



QUARTERLY PERIODICAL FOR THE EUROPEAN CONTRACTORS SOCIETY WORKING
IN THE REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMP SECTOR
ISSUE 2022/02 – JUNE 2022



TABLE OF CONTENTS

AREA AFFAIRS

2

AREA WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT, BOARD AND SECRETARY GENERAL

2

WORKING GROUPS MEMBERS ELECTED NEW CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

3

AREA HAS 2 NEW MEMBERS!

3

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

5

LEGISLATION

5

F-GAS REGULATION

5

ODS REGULATION

7

ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE (EPBD)

8

RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE (RED II) & ENERGY EFFICIENCY DIRECTIVE (EED)

8

GENERAL

10

AREA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

10

LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN COOLING (INWIC)

11

INTERVIEW WITH COEN VAN DE SANDE, AREA'S NEW PRESIDENT

11

AREA, EPEE AND REHVA POLICY SESSION ON "ZERO EMISSION BUILDINGS"

11

2022-2023 CALENDAR

13

AREA AFFAIRS

AREA WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT, BOARD AND SECRETARY GENERAL

The General Assembly meeting, taking place on 13 May, gathered members in Athens, Greece for the first in-person meeting in two years.



At this occasion, AREA members unanimously elected Coen van de Sande, Director of the Dutch Association, NVKL, as President of AREA, replacing Marco Buoni, Secretary General of the Italian Association, ATF. Marco will continue to be active in the Board with a mandate for International Affairs. Grzegorz Michalski, President of the Polish Association, KFCh, was elected as Vice President. In addition, Seamus Kerr (IRI, Ireland) was re-elected Treasurer as well as Thanos Biris (HUFGAS, Greece) as Board member. They were joined by two new Board members: Stepan Stojanov (SCHKT, Czechia) and Espen Rønning (VKE, Norway).

In addition, AREA welcomes Claire Grossmann as the new Secretary General, taking over from Olivier Janin who held the position for the past 14 years.

Members paid tribute to Marco Buoni and Olivier Janin for their highly valued contribution and dedication during their time, while welcoming the new Secretary General, President, and Board members.

Following his election, Coen van de Sande stated



“Legislation and standardisation became more and more an EU playing field in the last two decades. EU wide cooperation between associations of contractors through AREA is crucial to make the voice of contractors heard in all relevant EU stakeholders like Commission, Parliament, Council and other umbrella associations in our (RACHP) sector. Without AREA we wouldn’t be in any position to influence the development and implementation of legislation and standardisation.”

WORKING GROUPS MEMBERS ELECTED NEW CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS

The Legislation & Standards and Human Capital WGs met virtually before the General Assembly whereas Sustainable Innovation and Refrigerants met in Athens. The four WGs elected new Chairs and Vice-chair as follows:

Legislation & Standards:

- Chair: Imre Soorand (EKL, Estonia)
- Vice-chair: Declan Fitzmaurice (IRI, Ireland)

Refrigerants:

- Chair: Graeme Fox (BESA, UK) - second mandate
- Vice-chair: Martyn Cooper (FETA, UK) -second mandate

Human Capital

- Chair: Thanos Biris (HUGFAS, Greece) -second mandate
- Vice-chair: Stepan Stojanov (SCHKT, Czechia) - second mandate

Sustainable Innovation

- Chair : Dimitris Tairis (HUGFAS, Greece)
- Vice-chair: Seamus Kerr (IRI, Ireland)

AREA HAS 2 NEW MEMBERS!

AREA is pleased to announce that two associations, Assofrigoristi and ÖGKT, were welcomed as members during the annual General Assembly meeting in Athens, Greece on 13 May 2022.

Assofrigoristi, the Italian Refrigeration Association, is a non-profit association which brings together companies and SME's that carry out the design, assembly, installation, maintenance, repair and disposal of industrial refrigeration and non-domestic air condition systems. They are committed to the qualification of the HVAC&R professionals and joining AREA is a natural step towards participation in the European sphere regarding legislation and regulation for our industry.

