

EPEE NEWS

MAY – JUNE 2007

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment is pleased to present its bimonthly newsletter.

Please note this version is designed for external use and its content has thus been reduced. The full version of the newsletter (including links to key documents, EPEE's comments/action points, calendar of events, "on the intranet" section and "Message from the Director General") is available for EPEE members only.

To receive additional information on EPEE and the benefits of membership, please contact the Secretariat: secretariat@epeeglobal.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Message from the Director General

For EPEE members only!

I. Latest developments

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. **F-gases:** Discussions go on as F-Gas Regulation comes into force
2. **F-gases:** HFCs criticised during international refrigeration conference in Berlin
3. **F-gases:** EEA releases greenhouse gas inventory 2005
4. **WEEE/RoHS:** Revision of WEEE and RoHS Directive gets under way
5. **Climate change:** Summit on Climate Change in sight as leaders accept to launch post-Kyoto negotiations
6. **Climate change:** Second IPCC Report highlights possible effects of climate change
7. **Climate change:** European Parliamentary Committee lays out work plan
8. **Eco-design of EuP:** Eco-design Consultation Forum kicks off
9. **Energy efficiency:** Energy efficiency tops new Dutch government agenda
10. **Energy Efficiency in buildings:** Infringement procedures against Greece, Estonia and Poland over energy performance of buildings
11. **Energy Efficiency:** EU Green week focuses on climate change

II. Calendar of events

For EPEE members only!

III. On the Intranet

For EPEE members only!

I. Monitoring & recent events

Key recent events of significance to EPEE members

1. F-gases: Discussions go on as F-Gas Regulation comes into force.

On 4th July 2007, the key requirements of the F-Gas Regulation came into force, marking an important step for the HVACR industry. EPEE published a press release on that occasion, urging the Member States to ensure that the F-Gas Regulation is properly put in place by the 27 Member States.

Whilst several obligations, such as regular leak checks, are now being made mandatory, the EU has not yet adopted its key implementing measures on some crucial issues including training and certification, leak checks, or labelling. Some working group meetings involving the Commission and Member States were held on 18-19 June to finalise the texts, but no vote was held on the last Committee meeting that took place on 2nd July.

The European Commission is now aiming to have the texts adopted in October.

EPEE's action points/comments

For EPEE members only!

2. F-gases: HFCs criticised during international refrigeration conference in Berlin.

During the conference held in Berlin on 23 May there was much criticism against HFCs, which were described by several participants, such as Dr. Uwe Lahl (Director General German Ministry for the Environment), as a temporary solution before natural refrigerants become operational.

Stakeholders from the industry and the NGOs as well as government and Commission officials were present. Marianne Wenning, representing the Commission (DG Environment), reminded that the EU is planning to intensify the research on natural refrigerants to avoid future regulatory challenges for several industry sectors.

On its side, the German Ministry for the Environment is willing to replace "synthetic refrigerants as widely and as soon as possible" in all stationary refrigeration and air conditioning.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE action points/comments

For EPEE members only!

3. F-gases: EEA releases greenhouse gas inventory 2005.

The European Environmental Agency (EEA) released on 15 June 2007 its "*Annual European Community greenhouse gas inventory 1990-2005 and inventory report 2007*".

The inventory features complete data on greenhouse gas emissions in the EU. Whilst globally, greenhouse gas emissions in the EU 27 dropped in 2005 as compared to 2004 (-0.7%), the report nonetheless states that "*Substantial increases in GHG emissions between 2004-2005 [include] HFC emissions from Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (+3.2 million tonnes or +9.9 %)*". However, the EEA also states that "*F-gas emissions are subject to two opposing trends. HFCs from consumption of halocarbons showed large increases between 1990-2005 mainly due to the replacement of Ozone Depleting Substances; HFC emissions from production of halocarbons decreased substantially.*"

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

4. WEEE/RoHS: Revision of WEEE and RoHS Directive gets under way.

The review of the WEEE and RoHS Directives, which is foreseen for next year, is currently under way.

With regards to RoHS, the Commission had previously opened a consultation encompassing several topics such as the substance covered, the inclusion of product groups and the changes in terms of the scope of the Directive. The "Summary of the results" has now been made available by the European Commission. Proposals for review are expected in 2008.

As far as the WEEE Directive is concerned, consultants commissioned by the European Commission are currently conducting studies which should form the basis of the future review. The Directive is also expected to be reviewed next year.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments

For EPEE members only!

