

# **Review of the F-gas Regulation Stakeholders Meeting**

**Brussels, 13 February 2012  
Conference report**

## **Conference Objectives**

The meeting aimed at informing stakeholders about first results of the online stakeholder consultation, as well as options for future action. A second objective was to provide a platform for an open exchange of views with stakeholders to conclude the consultation process.

## **Meeting Agenda**

*See Annex I*

## **Meeting Participants**

Around 130 stakeholders participated in the meeting. *See Annex II.*

## **Summary of Presentations and Interventions**

### **Presentations**

Consultants from Öko-Recherche presented their preparatory study for the review of the Regulation on certain fluorinated gases (F-gas Regulation), focusing in particular on the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of alternatives in different sectors, and calculating future penetration rates for these alternatives. They also screened the most promising policy options in terms of effectiveness of emission reductions, cost efficiency, energy efficiency, technical constraints and other criteria such as coherence with other policies. The highest emission reduction potential was achievable by limiting the amounts of F-gases put on the market ("phase-down"), followed by bans and by voluntary agreements.

Subsequently, DG CLIMA presented the Commission's Review report (COM (2011) 581) of 26 September 2011, which assessed the current state of implementation of the F-gas Regulation, its impacts and long-term adequacy of reducing the climate effects due to F-gas emissions. Some shortcomings in the implementation of the Regulation were highlighted. A full implementation could enable a stabilisation of F-gas emissions at today's levels. In view of the climate goals and a growing feasibility of replacing F-gases in many sectors with alternatives, further cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gas emissions were justified. Potentially, up to 2/3 of today's emissions could be eliminated in the EU by 2030.

DG CLIMA presented initial results from the online stakeholder consultation that took place from September to December 2011. 261 stakeholders replied to this questionnaire of which 77% came from the industrial sectors. Almost all stakeholders agreed there was a need for further action on F-gases compared to the status quo and over 40% of respondents also considered further legislative action to be necessary. Many suggestions for improving containment were also made. On the question of the most adequate policy approaches there were quite divergent views and sectoral differences. In addition, some industry respondents expressed concerns as regards their competitiveness, while manufacturers of equipment using alternatives, administrations, NGOs and many individuals saw concrete benefits in a shift away from F-gases, especially for fast movers.

DG CLIMA then presented the current state of play regarding the reflections on potential EU action in the field of F-gases in order to reach the EU climate goals in a cost-effective way. The Commission is currently assessing further the environmental, economic and social impacts of major policy options such as voluntary agreements, improving containment, progressively limiting the supply of F-gases ("phase-down"), and possible bans on the use of F-gases in certain applications. These options are being considered on top of a full application of the existing F-gas Regulation. Given the need to address different F-gases, different uses and varying availability of alternatives as well as old and new equipment and products, a mix of policy measures appears necessary. The Commission plans to adopt a legislative proposal in the second half of 2012.

### **Discussion and Comments**

Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback, in particular, on what package of F-gas measures could best meet the objective of contributing consistently and cost-effectively to the EU 2050 greenhouse gas emission reduction target.

Almost all stakeholders took the floor.

- A large majority of industry acknowledged the need for further EU action and preferred or could live with a phase-down option as it was considered to be more flexible than bans and would allow industry to adapt and continue using F-gases in applications where this was considered to be the optimal solution. NGOs and a few industrial participants favoured bans where alternatives overall would lead to lower greenhouse gas emissions and NGOs saw a phase-down rather as a complementary measure to bans. Others such as importers of foreign equipment pointed out that bans would be detrimental to their business. A few participants wanted to focus on containment only. Member States had no official positions yet, but indicated support for a phase-down measure.
- Many would also like to see action at the global level and encouraged the Commission to endeavour to get an agreement through the Montreal Protocol to avoid unfair competition and a need for product differentiation between the EU market and markets elsewhere.
- A need for a mix of policies was confirmed by many stakeholders.

