

EPEE welcomes historic agreement on F-gases

Brussels, 16 December 2013: The EU institutions today agreed on new rules for F-gases. The rules will introduce a cap on HFC consumption to achieve a 79% reduction by 2030. The heating, cooling, refrigeration and heat pump industry represented by EPEE welcomes the new rules.

EPEE Director General Andrea Voigt said: *"I am proud that our committed industry has shown progressiveness and has always supported ambitious environmental rules on F-gases through a cap-and phase down. The phase-down will steer innovation and help industry to move towards alternative solutions in a safe and efficient way."*

"We are also pleased that the rules have been concluded in First Reading, as our members will now have the regulatory certainty to ensure long-term business planning – all of which will ultimately benefit the EU economy."

In addition to the cap and phase-down of 79%, the EU institutions also agreed to a traceability system to better track equipment containing F-gases which are imported into the EU, as well as a service and maintenance ban to ensure that current equipment moves towards more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

It was also agreed to broaden the scope of bans by introducing a Global Warming Potential (GWP) limit for bigger refrigeration systems and small split air-conditioning systems. Although EPEE still believes additional bans were not required to reach the climate goals, the association accepts that these were needed to reach a common Political Agreement.

The Political Agreement will now need to be formally endorsed by both the European Parliament and the Council. After this the rules should become applicable from 2015.

Please contact the EPEE Secretariat Tel: +32 (0) 2 732 70 40 secretariat@epeeglobal.org for more information.

About EPEE:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) represents the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe. Founded in the year 2000, EPEE's membership is composed of 40 member companies, national and international associations.

EPEE member companies have a turnover of over €30 billion, employ more than 200,000 people in Europe, and also create indirect employment through a vast network of small and medium-sized enterprises such as contractors who install, service, and maintain equipment.

EPEE member companies have manufacturing sites and research and development facilities across the EU, which innovate for the global market.

As an expert association, EPEE is supporting safe, environmentally and economically viable technologies with the objective of promoting a better understanding of the sector in the EU and contributing to the development of effective European policies. Please see our website (www.epeeglobal.org) for further information.

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