrid Workshop

27-28 Budget negotiations in Norwegian Storting

D e c e m b e r

3-4 EPEE Strategy Development Group meeting (closed)

10 Environment Council

Please submit items for EPEE NEWS and the UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR to
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