Marco Oldrati, Managing Director of Assofrigoristi, stated:



"The networking possibilities, offered by AREA, is a precious resource that Assofrigoristi will exploit and cooperate to with the maximum effort. The Athens' assembly was the natural place to discuss, at a continental level, what is relevant in our daily business and how the world of HVAC&R professionals will evolve in the future. We hope to take an active role in the development of a safe, environmentally sustainable, and efficient market."

The Österreichische Gesellschaft der Kältetechnik (ÖGKT) is the independent network of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump technology in Austria. They are committed to the development of education and training as well as to the exchange of knowledge, experience and information. They provide professional expertise to public authorities and companies in a range of topics including standardisation.

Harald Erös, President of ÖGKT stated:



“We are proud of how far we have come in the past few years and are happy to be able to participate on a European level at AREA.”

AREA is proud to have 25 associations from 21 countries, including 19 out of the 27 EU Member States, as part of its membership.

LEGISLATION

F-GAS REGULATION

Revision of the F-Gas Regulation

On 5th April, the European Commission released its much-awaited [proposal for a revision of the F-Gas Regulation](#). The proposal strengthens the phase-down schemes and adds a number of new bans. HFOs are now included and new provisions on enforcement are introduced to fight illegal trade. Although 'relevant alternative refrigerants' are mentioned in the provision on training and certification, sadly, the proposal falls short of ensuring that only duly certified operatives are allowed to install and maintain equipment with alternative refrigerants.

AREA reacted in a [joint industry statement](#) and the proposal was analysed in detail on the occasion of the WG Refrigerants meeting that took place on 12th May. AREA is now finalising its position paper, which should be ready in the next couple of weeks. Meanwhile, the general part of the position was submitted as a response to the Commission's consultation.

The legislative process has started. The Council already held 3 Working Party Environment meetings and the Commission will give information at the next Environment Council at the end of June.

In the European Parliament, the Environment Committee (ENVI) will have the lead on the file with the Committee for Industrial Affairs (ITRE) giving an opinion. The ENVI Rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs have been appointed:

Rapporteur: [Bas Eickhout](#), Greens, NL

Shadow rapporteurs:

- [Stelios Kypouropoulos](#), EPP, Greece
- [Günther Sidl](#), S&D, Austria
- [Ondřej Knotek](#), Renew, Czechia
- [Alexandr Vondra](#), ECR, Czechia
- [Nikolaj Villumsen](#), GUE, Denmark
- [Danilo Oscar Lancini](#), ID, Italy

In the ITRE Committee, the appointed Rapporteur is [Sara Skyttedal](#), EPP, Sweden

The European Commission presented the proposal to the ENVI Committee early June. From the first comments expressed, it looks like ECR (Conservatives) is the only political group that sympathises with industry views, whilst other groups are more likely to not just support the proposal but also make it more ambitious where possible.

There is no agreed timeline for the discussions yet.

HFC prices

Öko-Recherche released the Q1/2022 excerpt of the HFC prices monitoring. The main findings are:

- For the high GWP gases/mixtures R134a, R404A, and R410A considerable year-on-year increases have been observed throughout the supply chain (average prices up by 24%, 17%, and 15%, respectively, when compared with price levels reported for Q1/2021).
- The prices of alternatives are mostly stable while HFO-1234yf prices continue a downward trend.
- Besides the stricter phase-down, there are reported bottlenecks in worldwide transport capacity and delivery delays, significant freight and transport problems due to labour shortage and lockdowns of Chinese harbours (including Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Ningbo-Zhoushan) leading to significant slowdown of cargo movement, cost increases, with the entire supply chain affected.
- On the distributor level, prices of alternatives such as HFC/HFO blend solutions increased (R448A, R452A and R449A up by 13%, 5%, and 4%, respectively). Limited regional availability was indicated by few individual companies for the following refrigerants: R1234yf, and R1234ze. For R1233zd and R515B, availability still appears to be constrained as a result of temporary shutdown of US production plants in Q3 and Q4/2021.
- Prices of quota authorisations are reported to have changed little, with some tentative indications for increasing average prices (range of 2.8 to 6 €/t CO₂e, with an average of ca. 4-5 €/t CO₂e).
- Compared to 2014, prices of R134a are 2-5, R404A prices are 2-8 and R410A prices are 1-5 times higher depending on the supply chain level.

