

Ms Connie Hedegaard
EU Commissioner for Climate Action
B-1049 Brussels

Subject: Call for global action to control HFC emissions

Brussels, 29 February 2012

Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

Following the European Commission's stakeholder consultation meeting organised on 13th February 2012, the European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE), representing the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry in Europe, would like to reiterate its support for rapid global action to control emissions.

At this stakeholder meeting a great majority of the attendees expressed their explicit support for a global phase-down of HFCs. In this context, EPEE would like to express concerns regarding the disappointing progress in the international negotiations concerning the control of HFCs and this despite the EU Environment Council conclusions of 10th October 2011 which defined the inclusion of HFCs within the Montreal Protocol as a priority. Since these conclusions, there has been negligible progress at the Montreal Protocol meeting and the UNFCCC meeting in 2011.

EPEE continues to support the EU position regarding the inclusion of control of HFCs within the Montreal Protocol as a pragmatic approach. Given the upcoming revision of the European Regulation on f-gases, we urge the Commission to keep the international momentum and ensure a rapid agreement.

EPEE believes that if the European Union were to further control fluorinated gases without an international agreement, this may hinder the competitiveness of European industry. We also believe that the recent initiative of 6 countries, including the US and Sweden and with the support of UNEP, to launch a 6-country voluntary effort to reduce climate pollutants, (including HFCs), shows that global action should remain a top priority rather than inclining towards a precedent for regional solutions due to a lack in progress at the international level.

We would like to stress that our industry is committed to contributing to Europe 20-20-20 targets and sees global action on HFCs as a central element in achieving these. We therefore call on you to take a leadership role with a view to achieve a meaningful global agreement.

We look forward to keeping in contact with you and your services and of course remain at your disposal for any questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely,



Andrea Voigt
Director General EPEE
a.voigt@epeeglobal.org