

Industry supports an international agreement on greenhouse gas emission reductions in Copenhagen

Brussels, 12 March 2009: The [European Partnership for Energy and the Environment \(EPEE\)](#), representing the majority of the heating, cooling and refrigeration industry in Europe, supports the European Commission's intentions to push for an international long-term agreement on the reduction of GHG emissions later this year at the [Copenhagen Climate Change Conference](#).

Frans Hoorelbeke, Present Chairman of EPEE, stated *"We fully support [the Commission proposal](#) towards an international agreement to focus on energy efficiency and low-carbon technologies, especially renewable energy sources. The heating, cooling and refrigeration industry is investing heavily in energy saving and renewable energy technologies. A fine example of this is heat pump technology for the exploitation of geothermal, aerothermal and hydrothermal energy in buildings.*

EPEE also supports a long term agreement to control the emissions of fluorinated gases such as HFCs and believes that the European Union's F-gas Regulation exemplifies the basis and necessary measures for such an agreement. Whilst HFCs, as used in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment, represent only a small proportion of potential global greenhouse gas emissions, a similar international agreement, based on the EU F-Gas Regulation, which focuses on containment and [responsible use of F-gases](#), would be a tremendous step forward and would push the industry towards further innovation and investment in best practice."

It is important that regulations consider the right balance between energy efficiency, renewable energy and refrigerant choice. The combination of efficient regulation and industry innovation will reduce the overall environmental impact of heating, cooling and refrigeration technologies whilst allowing key applications in society to continue reaping the exceptional benefits of F-gases, in particular in terms of energy efficiency, exploitation of renewable energy sources, safety and economical value.

An agreement in Copenhagen holds the promise of a rational long-term regulatory framework for the industry.

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For further information, please contact:

Mr. Friedrich P. Busch, Director General

European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)

Tel: +32 (0) 2 732 70 40

E-mail: secretariat@epeeglobal.org / Website: www.epeeglobal.org

EPEE

14A, rue du Luxembourg, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Tel : +32-2 732 70 40 / Fax : +32-2 732 71 76

E-Mail : Secretariat@epeeglobal.org / www.epeeglobal.org

Relevant links:

[Link to the European Commission Communication "Towards a comprehensive climate change agreement in Copenhagen"](#)

[Link to EPEE position paper "Towards Copenhagen"](#)

[Link to EPEE Factsheet "Handling refrigerants responsibly"](#)

[Link to EPEE videos on the balanced benefits on refrigerants, promotion of energy efficiency and facts about HFCs](#)

[Link to the F-Gas Regulation Online Observatory \(Figaroo\) F-Gas logbook](#)

[Link to the EU Directive on the use of Renewable Energy Sources \(RES\)](#)

Notes to the Editor:

2009 will be a key milestone for the European Union with the Ecodesign Directive of Energy using products, the re-cast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, and the new Directive for the promotion of renewable energy sources.

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE) is a group of businesses involved in the development and manufacture of cooling, heating and air conditioning applications, where energy efficiency and safety are important. It represents a broad-based group of responsible companies, national associations and European associations active in the European air-conditioning, heat-pump and refrigeration industry. It was formed in September 2000 to contribute to the development of effective European policies to reduce greenhouse gases from the use of refrigerants. Further information can be found on-line at www.epeeglobal.org.

Background to the F-gas regulation:

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are a family of industrial fluorinated gases. They are non-flammable, energy efficient, recyclable and have a very low toxicity. HFCs are used as a replacement for ozone depleting substance such as CFC and HCFCs. They do not deplete the ozone layer because they contain no chlorine. The effectiveness of the F-Gas regulation will be demonstrated in the coming years as leakage rates and emissions will be drastically decreasing, due to the efforts of industry in the areas of training and certification of competent personnel to install, maintain and service heating, cooling and refrigeration installations

The F-gas Regulation ([842/2006/EC](#)) was published in the Official Journal in June 2006 and entered into force on 4 July 2007.

The Regulation and the subsequently adopted implementation measures feature strict requirements for the containment of F-gases and the personnel handling them, such as

detailed leak check procedures, labeling provisions, and high standards for the training and certification of staff. The Regulation is foreseen to be reviewed in four or five years' time.

For more information, please refer to EPEE's Frequently Asked Questions document on the F-gas Regulation, which is available on our website www.epeeglobal.org/English/main.html.

Background to Heat Pumps:

A heat pump is a device which transfers heat energy from one place to another. In heating applications, the heat is removed from ambient air, water, or ground sources and delivered to where it is needed. By doing so, heat pumps make use of renewable energy such as aerothermal, hydrothermal and geothermal energy.

Heat pumps can be used for space heating and/or heating of sanitary water and may also be combined with a cooling function. In cooling applications, a reverse cycle is used and the heat is removed, to be discharged to the ambient air, water or ground.