ODS REGULATION

On 5th April, the European Commission published a [proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Ozone Depleting Substances \(ODS\)](#). The proposal notably makes some alignments with the F-gas Regulation (definitions, penalties, prohibition of non-refillable containers), modernises the licensing system and links it to the Single Window for Customs.

Based on members' feedback on the proposal, AREA will discuss the extent of its advocacy efforts.

In the European parliament, the proposal will be dealt with by the Environment Committee. Ms. [Jessica Polfjärd](#) (EPP, Sweden) was appointed rapporteur. The shadow rapporteurs are:

- [Rovana Plumb](#), S&D, Romania
- [Ondřej Knotek](#), Renew, Czechia
- [Pär Holmgren](#), the Greens, Sweden
- [Anna Zalewska](#), ECR, Poland
- [Anja Hazekamp](#), GUE, Netherlands

The proposal was presented to the ENVI Committee on 2nd June. There is no indicative timeline available yet. Whilst EPP, ECR and S&D seemed relatively pleased with the proposal, the Greens and GUE pleaded for more stringent requirements, notably against potential exemptions.

ENERGY PERFORMANCE OF BUILDINGS DIRECTIVE (EPBD)

On 6 June 2022, the first [draft report](#) by the EP ITRE Committee's rapporteur Ciaran Cuffe (Greens/EFA) on the recast proposal of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) became available.

The most important news for AREA is that the amendments include a definition of the term 'Indoor Environmental Quality' (IEQ). IEQ also figures as a requirement and condition throughout the recitals and articles of the legislative text, which was one of our key asks in our EPBD position. Furthermore, the text stipulates that the competences of professionals carrying out verifications shall be assessed and broadened through national programs. In addition, the EU Skills Act, and training and education will receive further support from Member States.

On the other hand, there are still some issues that have not been addressed, including ITRE's proposal to remove the definition on heat pumps, and some other clarifications of technical nature that we have called for.

The Council of the EU also presented its [progress report](#) on 27 June, informing about the state of play, general opinion, and initial considerations on specific topics.

As next steps, the deadline for the Members of the European Parliament to table amendments is 7 July and the final vote in ITRE is scheduled for 26 October. The indicative Plenary sitting date on the file is December 2022.

The Sustainable Innovation and Human Capital Working Groups will continue monitoring the developments.

RENEWABLE ENERGY DIRECTIVE (RED II) & ENERGY EFFICIENCY DIRECTIVE (EED)

Council general approaches on the RED II and EED revisions

Energy Ministers adopted the Council's negotiating positions (general approaches) on the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) based on the compromise texts prepared by the French Presidency and Germany's amendment on the EED.

The Council is endorsing the European Commission's proposed binding EU-level target of 40% share of renewable energy sources (RES) in the final energy mix, and the reductions by 36% for final and 39% for primary energy consumption by 2030. Nevertheless, it acknowledges the RePowerEU action plan's proposal to raise the targets further.

Most positively for AREA, the general approaches strengthen the measures on ensuring that the certification process for installers enables them to acquire the necessary theoretical and practical

knowledge and guarantee the existence of skills needed to put in place high quality installations. Additionally, the Member States will be able to include their assessments on whether the schemes ensure the necessary level of competences in their national energy and climate plans (NECPs).

On the other hand, AREA's request from our position to ensure that qualification schemes are certification schemes in all Member States through removing the phrase 'equivalent qualification schemes', has not been integrated at this stage by the Council.

As next steps, the European Parliament's responsible committee on the file, ITRE, will vote on their amendments on 13 July, and the indicative plenary sitting date is 12 September 2022. Afterwards, the co-legislators will kick off the triilogue negotiations.

The AREA Sustainable Innovation and Human Capital Working Groups will continue following the developments on the two legislative files.

