

EPEE NEWS



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

KEY ITEMS

- Denmark** 2
EPEE has now filed a formal complaint to the European Commission concerning the Danish Statutory Order regulating the use of certain industrial greenhouse gases. In addition, the Danish Environmental Protection Agency has released a study entitled "Evaluation of the possibilities of substituting potent greenhouse gases" which concludes that for some applications no competitive alternatives to HFCs are currently available.
- F-Gases Studies** 2
The European Commission has distributed the final version of two studies to the ECCP working group, dealing with costs and impact of regulatory frameworks on emissions as well as alternative technologies for the refrigeration and air conditioning industries.
- Mobile Air-Conditioning** 2
CAN-Europe has published a position paper, stating that alternative coolants and systems in mobile air-conditioning have now reached a stage where they could be commercialized and replace HFCs.
- IPCC starts preparations for 4th assessment report on global warming** 3
The UN intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) has started preparing for its fourth assessment report on global warming. The body agreed in its plenary meeting in Geneva in February 2003 to prepare special reports on carbon capture and underground storage technologies, and on the global warming implications of substitutes for ozone-depleting substances.
- Rapporteur appointed for EU greenhouse gas Monitoring system** 3
Guido Sacconi, an Italian socialist, has been appointed to report for the European Parliament on the European Commission's proposal for a new decision on an EU greenhouse gas monitoring system. Adoption of the Parliament's report is scheduled for September 2003.
- European Commission's Environmental Technology Communication** 3
The European Commission released in March 2003 a Communication on Environmental Technologies. The initiative aims to boost the impact of environmental technologies on the environment, economy, employment, natural resources and, quality of life. On the basis of this Communication, stakeholders are invited to contribute their ideas on how barriers to the adoption of environment friendly technologies can be removed. Stakeholders' responses are welcomed until 15 May.
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EPEE is a business partnership committed to responsible global energy and environmental policy.

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Denmark

EPEE has filed a complaint to the European Commission concerning the Danish Statutory Order regulating the use of certain industrial greenhouse gases. EPEE believes that the Order breaches Article 28 of the EC Treaty which states that quantitative restrictions on imports and measures having similar effects are prohibited.

EPA releases study on alternatives to HFCs, SF6 and PFCs

The Danish Environmental Protection Agency has released a study entitled "Evaluation of the possibilities of substituting potent greenhouse gases (HFCs, PFCs and SF6)". The report concludes that "for a number of applications within the commercial area (commercial refrigeration), no competitive alternative technology is available on the market". This applies to systems in the area ranging from 1kW to 30kW and charges between 200 grams and 10kg. New methods, therefore, have to be applied to make the new systems competitive and efficient, including reduction of charges, development of competitive and efficient components and systems, risk investigations when using hydrocarbons, and HAZOP investigations, new methods for preventing an explosive atmosphere and discussions with legislative authorities. Total budget for these actions will be 100 million DKK (13.46 million €) per year for the next four years. In addition, the report considers specific projects for bottle coolers, direct current refrigerators, heat pumps and air-conditioning and containers, which will be subsidized by the Danish refrigeration industry.

The Danish Government, and more specifically the Environment, Finance and Trade Ministries issued a climate change strategy

in February 2003. The strategy focuses on reaching Denmark's Kyoto target of 21% cuts in greenhouse gases over 1990 levels, and concludes that this task will cost up to Dkr 25bn (€3.4bn) between 2008 and 2012. According to the report, buying up carbon emissions quotas and credits abroad is the most economic option, and relying only on domestic measures, including increased wind power development, would be the most expensive option.

F-Gases

The European Commission has distributed the two finalised studies to the ECCP working group. The first one by ECOFYS & Öko-Recherche examines 'Costs and the impact on emissions of potential regulatory frameworks for reducing emissions of hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride'. The second one, ENVIROS is an 'Assessment of the costs and impact on emissions of potential regulatory frameworks for reducing emissions of HFCs, PFCs and SF6'.

These studies were prepared to support the Commission in its drafting of the F-gases proposal. Drafting of the proposal continues and following the February MAC summit, work has now starting on including MAC in the remit of the proposal. The adoption of the proposal by the College of Commissioners is now expected for September.

Mobile Air Conditioning

Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe have published a position paper on mobile air conditioning in response to the Commission's Communication. CAN Europe is of the opinion that technical development of

alternative coolants and systems, specifically hydrocarbons and carbon dioxide, has reached the stage that commercialisation is the logical next step. Therefore the group suggests that HFC-134a should be phased out from use in new vehicles within a relatively short period of time, beginning in 2007.

According to CAN Europe, research in HFC-134a can only be perceived as a defensive effort designed to forestall their replacement by superior technology.

The paper can be consulted at:

<http://www.climnet.org/EUenergy/MACconsultationdocument.pdf>

IPCC starts preparations for 4th assessment report on global warming

The UN intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC) has started preparing for its fourth assessment report on global warming, which is due to be published in 2007. The body agreed in its plenary meeting in Geneva in February 2003 to prepare special reports on carbon capture and underground storage technologies, and on the global warming implications of substitutes for ozone-depleting substances. Both reports are scheduled to be completed by Summer 2004.

The fourth assessment report will put emphasis on addressing regional impacts of climate change, and especially in developing countries.

More information about the meeting in Geneva is available at:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/meet/session20.htm>.

