

# EPEE



# NEWS

A Newsletter from The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)

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## EPEE NEWS HEADLINES

### KEY ITEMS

**WEEE/ROHS PROPOSALS VOTED IN ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** 2  
The Environment Committee adopted their Second Reading Report on the WEEE and RoHS proposals on 21 March 2002. In the case of the RoHS proposal, the result was very positive for EPEE. The Committee rejected all four threatening amendments that mentioned HFCs. The vote in the Plenary will take place on 17-18 April 2002.

**CONCILIATION AGREEMENT REACHED ON 6TH EAP** 2  
The Conciliation Committee reached an informal agreement on 13 March 2002 on the 6th Environment Action Programme. Of interest to EPEE is that the wording on the fluorinated gases. It remained the same as the one agreed at the first meeting in conciliation, representing a meeting mid-way of the positions of the European Parliament and the Council.

**PROPOSED HFC MEASURES IN NORWAY** 3  
The Bondevik Government has adopted a White Paper on 22 March 2002, which recommends the introduction of taxation on imports of HFCs and PFCs at a tax rate similar to that of the CO2 tax on fuel oils. The government will also consider a refund scheme for HFCs and PFCs that are delivered to reception centres when they are taken out of use.

**UPDATE ON AUSTRIA** 3  
The deadline for comments to the Austrian Draft Ordinance will end on 24 April 2002. EPEE's actions and measures to delay and stop the Austrian measures on certain prohibitions and restrictions for HFCs from coming into effect are ongoing.

**UPDATE ON SWITZERLAND** 3  
The consultation period for responding to the Swiss proposed Ordinance to modify parts of its existing Regulation on dangerous substances for the environment, which covers fluorinated gases, ended on 25 March 2002. The Ministry will now analyse and evaluate the numerous comments, and a new document is expected before the end of July 2002.

**OTHER ITEMS COVERED**  
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### F-GASES WORKSHOP

*The European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) and the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) are jointly organising a closed Workshop on Fluorinated Gases. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, April 16th 2002 at the Concert Noble (Rue d'Arlon, 82 - 1000 Brussels) from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm.*

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

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## WEEE/RoHS proposals voted in Environment Committee

The Environment Committee adopted their Second Reading Report on the WEEE and RoHS proposals on 21 March 2002.

In the case of the RoHS proposal, the result was very positive for EPEE. The Committee rejected all four threatening amendments that mentioned HFCs. Amendments by Socialist and Green MEPs to the recitals including a reference to the feasibility of substituting hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and wanting to list HFCs as an example of a hazardous substance were rejected. Also, rejected were amendments by Green and Socialist MEPs to the revision article stating that particular attention shall be paid to the impact on the environment and on human health of other hazardous substances and materials used in EEE, mentioning hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and calling for the Commission to examine the feasibility of substituting such substances.

Thus, the result on RoHS is a success for EPEE. The next step is now the vote at the Plenary session on 17-18 April 2002. EPEE will continue to monitor any HFC-linked amendments.

In addition, on selective treatment provisions of the WEEE proposal, all amendments touching on HFCs were adopted. An amendment by the Green MEPs removing the specific mention of hydrocarbons from the list of gases for selective treatment, was narrowly adopted. A cross-party alliance amendment replacing the reference to 'Equipment containing CFC, HCFC, HFC or HC: The CFC, HCFC present in the foam and the refrigerating circuit' which must be properly treated with 'Equipment containing gases that are ozone depleting or have a global warming potential (GWP) above 15' was adopted by a very comfortable majority.

## Conciliation agreement reached on 6th EAP

The Conciliation Committee reached an agreement on 13 March 2002 on the 6th Environment Action Programme.

Of interest to EPEE is that the wording on the fluorinated gases remained the same as the one agreed at the first meeting in conciliation. The wording on Article 5 now states: "(c) encouraging the development of more environmentally sound and technically feasible alternatives aiming at reducing emissions, including the establishment of Community measures, phasing out the production where appropriate and feasible and reducing the use of industrial fluorinated gases HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), PFCs (Perfluorocarbons) and SF<sub>6</sub> (sulphur hexafluoride) [...]". This represents a meeting mid-way of the positions of the European Parliament and the Council.

The Conciliation Committee also agreed to drop a Parliament proposal aiming at reducing climate emissions by 1% annually to 2020. Thus, the programme is left without a quantified long-term objective on climate beyond the Kyoto Protocol period 2008-2012. However, the programme does require the Commission to produce a policy paper by the end of 2002 to outline "quantified environmental objectives" for a sustainable transport system as part of the EU's efforts to reduce greenhouse gases by 8% under the current Kyoto Protocol commitments.

The Conciliation Committee agreement now requires the formal approval of both institutions. The European Parliament third reading vote is scheduled to take place in May 2002. The Rapporteur, Riitta Myller (PES, Finland) sees no reason for the Parliament not to accept the compromise, as it was unanimously accepted by the Parliament conciliation delegation.

## Proposed HFC measures in Norway

The Bondevik Government has adopted a White Paper on 22 March 2002, which for the first time sets out its thinking on climate change.

The Environment Minister, Børge Brende, presented the supplementary paper, which contains detailed plans for reductions in national greenhouse gas emissions in the period up to 2008, at the same time as it submitted a proposition on the ratification of the Kyoto protocol to the Norwegian Parliament. It proposes actions that lay the basis for what the Government calls 'substantial reductions' in GHG emissions. The measures include continued use of the CO<sub>2</sub> tax and the introduction of domestic emissions trading system from 2005 for greenhouse gas emissions from sources that are not subject to the CO<sub>2</sub> tax.