'Policy Support for Heating & Cooling Decarbonisation' project

After a long delay, the European Commission and their contracted consultants from Trinomics, Oeko-Institut, and DTU, finalised and officially published the 'Policy support for heating and cooling decarbonisation' Roadmap and Meta-study.

As a reminder, the project was initially intended to support the European Commission in designing the revision proposals of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). However, due to the delays,, the Roadmap is intended to target mostly the national, regional and local level policymakers and experts.

The project involved a series of workshops with relevant stakeholders in which AREA participated. We also provided feedback, assisting the consultants both in the beginning and the end of their work, while promoting our positions on the investigated issues.

To access the document containing the Roadmap and Meta-study, please click [here](#).

GENERAL

AREA ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Read all about what we have been working on in 2021 and our key activities in our mission to support and promote a high standard of quality and safety in the refrigeration, heat pump and air conditioning industry!



LAUNCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR WOMEN IN COOLING (INWIC)



Our sector is a truly vital, dynamic, and rapidly growing field that represents a significant source of high-quality employment worldwide. However, it has the potential to contribute even more by increasing the number of women in its ranks at all levels and types of jobs, which include diverse professions ranging from CEOs to professors, from engineers to servicing technicians, just to name a few.

To help accelerate this process, a new initiative called the International Network for Women in Cooling (INWIC) has been launched to advance the engagement of women, promote career opportunities, and increase their overall participation in the RACHP sector.

INWIC is led by the World Refrigeration Day (WRD) Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction in cooperation with a highly-reputed group of founding partners, all of whom are active in this area – AIRAH (Australia), AREA (Europe), ASHRAE (Global), CAR (China), FAIAR (Latin America), IIR (Global), IOR (UK), ISHRAE (India), JSRAE (Japan), U-3ARC (Africa), and Women in HVAC&R (North America).

Read the full press release [HERE](#).

INTERVIEW WITH COEN VAN DE SANDE, AREA'S NEW PRESIDENT

Welcoming our new President, Coen van de Sande, Director of NVKL, as he begins his mandate, we asked him a few key questions to get to know him better and hear about his vision for AREA in the coming years!

[Find out](#) what inspired him to take up this new position!

AREA, EPEE AND REHVA POLICY SESSION ON “ZERO EMISSION BUILDINGS”

We are pleased to announce that AREA, together [EPEE](#) and [REHVA](#), will host a policy session at [this year's EU Sustainable Energy Week \(EUSEW\)](#) which is the biggest European conference dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe.

Our session, on “Zero Emission Buildings: Climate neutral heating and cooling from Nuorgam to Rizokarpaso” was one of the 36 sessions out of over 200 applications approved by the European

Commission. It will focus on how to deliver a successful and harmonized implementation of the Zero Emission Building concept, specifically from a heating and cooling angle.

Coen van de Sande will represent AREA at this event. His intervention will focus on skills: the sufficient availability of certified installers and investment in skills to ensure the deployment of decarbonised and energy efficient technologies.

The session will take place on Wednesday 28 September 2022 from 14:30 to 16:00. Registrations are already open for in-person (European Commission's Charlemagne building, Brussels) and online attendance.

Please see [here](#) for more information.

CHILLVENTA
International Exhibition
Refrigeration | AC & Ventilation | Heat Pumps

NOTE THE DATE

**Nuremberg
11 – 13.10.2022**

**CONNECTING
EXPERTS.**

NÜRNBERG MESSE

2022-2023 CALENDAR



CHILLVENTA



**EUROPEAN
HEAT PUMP
SUMMIT**
POWERED BY CHILLVENTA

	12-13 May 2022	AREA Spring GA meetings in Athens
	21 May 2022	U-3ARC & AREA free online training webinar
	26 June 2022	World Refrigeration Day 2022
	28 September 2022	AREA, EPEE AND REHVA Policy Session on Zero Emission Buildings
	11-13 October 2022	Chillventa - Nuremberg
	14 October 2022	AREA Autumn GA meetings in Nuremberg
	May 2023	AREA Spring GA meetings in Estonia
	24-25 October 2023	European Heat Pump Summit - Nuremberg



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