### **Other comments mentioned by some stakeholders included:**

- Full implementation and application of the current legislation should be ensured
- Measures related to containment of F-gases should be strengthened and the scope should be extended. Also, requirements regarding "end of life" treatment should be enhanced.
- The experiences with voluntary agreements were very mixed. Such agreements were favoured by some, whereas others did not consider them to be adequate and enforceable.
- A level playing field should be ensured. Consequently, the chosen mix of policies should affect imported products containing F-gases to the same extent as products produced and used in the EU and it should not hamper export. It could be considered to tax gases in pre-charged equipment or require the installation of the gas to be done by certified personnel in the EU.
- It would be unfair to introduce bans on the use of F-gases in products that could be substituted by products not subject to bans, e.g. banning F-gases in certain foams while leaving other foams unregulated.
- Existing equipment should not be made redundant; therefore, it would be crucial that potential bans target only the use of F-gases in new equipment.
- Product liability issues should be taken into account for alternative technologies that were e.g. flammable.
- Different safety and building codes across the EU represented barriers to the use of alternatives and EU harmonisation should be considered.
- Availability of F-gases should be safeguarded for certain necessary uses in e.g. in fire protection and medical aerosols.
- Training and certification rules for personnel dealing with alternative technologies should be harmonised to ensure sufficiently trained contractors in order to enable uptake of alternatives and to limit distortion of competition.
- Alignment with other policies, e.g. requirements related to environmental performance of energy related products (ecodesign) and waste was essential. Impacts on energy efficiency should be further assessed, in particular for heat pumps.
- Sufficient time for transition and clear dates would be needed to enable industry to plan ahead.
- Effects on SMEs should be considered.
- Policy should promote a direct shift to natural refrigerants, while intermediate steps involving first a shift to F-gases with a lower global warming potential and subsequently to natural refrigerants would be costly and should be avoided.
- To avoid use of SF<sub>6</sub> in switchgear, the EU should ban the use in the future and at the same time jointly finance with industry R&D on alternative uses to SF<sub>6</sub> in large switchgear since currently alternatives do not exist.

- HFC23 destruction should be made mandatory

**The following questions were raised by stakeholders:**

- *The findings of the Öko-Recherche study show a high feasibility to replace F-gases with natural refrigerants. Why are F-gases with low global warming potential not included as alternatives to a higher extend in the model?*

Öko-Recherche response : The EU objective is to reduce emissions cost effectively hence, where technically feasible and cost effective (costs lower than 50 € per CO2 equivalent in 2030) gases with no recorded GWP have been favoured, regardless of whether a shift to relatively low GWP F-gases would be less costly. A study conducted by ERIE/Armines confirms the Öko-Recherche results and gives similar metric tonnes by 2030 for the main application sectors, but is more limited in its scope. Alternatives were only taken into account if they could at least meet the energy efficiency related to technologies using conventional F-gases.

- *Are other studies also considered in the impact assessment?*

DG CLIMA response: The Öko-Recherche study is a comprehensive study covering all sectors and F-gases and it provides a good basis to develop policies. In addition, studies made by ERIE/Armines in 2011 and the German Umweltbundesamt in 2010 as well as an upcoming study on "banks" by SKM/ENVIROS are taken into consideration. DG CLIMA would also welcome further input from projects announced by EPEE on a phase-down mechanism and by AREA on training requirements.

- *Have inadvertent emissions during production processes been considered in the study?*

Öko-Recherche response: No.

- *How would the trend for F-gas projections be if gases covered by the F-gas Regulation alone and disregarding the MAC Directive?*

DG CLIMA response: The projected F-gas emissions that are regulated by the F-gas Regulation alone would increase in the future if no further action is taken.

- *Does the Commission have good experiences with voluntary agreements?*

DG CLIMA response: The voluntary agreements in this context are non-regulatory voluntary agreements between industry. The experiences with that type of voluntary agreements appear to be mixed. The semiconductor industry's agreement to reduce perfluorocarbons has lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

- *Will there be set-asides for necessary uses in e.g. fire protection and medical aerosols?*

DG CLIMA response: Needs for F-gases where no cost efficient alternative exists are taken carefully into consideration.

