



QUARTERLY PERIODICAL FOR THE EUROPEAN CONTRACTORS SOCIETY WORKING
IN THE REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMP SECTOR
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AREA AFFAIRS

AREA Amendment proposals for a revision of the F-gas Regulation

AREA stands by the F-Gas Regulation's objectives of reducing emissions of fluorinated greenhouse gases, and in particular those with high global warming potential (GWP).

In this respect, our members play an important role in the transition to climate friendly RACHP solutions bearing in mind that the overall environmental impact of RACHP systems needs to be considered beyond refrigerants' GWP, with a particular focus on energy efficiency and circularity of applied materials. Ensuring that equipment working with alternative refrigerants are only handled by competent contractors is of crucial importance to avoid safety hazards and energy inefficient equipment.



With this in mind, AREA proposed concrete suggestions for changes to ensure that the EU's overall ambition is preserved. These amendments were successfully shared with the Rapporteur, Shadow Rapporteurs and Rapporteur for opinion in the European Parliament.

AREA Amendment proposals are available on [AREA's website](#)

AREA Past President spoke at the EFCTC Event



On 28 October 2022, AREA, represented by Marco Buoni, participated in the panel discussion on the revision of the F-gas Regulation organised by the European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee (EFCTC) and hosted by MEP Stelios Kypouropoulos, Shadow Rapporteur on the file, at the European Parliament. The event, under the title of "What does the F-Gas Regulation revision mean for Europe?" successfully brought together European policymakers, F-gases manufacturers and downstream users to exchange views on the proposed changes to the Regulation.

In particular, Marco Buoni underlined the importance of extending the current F-Gas training and certification scheme to alternative refrigerants.

The press release is available [here](#).

LEGISLATION

F-gas Regulation

Revision of the F-Gas Regulation

Negotiations in the European Parliament and the EU Council are ongoing on the proposal for a revision of the F-Gas Regulation.

Considering the high number of amendments tabled in the European Parliament Environment Committee (ENVI) and the pace of negotiations, the legislative process for the proposal is delayed. The vote in the Committee for Industry, Transport, Research and Energy (ITRE), initially planned on 5 December, will most probably take place on 23 January whereas the ENVI Committee vote will be postponed to March and the plenary vote to April 2023 (at the earliest).

AREA amendment proposals were communicated to the rapporteur, shadow rapporteurs and rapporteur for opinion as well as to key decisionmakers. In this context, AREA met the rapporteur's (Bas Eickhout) policy advisor and the assistant of shadow rapporteur Stelios Kypouropoulos, (EPP, Greece). Our position was well received, and we had constructive discussions on training and certification.

In the EU Council, eight meetings of the Working Party on the Environment were dedicated to the F-gas proposal under the Czech Presidency. Many Member States expressed support for the idea of extending the subject matter of the Regulation to include natural refrigerants, since they are the main alternative substances, and their safe and efficient use needs to be ensured. In the Presidency compromise text, this is reflected mainly in the provisions concerning certification and training.

The discussion showed that while the proposed timeline for the phase-down of HFCs is considered too ambitious by several Member States, a larger group of Member States is against lowering the overall level of ambition of the Commission's proposal. Further discussion will be necessary on other key elements of the proposal, such as the timeline for restrictions on the placing on the market of certain products and equipment and the introduction and level of a price for quotas for HFCs

The proposal will be further discussed at the Environment Council on 20 December.

HFC prices

Öko-Recherche released the Q3/2022 excerpt of the HFC prices monitoring. The main findings are:

- Prices for high GWP gases/mixtures R134a and R410A have been on the increase since Q3/2021 (on average up by 42% and 16%, respectively, throughout the supply chain). For R404A, most EU suppliers indicated that they have stopped selling virgin R404A.
- Prices of alternatives such as HFC/HFO blends mostly showed decreases in comparison to the previous quarter (R448A, R449A and R452A went down by 3%, 1% and 2%, respectively).
- In general, the EU refrigerant market appears to be quite stable in terms of supply. There were a few indications of limited regional availability of R1234ze.
- The price of quota authorisations increased, with prices ranging from 10 to 15 €/t CO₂e. Average authorization prices (ca. 12 €/t CO₂e) have increased by 90 % compared to last quarter.
- Compared to 2014, prices of R134a are up to 6 and R410A prices are up to 4 times higher depending on the supply chain level. Compared to Chinese producer prices, European selling prices for R134a are 3-fold higher.

