

EPEE ***NEWS***

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

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EPEE News Headlines:

- **SEPTEMBER STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**
 - **OCTOBER WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**
 - **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CLIMATE TALKS**
- **DANISH PROPOSE TAX ON HFCs AND DRAFT PLAN FOR PHASE-OUT**
- **GREENS' CLIMATE CHANGE WEBSITE**
- **UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

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

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STEERING COMMITTEE TO MEET 19 & 20 SEPTEMBER

The first EPEE Steering Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19 September, from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, and on Wednesday, 20 September from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 pm at the Conrad Hotel in Brussels, Belgium. EPEE has received Steering Committee commitments from more than 10 European CEO's. During the September meeting, the Committee will approve a Campaign Coordinator; review EPEE's *Responsible HFC Use* position paper; define organisational policies and procedures; discuss EPEE's role in the media; outline Strategy Development Working Group roles and responsibilities; and assemble a team of Strategy Development Working Group members.

WORKING GROUP MEETINGS SCHEDULED DURING IKK

The first Company Working Group meeting is scheduled to convene from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Thursday, 19 October during the IKK Exhibition in Nürnberg, Germany. The Working Group will meet in the Nürnberg Messe Exhibition Hall. During the meeting, Working Group members will outline a strategy for effective intelligence gathering and communication within the EU and EU member states.

The Strategy Development Working Group is also scheduled to meet in conjunction with the IKK Exhibition. The meeting will be held on 20 October from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m, and on 21 October from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Nürnberg Messe Exhibition Hall. During the October meeting, Strategy Development Working Group members will define the specific strategies and tactics necessary to launch a pro-HFC grassroots campaign on both a Pan-European and EU member state level. For further information on working group meetings, please contact secretariat@epeeglobal.org.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CLIMATE DISCUSSIONS MOVE FORWARD

Following the Council of Ministers resolution of support for the European Climate Change Program (ECCP) in June, the European Parliament's rapporteur on the ECCP will present his report to the Parliament's Environment Committee on 28 August. As part of the European Climate Change Programme, the European Commission has established a number of working groups designed to focus on specific issue areas. The Working Groups meet once a month and undertake preparatory work which will form the basis for formal policy proposals to be developed by the European Commission in 2001. The first meeting of the fluorinated gases sub-group took place on 25 July in Brussels. The meeting was chaired by the European Commission and attended by representatives of national governments, industry and environmental NGO's.

Air-conditioning and refrigeration industry representatives participating in the ECCP's Fluorinated Gases Sub-Group emphasized voluntary measures for reducing green house gas emissions in safe, workable and economically viable ways. The industry shared a number of common views, including the need for tight, energy efficient systems, and improved technician training. The Fluorinated Gases Sub-Group differed on the potential for further penetration of alternative into the market for mid-sized systems, the general trend regarding the energy efficiency of systems using alternative refrigerants versus those applying HFC's, and the appropriateness of measures like bans of fluids for certain applications. Also discussed was a GWP-

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based tax on refrigerants in combination with a CO₂ tax, used as a method to achieve the optimum balance between direct and indirect emissions and possible common and coordinated policies and measures. It was agreed that interested parties will elaborate their proposals, and written input will serve as the basis for an interim report.

DANISH PROPOSE TAX ON HFCs AND DRAFT PLAN FOR PHASE-OUT

On 12 September the Danish Taxation Ministry proposed a tax on industrial greenhouse gases, including HFC's. Denmark already applies a tax on CFC's, and these refrigerants are now rarely used. The HFC tax would be imposed on producers or importers of refrigeration appliances. The proposal now has to be examined by the Parliament, with a view to including the tax as part of the 2001 tax law. If the tax is approved, it would enter into force on 1 March 2001. Denmark's obligation under EU law requires the country to inform the Commission and the other Member States once the tax is adopted. However, since this is a fiscal matter, reporting under the EU's formal notification procedure is not required.

As an annex to the proposal, the Danish Ministry for Energy and the Environment has published for information only its draft plan for phasing out HFCs. As a general rule, the draft suggests to ban the use and the import of HFCs as of 1 January 2006. However, an earlier ban is suggested for a number of applications, while for others (mainly medical applications), no date has been set yet as a ban would depend on the development of alternatives.

The formal proposal for a phasing out plan will be issued in October, for consultation with interested parties, with an expected consultation period of six weeks. It will also be notified to the European Commission, which will have an initial period of three months in which to react.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS LAUNCH CLIMATE CHANGE WEBSITE

The World Wildlife fund, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and thirteen other non-governmental organizations are collaborating in a website-driven campaign to increase public focus on November's Conference of the Parties (COP 6) talks in The Hague, Netherlands. The site, (www.climatevoice.org) launched in August, is designed to encourage 10 million messages from the public to world political leaders demanding that the November summit be used to draw attention to pollution that causes global warming. The first targets on the site will be European Union Heads of State and Prime Ministers. Visitors can also download a petition that can be signed and sent off-line. French, Spanish and German versions of the site are under development.

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UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Kyoto Protocol/Climate Change Meeting: 4 - 15 September; Lyon, France

Comments Due – EC Green Paper on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading: 15 September

EPEE Steering Committee Meeting: (closed) 19 September, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; 20 September, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Brussels, Belgium

EPEE Company Working Group Meeting: (closed) 19 October; 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Nürnberg, Germany

EPEE Strategy Development Working Group Meeting: (closed) 20 October, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; 21 October, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Nürnberg, Germany

Kyoto Protocol/Climate Change Meetings: 13 – 24 November; The Hague, Netherlands

TransAtlantic Business Dialogue CEO Conference: (closed) 16 – 18 November; Cincinnati, Ohio

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