- *Are taxes considered at EU level?*

DG CLIMA response: EU-harmonised taxes requiring unanimity in the Council and covering so many different sectors are difficult to establish at an optimal level and it is difficult to foresee the resulting emission reductions. By introducing e.g. cap under a "phase-down" the outcome is assured. Hence, at this stage an EU harmonised tax is not considered as a relevant option, however, Member States could introduce taxes on F-gases.

- *Will training measures be included into the Regulation?*

DG CLIMA response: The Commission is considering all options including possible measures related to training.

- *How will pre-charged equipment be handled?*

DG CLIMA response: We are looking into this with a view to ensure a consistent approach to reduce emissions and a level playing field for producers inside and outside the EU.

- *Will the impact assessment be made public?*

DG CLIMA response: Yes, when the Commission adopts a legislative proposal it will be accompanied by an impact assessment in the form of a staff working paper.

### **Concluding remarks**

DG CLIMA thanked participants for the comments made at the meeting and during the online stakeholder consultation and underlined that the comments were very useful for the further work on the impact assessment and the legislative proposal.

DG CLIMA noted that proper implementation of existing legislation was crucial and that Member States had been asked to step up their efforts. The meeting had revealed a large consensus on the need for further EU legislative action and a preference for a "phase-down" mechanism as a key driver while noting that a phase-down can be designed in many ways. Also, given the complexity of the subject a mix of measures would be appropriate. Moreover, many had flagged the need to work towards a global phase-down under the Montreal Protocol. Finally, many called for more harmonisation of, in particular, safety requirements.

DG CLIMA mentioned that this conference was seen as the last step in a long consultation process with stakeholders which started in 2010 with an expert stakeholder group following the preparatory study by Öko-Recherche, included the 3-month online stakeholder consultation as well as this open stakeholder conference. DG CLIMA would further analyse all the contributions obtained and thoroughly examine the impacts of different policy options and work on the legislative proposal foreseen later in 2012.

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## ANNEX I

### STAKEHOLDER MEETING

On a Review of

**REGULATION (EC) NO 842/2006 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL “ON CERTAIN FLUORINATED GREENHOUSE GASES”**

**Monday 13 February 2012 – 10:00 / 17:00 HOURS**

**Room 0A, Centre de Conference Albert Borschette, Rue Froissart 36,  
B-1049 BRUSSELS**

*Registration and coffee from 9.30*

### AGENDA

- (1) Opening**
- (2) Presentation by Öko-Recherche GmbH of the Preparatory study for a Review of the Regulation on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (Regulation (EC) No 842/2006)**
  - Questions and clarifications
- (3) Presentation by DG CLIMA of the Commission Report on the application, effects and adequacy of the Regulation on certain fluorinated greenhouse gases (Regulation (EC) No 842/2006)); COM(2011) 581 final**
  - Questions and clarifications
- (4) Presentation by DG CLIMA of the results of the online stakeholder consultation on reducing fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions**
  - Questions and clarifications
- (5) Introduction by DG CLIMA of policy options to achieve cost-effective reductions of fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions**
  - Exchange of views and statements
- (6) Closing**