The Government considers it necessary to introduce policy instruments at an early date to regulate emissions of HFCs, PFCs and SF<sub>6</sub>. The White Paper recommends the introduction of taxation on imports of HFCs and PFCs at a tax rate similar to that of the CO<sub>2</sub> tax on fuel oils, i.e. 142 Nkr. The tax should come on-line from 1 January 2003 and cover the import of HFC or PFC (in bulk or in products). The Government will also consider a refund scheme for HFCs and PFCs that are delivered to reception centres when taken out of use. A refund system would promote the re-use and destruction of these gases, and thus provide the same incentive as a tax on emissions. The reasoning behind the Government line is that emissions of these gases are expected to rise steeply, unless steps are taken to regulate them.

The Norwegian Parliament will discuss the proposal in June 2002. On the basis of the parliamentary discussions the Ministry of Environment will follow-up with a concrete proposal for the Autumn 2002 budget negotiations.

The White Paper is available (only in Norwegian) at:

<http://odin.dep.no/md/norsk/publ/stmeld/022001-040014/index-inn001-b-n-a.html>

## Update on Austria

EPEE's actions and measures to delay and stop the Austrian Draft Ordinance on certain prohibitions and restrictions for HFCs from coming into effect are ongoing. EPEE continues to express its concerns at EU and national level. The three-month period for the Commission and the Member States to object to the measure will end on 24 April. EPEE has finalised a legal paper on this issue.

## Update on Switzerland

The consultation period for responding to the Swiss proposed Ordinance to modify parts of its existing Regulation on dangerous substances for the environment concerning ozone-depleting substances and stable substances in the air, which covers fluorinated gases, ended on 25 March 2002. The Swiss Environment Ministry is, however, still receiving comments.

The Ministry will analyse and evaluate the numerous comments in the coming months. A new document will be produced before the end of July 2002, taking into account the various differences of positions. As a follow-up, an internal consultation within the Government will be carried out during the months of September and October 2002. The Swiss Federal Council plans to adopt the Ordinance in November or December 2002.

## A Directive on energy labelling for household air-conditioning

The Commission has adopted in late March

2002 a proposal for a Directive on energy labelling for household air-conditioning.

The proposal represents an implementing measure of Directive 92/75/EC on energy labelling of household equipment. It aims to ensure that, by providing labelling at the point of sale, consumers will be encouraged to buy appliances that use less energy. Refrigerators, washing machines, dishwashers and lamps already have their own implementing Directives in place.

The Directive applies only to electric mains-operated household air-conditioners - as defined by the relevant European standards (EN 255-1 and EN 814-1). Therefore, it does not apply to appliances that use other energy sources or air-to-water and water-to-water appliances or to units with an output greater than 12KW.

The Directive further determines energy efficiency classes (from A to G). The technical documentation that will be needed to comply with the provisions of the current proposal include information on the supplier, a description of the model, information on the design features, report of measurement test and the operating instructions.

The Directive was published in the Official Journal on 3 April 2002. It is available at: [http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2002/l\\_086/l\\_08620020403en00260041.pdf](http://www.europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2002/l_086/l_08620020403en00260041.pdf)

### Environmental aspects of the Barcelona summit

The Barcelona European Council on 15-16 March 2002 welcomed the decision taken by the Environment Council on the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol on behalf of the European Community. It also urged Member States to complete their national ratification procedures by 2002.

The Council called on the Commission and the Member States 'to continue examining possible additional common and co-ordinated policies and measures, to those proposed in the first phase of the European Climate Change Programme, striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.' They should also achieve substantial progress on other pending proposals aiming at ensuring compliance with the emission limitation or reduction commitments agreed in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol.

The overall aim is to allow for their 'timely implementation'. The Summit Conclusions also called for further implementation of the Action Plan on Energy Efficiency and on the strategies for Renewable Energy Sources. Finally, the Council recognised the importance of the 6th Environmental Action Plan as a key instrument for progress towards sustainable development and welcomed the recent progress in the conciliation discussions between the European Parliament and the Council.

The Council will determine, at its June 2002 meeting in Seville, its overall position for the Johannesburg summit on Sustainable Development.

### F-Gases workshop

In the context of the drafting of a proposal by the European Commission for a Directive/Regulation on fluorinated gases, the European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee (EFCTC) and the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) are jointly organising a closed Workshop on F- Gases. The workshop will take place on Tuesday, April 16th 2002 at the Concert Noble (Rue d'Arlon, 82 – 1000 Brussels) from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm.

The workshop will address the principles of

responsible use of F-gases, such as containment and emission reduction programmes.

The workshop is also an opportunity for an exchange of views with users, academics,

regulators, legislators and NGOs. It will focus on the practical balance between various policy objectives including safety, energy efficiency, climate change, ozone depletion, waste management and economic and social development.

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

### A p r i l

- 16 Workshop on “the ECCP Programme - F-gases - The way forward” (closed)
- 17 Strategy Development Group Meeting (closed)
- 24 Deadline for comments on the Austrian proposal as notified
- 30 Stakeholders workshop on draft Framework Directive on Energy Efficiency Requirements for End-Use Equipment (closed)

### M a y

- 19-22 7th International Energy Agency Heat Pump Conference "Heat Pumps - Better by Nature" in Beijing

### J u n e

- 6-8 European Business Summit “Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development in an Enlarged Europe”
- 18 Steering Committee Meeting (closed)
- 24-25 Environment Council

Please submit items for EPEE NEWS and the UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR to [secretariat@epeeglobal.org](mailto:secretariat@epeeglobal.org)