ODS Regulation

In the context of the ongoing discussions on the proposal for a revision of the Regulation on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) in the European Parliament, the Rapporteur, Jessica Polfjärd (EPP, Sweden), published the draft report in October. She proposes to introduce a rolling review clause on the feedstock exemption in order to assess on a regular basis any developments regarding the future availability of viable alternatives with a cumulatively more positive effect, with the aim to be able to react and exclude such exemptions as soon as viable alternatives are available.

As regards next steps, the ENVI Committee will adopt the report on 23 January 2023.

In the EU Council, a first examination of the proposal focused on those provisions which are not identical to those in the F-gas proposal, and a detailed examination of the entire ozone proposal also took place. The main parallel provisions will be negotiated further in the context of the F-gas proposal and work on the ozone proposal will continue during the next Presidency, following closely behind the Fgas proposal in terms of timing. The proposal will also be discussed at the Environment Council on 20 December.

Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD)

The vote on the EP ITRE (Industry, Transport, Research and Energy) Committee's position on the EPBD will take place on 23 January 2023, instead of 26 November 2022 as initially planned. This pushed the deadline for amendments in the ITRE Committee for 10 January 2023.

In the meantime, the opinions of the ENVI (Environment) and JURI (Legal Affairs) Committees have been adopted respectively on 7 and 27 October 2022. On the other hand, due to internal splits, the TRAN (Transport) Committee's opinion was rejected in their internal vote.

The changes in ITRE have led to the timing on the final vote in the European Parliament Plenary not being certain yet.

On the side of the EU Council, its general approach was adopted on 25 October 2022.

On the positive side, definitions of ventilation and cooling systems are included, which brings more clarity to the Directive. Furthermore, the calculations for the inspections of heating, ventilation and air conditioner systems were improved, and the Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) will include an assessment of ventilation systems as well.

On the other hand, the Member States have not included the concept of Indoor Environmental Quality (IEQ), unlike their counterparts from the European Parliament. Furthermore, we do not see a definition on heat pumps and the Member States also wish to decrease the inspections of systems with generators of an effective rated output of more than 290 kW to at least every three instead of two years.

The trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament and the EU Council are expected to begin in February 2023.

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

Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) & Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

The trilogue negotiations between the European Parliament and EU Council on the revisions of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) are ongoing.

When it comes to the EED, there have been three meetings between the legislators so far, which took place on 6 October, 22 November and 14 December 2022. The aim was to find an agreement by the end of 2022, but this preliminary deadline will not be reached.

Some of the main issues that the European Parliament and Council are currently trying to find a compromise on include the major investment decisions threshold under the Energy-Efficiency First

Principle and its application. The file will be concluded under the upcoming Swedish Presidency of the Council.

Regards the RED, there have been also three triologue meetings that took place on 6 October, 15 November and 15 December 2022. Some of the main issues in the last discussion include the use of biomass, renewable energy in the transport sector and the accelerated permitting process for renewable energy projects. The negotiations will continue into 2023 as well.

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

Ecodesign & Energy Labelling Regulation on Professional Refrigeration Products

On 28 November 2022, the European Commission held a Consultation Forum on the revision of the Ecodesign & Energy Labelling regulations on Professional Refrigeration Products. The draft versions of the product specific measures were shared ahead of the meeting.

The potential inclusion of Walk-in Cold Rooms (WICRs) was of particular interest to AREA, and more specifically, the provision to make final installers of such customised systems be responsible for their overall conformity.

As a reminder, on 15 February 2022, AREA published a [position paper](#) that was communicated to the European Commission and the consultants working on the revision, arguing against the inclusion of WICRs in the regulation.

We are delighted to inform that our arguments and recommendations were taken up by the Commission and the consultants, resulting in WICRs being excluded from the latest drafts.

As next steps, the Commission will be collecting further comments by 15 January 2023, and the Impact Assessment report is expected to be distributed shortly before that.

GENERAL

AREA at Chillventa

Following the Chillventa eSpecial 2020, and after four years without an in-person gathering, this year's Chillventa exhibition successfully brought together key players and leading experts from all around the world at the Exhibition Centre in Nuremberg. And we were there!

The program opened on 12 October with a conference within the Forum, resulting in a full-house: numerous participants attended our seminar "[The future of RAC training and certification in the EU](#)" with key speakers and leading experts of our industry: **Coen van de Sande** (AREA President), **Ayman Eltalouny** (UNEP), **Marco Buoni** (AREA Former President and Head of International Affairs), **Marco Oldrati** (Assofrigoristi), **Harald Erös** (ÖGKT) and **Madi Sakandé** (U-3ARC).