**ANNEX II**  
**Registered Participants**

	Surname	First name	
Mr	BECKER	Malte	Electrolux Home Products Corporation N.V.
Mr	TARABBIA	Christian	Whirlpool EMEA
Mr	D'HAESE	Alain	European Aerosol Federation (FEA)
Ms	FOURNEAU	Virginie	Dehon Group
Mr	LELIÉVRE-DAMIT	Alain	Climalife - dehon group
Ms	MARTIN	Delphine	Climalife - dehon group
Mr	KUNZE	Peter	ACEA - European Automobile Manufacturers Association
Mr	ELDER	Alan	EUROFEU
Mr	CAMERON	Alasdair	Environmental Investigation Agency
Mr	LARSSON	Tove	FoodDrinkEurope
Mr	REESON	Stephen	FoodDrinkEurope
Ms	PAPAZAHARIOU	Christiana	LG Electronics France
Mr	HWANG	Herman	LG Electronics France
Mr	SCUMPIERU	Mihai	Mitsubishi Electric Air Conditioning Systems Europe Ltd
Mr	LOWRIE	Richard	Mitsubishi Electric Air Conditioning Systems Europe Ltd
Mr	NICOLLE	Darcy	AmCham EU
Mr	COWPERTHWAITTE	Stephen	DEFRA
Mr	ANDERSEN	Jacob	DEFRA
Mr	WÖHRL	Stefan	German Association of the Automotive Industry
Mr	MESSNER	Kevin	Association of home appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
Mr	HOOGKAMER	Joop	EUROVENT
Ms	DHONT	Hilde	Daikin Europe N.V.
Mr	DIERYCKX	Martin	Daikin Europe N.V.
Ms	FLRITCHER	Rory	ASSURE Secretariat
Mr	THIE	Stefan	JBCE
Mr	BAUMBACH	Frank	MAC Partners Europe
Mr	DIERYCKX	Martin	AGORIA
Mr	GREALY	Joe	Transfrigoroute International

Mr	STUMPF	André	Transfrigoroute International
Mr	McCARTHY	Adam	Johnson Controls
Mr	BLACK	Jon	European Industrial Gases Association AISBL (EIGA)
Mr	DEVIN	Eric	CEMAFROID SNC - France
Ms	PIGACHE	Claire	EADS
Mr	CAMPBELL	Nick	ARKEMA SA
Mr	GOELLER	Juergen	carrier EMEA and Carrier Transicold EMEA
Ms	O'NEILL	Michelle	Ingersoll Rand International Ltd.
Ms	WEIKER	Christine	European Cold Storage and Logistics Association - ECSLA
Mr	BAUMEISTER	Frank	European Cold Storage and Logistics Association - ECSLA
Mr	KENICHI	Ichihara	Fujitsu General
Mr	LORENZO VOLPI	Ilja	CER
Mr	JANIN	Olivier	AREA
Mr	LINDLEY	Andy	Mexichem Fluor
Mr	Nigel	GRANT	BEAMA Ltd
Mr	CORDIOLI	Giacomo	ANIE-Energia (Italy)
Mr	AMBROSI	Robert	Sub-Zero, Inc
Mr	OETJEN	Jan	Sub-Zero, Inc
Mr	ENGELHARDT	Rolf	Federal Ministry for the Environment
Ms	MUNZERT	Elisabeth	Federal Ministry for the Environment
Mr	SATHIAMOORTHY	Muhunthan	BP
Ms	ROBINSON	Andrea	BP
Mr	MOSEMANN	Dieter	eurammon
Mr	BIASSE	Jean-Marc	T&D Europe
Mr	PORTE	Wim	EATON
Mr	DE HAAN	Ton	EATON
Mr	OTEGUI	Enrique	AFBEL
Ms	VOIGT	Andrea	EPEE
Ms	van der LOO	Fanny	EPEE
Mr	SLEDSSENS	Ton	Natuur & Milieu
Ms	BECKEN	Katja	German Federal Environment Agency
Ms	ANGELOSANTE	Antonella	Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Ms	SPINETTI	Roberta	Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea
Mr	KATAOKA	Osami	JRAIA/JROAME
Mr	MARATOU	Alexandra	shecco
Mr	RICHTERS	Arne	shecco
Ms	FINEL	Nufar	Finish Environmental Institute
Ms	NURMI	Eeva	Ministry of Environment