5. Climate change: Summit on Climate Change in sight as leaders accept to launch post-Kyoto negotiations.

During an informal meeting held on 11th June 2007 and following the G8 summit, 30 environmental ministers from Europe, the US and other emerging countries, made a commitment to begin talks on a **new international climate change agreement** and on the next steps following the Kyoto Protocol during the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali in December 2007.

Talks on the new agreement are expected to end by 2009.

However, the commitment followed a setback during the G8 Summit held on 8th June during which five major emerging countries – China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico - announced that they are not prepared to take on long term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

6. Climate change: Second IPCC Report highlights possible effects of climate change.

After lengthy debates, the United Nations Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its third report entitled "**Mitigation of Climate Change**" on 4 May 2007.

The report contains a series of recommendations to tackle climate change. Of interest to the HVACR industry, it identifies "*Efficient lighting and daylighting; more efficient electrical appliances and heating and cooling devices; improved cook stoves, improved insulation; passive and active solar design for heating and cooling; alternative refrigeration fluids, recovery and recycle of fluorinated gases*" as possible measures to reduce climate change.

The report is the third one of a series of reports that will be gathered in the IPCC "synthesis report" on climate change, to be published in November this year.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

7. Climate change: European Parliamentary Committee lays out work plan.

During the first public meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Climate Change (CLIM) held on 7 June, the Rapporteur, Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP-ED Germany), presented a proposed work plan for the next year, which will be finalised during the meeting to be held on 17th July 2007.

Areas of activity include **climate change in relation to international security, global transport emissions, and land use.**

The first theme to be addressed will be an analysis of the UN intergovernmental climate panel's fourth assessment of climate change, to be presented in September.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments

For EPEE members only!

8. Eco-design of EuP: Eco-design Consultation Forum kicks off.

The first consultation forum on the eco-design of energy-using products was held in Brussels on 22 June. Member State representatives discussed with industry and environmental stakeholders on minimum energy efficiency standards for street lighting equipments, together with the general work plan of the forum.

The consultation forum is a platform of discussion aiming to exchange positions in order to finalise the implementing measures. Based on the initial preparatory studies and the results of the consultation forum, the Commission will submit draft legislative "implementing measures" on each lot for approval to a committee of member state experts. Besides setting minimum standards, the eco-design requirements will contribute to tougher standards that will be used in the EU's eco-label and energy labelling schemes.

The consultation forums for lot 1 (boilers), lot 2 (water heaters) and lot 12 (commercial refrigeration) are scheduled around February 2008. The consultation forum on lot 10

(residential conditioning) and lot 11 (electric motors, ventilation fans, circulators) are foreseen to take place in March 2008.

A preparatory study on the EuP work programme, listing additional product groups to be covered by EuP, is underway and should be released by end 2007.

Key Documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE action points/comments

For EPEE members only!

9. **Energy efficiency: Energy efficiency tops new Dutch government agenda.**

Climate change and the environment are at the heart of the policy priorities of the Dutch government for the 2007-2011 which were unveiled on 14 June.

The main priorities are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to reach a more efficient energy use and an increased use of renewable energy, to improve land use and to adapt water policy to climate change.

By 2020, the Government wishes to reduce the Dutch CO2 emissions by 30%. **The Dutch Minister of the Environment, Ms Cramer, wishes to make all new buildings energy neutral from 2020, and to improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings.** The Government further intends to sign a "sustainable accord" with at least ten industrial sectors later this year. This "accord" will include agreements on CO2 cuts, energy savings and targets for a switch to renewable energy.

The Government has announced that a full implementation program will be published in mid-September.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

10. Energy Efficiency in buildings: Infringement procedures against Greece, Estonia and Poland over energy performance of buildings.

On 28 June the European Commission has started court proceedings against Greece for failing to notify its implementing measures on the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. The European Commission has also sent reasoned opinions to Estonia and Poland for failure to notify their implementing measures on the Directive. If Estonia and Poland fail to give the Commission this information, the Commission could decide to open proceedings against these two Member States.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!

EPEE's action points/comments:

For EPEE members only!

11. Energy Efficiency: EU Green week focuses on climate change

The theme of this year's European Commission Green Week, held from 12-15 June in Brussels, was "Past lessons, future challenges". The 7th Green Week focused on climate change, the loss of biodiversity and the use of resources. It comprised around 20 seminars and conferences, an environmental technologies exhibition and around 75 exhibition stands. The aim of the Commission's Green Week is to raise awareness on the EU's environmental policy and to discuss ideas on how to make improvements and optimise innovation.

Key documents:

For EPEE members only!