In addition to AREA's proposals on the future revision of the F-Gas Regulation, the talk featured discussions on how enhancing training and certification of Technicians – also focusing on alternative and natural refrigerants – could help achieve the objectives of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, as well as tighten the very close relationship between the European and African RAC Associations – AREA and U-3ARC.



The event was also an opportunity to distribute as a preview the first copies of the latest international number of *Industria and Formazione* – the 2022-23 International Special Issue, published in collaboration among UNEP-IIR-AREA-CSG.

Videos of the forum with individual speeches are available below:

- [Coen van de Sande](#) (AREA President)
- [Ayman Eltalouny](#) (UNEP)
- [Marco Oldrati](#) (Assofrigoristi)
- [Harald Erös](#) (ÖGKT)
- [Madi Sakandé](#) (U-3ARC)
- [Wrap-up](#)

In the evening of the same day AREA teamed up again with **ASERCOM** and **EPEE** for their [traditional cocktail](#) where the numerous visitors concluded this busy day at the fair with a nice chat among colleagues.



AREA's impact on Chillventa also continued on the third and last day of the fair. We took part in the "Networking for better engagement" panel of [INWIC - International Woman in Cooling Network](#), in collaboration with the World Refrigeration Day, the United Nations - UNEP, AREA and the main international HVACR Institutions.

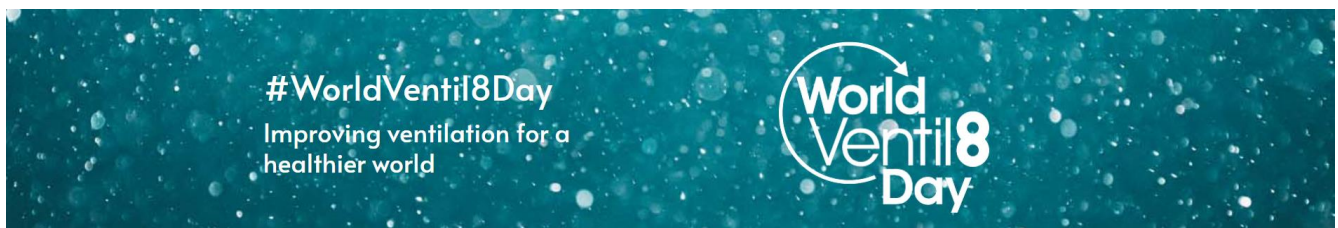
The discussions framed and highlighted the current situation of female employment within the sector. The panel session, "*How Cooling Partners Can Make a Change*", featured sector experts: **Ina Colombo** (International Institute of Refrigeration), **Silvia Romanò** (Associazione Tecnici del Freddo - Italy for AREA) and **Colleen Keyworth** (Women in HVAC&R).

Find out more about Chillventa 2022 in the fair's latest [Press Release](#).

Besa & Feta – partners of #WorldVentil8Day

On 8 November 2022, our members from UK, [BESA](#) & [FETA](#), together with a group of researchers and professional bodies, including AREA, launched World Ventilation Day #WorldVentil8Day.

The intention is using the day to put a spotlight on ventilation, highlighting why ventilation is so important, how it can be done well and to champion the organisations and people who work together to deliver good ventilation for health and sustainability. Our first World Ventilation Day theme is all about Celebrating Ventilation #CelebrateVentil8.



Find out more on www.worldventil8day.com

Sneffca supports WorldSkills Refrigeration Competition



Our French member, SNEFCCA, in partnership with WorldSkills France, is launching a fundraising campaign to promote the refrigeration and air conditioning technicians by supporting the "Technical Refrigeration" competition.

The competition:

The work of a refrigeration and air conditioning professional is a demanding discipline that requires specific skills for the implementation of advanced installations. As an essential profession with multiple applications (health, food, industry, comfort, etc.), it is part of the WorldSkills competition, a global competition organised every two years which brings together 85 countries.

Find out more on [AREA Website](#)

2023 CALENDAR



**EUROPEAN
HEAT PUMP
SUMMIT**
POWERED BY CHILLVENTA



25-26 May 2023	AREA Spring GA meetings in Estonia
24-25 October 2023	European Heat Pump Summit – Nuremberg
12-13 October 2023	AREA Autumn GA meetings in Brussels



THIS NEWSLETTER IS RESERVED TO AREA MEMBERS. FOR ANY ENQUIRY, PLEASE CONTACT :

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