Mr	Nankivell	Mike	ACRIB
Mr	RAUSCHER	Nadine	EXIBA
Ms	CLARKE	Jean	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government
	COLLINS	Caitriona	EPA
Mr	GARNACHO	Laura Gallego	CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO – DEPARTAMENTO DE ECONOMÍA
Mr	BEIGHTON	Samuel	Wragge & Co LLP.
Mr	J. LEVINE	Lewis	Wragge & Co LLP.
Mr	WALTHAUS	Herman	Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment
Mr	COCCIONI	Renzo	ZVEI - German Electrical and Electronic Manufacturers' Association
Mr	BASSI	Marino	EMBRACO
Ms	KÖPPEN	Andrea	EHI
Ms	POPP	Dana	EHI
Mr	KYLMALIIKKEIDEN LIITTO	Suomen	Finnish Refrigeration Enterprises Association
Mr	KYLMAYHDISTYS	Suomen	The Finnish Society of Refrigeration
Mr	JONES	Arthur	Tyco International
Ms	BORSKA	Jana	Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic
Mr	JUST	Samuel	Ministère de l'Ecologie, du Développement Durable des Transports et du Logement
Mr	CACCIATORI	Federico	ANIMA
Mr	PAUWELS	Marleen	EFCTC (European Fluorocarbon Technical Committee)
Mr	BONASO	Carlo	Frigo 2000 srl
Mr	LINKE	Wilfried	BDH
Mr	SCHMITT	Peter Boris	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA
Ms	RABAZAUSKAITE-SURVILE	Jurga	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
	LAURINAVICIUS	Vladislavas	Board of National Association of Refrigeration
Mr	MARTINEZ-SCHÜTT	Diego	CDM Watch
Mr	FRACCAROLI	Nicola	CDM Watch
Mr	SZYMANSKI	Rafal	Polish Ministry of the Environment
Ms	MATHIS	Pamela	ICF International
Mr	AARNIO	Ulriikka	Climate Action Network Europe
Mr	Van GERWEN	Rene	Refrigerants Naturally
Dr.	THEWISSEN	Harry	EECA ESIA
Mr	GOEMAN	Bart	3M Belgium
Mr	BUREAU	Maxime	3M Belgium
Mr	KRENZ	Thorsten	Deutsche bahn
Ms	LANDER	Annika	MAN SE
Ms	CONRAD	Silke	Daimler AG

Mr	LEE	Nicholas	PSA Peugeot Citroën
Ms	MERCEDES VÁZQUEZ	MIRANDA	RED ELÉCTRICA DE ESPAÑA
Dr.	RAINER	Jakobs	IZW e.V. Information Centre of Heat Pumps and Refrigeration
Mr	LENDERS	Jan Willem	The German Association of Energy and Water Industries
Ms	SAAR	Dorothee	Deutsche Umwelthilfe e.V.
Ms	NOURIGAT	Cécile	Burson-Marsteller
Mr	SÉNÉJEAN	Benoit	ADHAC
Mr	GROZDEK	Marino	Ministry of Environment and Nature Protection
Mr	LEMOINE	Sébastien	Carrier Transicold Europe
Mr	ZBYSZEWSKI	Sandamali	acumen public affairs
Dr.	WYATT	David	IPAC
Mr	HOFTJIZER	Joris	Westye Group Europe, Inc
Ms	ÚJFALUSI	Maria	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Mr	AHMADZAI	Husamuddin	Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Ms	SCACANOVA	Klara	R744.com
Mr	DIEGUEZ	Jorge	Dupont
Mr	VANDERSTRAETEN	Stefaan	AGORIA
Ms	PERRY	Clare	EIA
Ms	JACOBI	Reeli	Ministry of the Environment
Mr	BASSO	Paolo	European Photovoltaic Industry Association (EPIA)
Mr	WILMART	Alain	Ministry of Environment
Mr	LEES	Jeannine	Ministry of Mobility
Mr	DAUWE	Tom	VITO
Mr	MOORKENS	Ils	VITO
Mr	BONNE	Jan	MAYEKAWA
Dr	SCHWARZ	Winfried	Öko-Recherche GmbH
Ms	GSCHREY	Barbara	Öko-Recherche GmbH
Mr	KIMMEL	Thomas	Öko-Recherche GmbH
Ms	TRANHOLM SCHWARZ	Bente (chair)	European Commission
Mr	KASCHL	Arno	European Commission
Mr	KLAASSENS	Gerardus	European Commission
Ms	PLIMON	Isabella	European Commission
Mr	KESTNER	Matthew	European Commission
Ms	BASIN	Bérangère	European Parliament