Rapporteur appointed for EU greenhouse gas Monitoring system

Guido Sacconi (PES, Italy) has been appointed Rapporteur by the European Parliament's Environment Committee on the Commission's proposal for a new Decision on an EU greenhouse gas monitoring system. The discussions on the proposal are scheduled to start in the Committee on April/May 2003, and adoption in Committee is scheduled for September 2003 for vote in plenary at the end of September 2003.

European Commission's Environmental Technology Communication

The Commission released in March 2003 a Communication on Environmental Technologies. The initiative aims to boost the impact of environmental technologies on the environment, economy, employment, natural resources and, quality of life.

On the basis of this Communication, stakeholders are invited to contribute their ideas on how barriers to the adoption of environment friendly technologies can be removed. The Commission also expects that relevant stakeholders in the research and business communities, governments and nongovernmental organizations submit comments assessing current barriers holding environmental technologies out of the market and jointly develop concrete proposals. These barriers can include red tape, higher costs and public attitudes.

The Communication is a step in the development of an Action Plan for Environmental Technologies, which is expected to be adopted by end of 2003. The Commission is planning to hold a stakeholder forum on the topic later in the year. Internally in the Commission, four interservice issues-groups have been looking at the areas of climate change, soil protection, sustainable production and consumption, and water respectively since late last year. This work will con-

tinue in parallel with the external consultation and the input from consultation will be fed into each group. In the case of climate change the Commission has confirmed that the inter-service group will dialogue specifically with the existing relevant ECCP working group on this issue.

Stakeholder responses are invited by May 15 to: European Commission, Environmental Technology Consultation, email:

env-technology@cec.eu.int.

The Communication is available at:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/com/-cnc/2003/com2003_0131en01.pdf

Update on Germany

Inter-ministerial consultations on the proposal of the Federal Environment Ministry on f-gases are expected to start after Easter. The final proposal is expected in June 2003. EPEE is following the issue very closely and is meeting relevant officials and decision-makers in Germany.

Update on Switzerland

The Swiss Government is still in the process of finalising a revised version of its proposal to amend the Regulation on ozone-depleting substances and fluorinated gases, which is going through internal consultation within the government. The Swiss Federal Council plans now to adopt the Ordinance by early Summer 2003. Once the Ordinance is adopted by the Federal Council the legislative process ends and the Ordinance comes into effect.

Eco-design update

As a follow up to the stakeholder consultation, the Commission has now finalised a

draft proposal for a Directive on Eco-design and End-Use-Equipment. This unpublished proposal is now in inter-service consultation between the Commission's services. As soon as the services reach an agreement on the various points of the proposal, it will be adopted by the College of the Commissioners. Adoption for the proposal is scheduled for April 2003.

Reshuffle in DG Environment and Management Plan for 2003

The European Commission's DG Environment has been restructured and some substantial changes in terms of movement of units and the responsibilities of Directorates have been introduced. A new Sustainable Development & Integration Directorate (which for the moment is headed up by Catherine Day) has also been established. Of interest to EPEE is that the Climate Change unit has been moved from the International Affairs Directorate to this new Directorate, and the unit has been widened to cover energy - it is now called Climate Change and Energy.

In addition, DG Environment recently published its Management Plan 2003. The plan lists the Directorates objectives and actions for the year. The over-arching objective for 2003 is the "Three I's": Implementation, Integration and Information.

On the specific objectives for the 6th Environmental Action Programme (6EAP) the plan lists:

- developing appropriate measures and strategies to combat climate change, translating agreement at international level into action within the EU, notably through the EU Climate Change Programme;
- contributing effectively to efforts at EU and international levels to combat cli-

mate change and to protect the ozone layer.

The key climate change proposals mentioned include the F-gases proposal, the adoption of the Second ECCP Progress Report Communication (expected in June 2003); a Communication on CO² emission reductions from light commercial vehicles; a Strategy to reduce CO² emissions from cars (Communication); and the proposal on the Kyoto Flexible Mechanisms.

UK to reduce emissions by 60%

Britain has unveiled its White Paper on Energy, committing itself to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. The UK's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, together with Goran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden, has written a letter to all other EU countries to do likewise. Building on an EU action plan on environmental technologies due soon from the European Commission, the two prime ministers urge a series of new measures so as to "start delivering concrete outputs" and "show the world exactly what we mean by sustainable development"

The UK's 60% emissions reduction goal is the most ambitious goal adopted by any industrialised country and could have a significant impact on debate over future emissions targets under the Kyoto protocol. This will be achieved by boosting renewable energies and increase energy efficiency. Tony Blair has called for a "new covenant between nations" on global environmental issues. According to Mr. Blair, climate change is a key long-term global security issue comparable to the immediate security threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Development policy and climate change

The European Commission adopted in March a Communication entitled "Climate Change in the context of development cooperation". The Communication looks at how the EU can help partner countries to better face the challenges posed by climate change and the implementation of international agreements on that matter.

The Communication contains flexible guidelines for the countries involved and singles out strategic priorities.

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

15 Deadline for Comments to Environmental Technology Communication

J u n e

2-6 European Commission's Green Week in Brussels

23 Joint EPEE-EFCTC F-gases workshop (Padua, Italy)

25 EPEE Strategy Development Group meeting (closed)

J u l y

1 Start of Greek Presidency
Steering Committee Meeting (Lyon – closed)

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