



CoolNews

*Quarterly periodical for the European contractors society working in the Refrigeration,
Air-Conditioning and Heat pump sector*

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REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE gets started

Funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the REAL Alternatives for LIFE consortium met in June for the project kick-off meeting. The project will last 3 years.



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AREA AFFAIRS

AREA meets in Amsterdam

The last AREA General Assembly meeting took place on 2-3 June 2017 in Amsterdam. The event was organised by NVKL. On this occasion AREA welcomed a new full member, AEFYT (Spain) and its first international observer, TRA (Thailand).

The next meeting will take place on 27th October in Brussels. A new format will be introduced whereby all the meetings will be held in one day and the GA will finish with the dinner in the evening. This will give more flexibility for members to travel back home on the Saturday.

Next year's spring meeting will be hosted by ÖKKV in Vienna (25-26 May). SZ CHKT (Slovakia) has invited AREA in spring 2019 in Bratislava.



AREA Board of Directors @AREA GA in Amsterdam

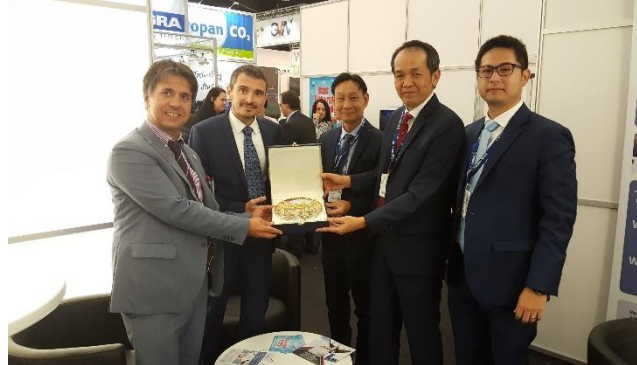
AEFYT & TRA officially join AREA

AREA has further expanded its membership with two new members (AEFYT from Spain and TRA from Thailand) joining AREA on the occasion of the spring 2017 General Assembly meeting. AREA now counts 25 national member associations representing 21 countries from Europe and beyond.

AREA President said: *"I am very proud to see AREA continuing to grow, as it certainly shows the value of our organisation. AEFYT is a strong association that, together with CNI, will reinforce our representativeness in Spain. TRA is our first International Observer and we hope others will follow soon."*



P. Jonasson, L. Hernandez & F. Garcia



AREA & TRA meet @Chillventa

REFRIGERATION, AIR-CONDITIONING & HEAT PUMP NEWS

LEGISLATION

EPBD revision

In the European Parliament (EP), the [draft report](#) of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the [draft opinion](#) of the Environment (ENVI) Committee on the EPBD review are both available. As far as periodic inspections are concerned, the draft report by MEP Bendt Bendtsen (Denmark, EPP) is positive for AREA as it proposes to bring the threshold back to 12kW and deletes the mutual exclusivity with building automation and control systems (BACS).

The draft report and opinion were presented in both Committees on 29 May. The ITRE Committee tabled 625 amendments in total. As regards the ENVI Committee, 334 amendments were submitted. These amendments are available from the [secretariat](#). The draft report should be adopted on 11 October and the draft opinion on 7 September. The plenary vote will take place at the end of November.

On 26 June, the Energy Council reached an agreement on a [General Approach on the EPBD review](#). The new thresholds for mandatory inspections are fixed at 70 kW for both systems used for heating buildings and air conditioning systems of all buildings. The position also includes a worrying option to completely do away with inspections as long as “appropriate advice” is provided to building owners. This position will be the basis to start the negotiations with the European Parliament which will take place under the Estonian presidency.

Early June, AREA and other sectors active in the supply and servicing of energy equipment in buildings co-signed an [industry statement](#), calling on to strengthen the impact of Technical Buildings Systems (TBS).

The statement recalls that *“today, despite the obvious benefits, basic building automation and control functionalities of heating, cooling, ventilation systems, lighting and blind integration as well as regular service and maintenance are often missing or being neglected, although they could trigger energy savings of over 30% at very low payback times.”*

To address the matter, the industries call on to:

- Support mandatory inspections and additional electronic monitoring and control system requirements for large buildings (Articles 14 and 15)
- Support a smartness indicator (Article 8) that tap the potential of TBS
- Support the application of harmonized energy performance calculation methods in all EU Member States (Annex I)

AREA will now prepare voting recommendations in advance for the EP votes in the autumn.

Energy Efficiency Directive

On 26 June, the Energy Council adopted the [General Approach on the EED review](#) following difficult negotiations. Member States introduced important changes, in particular concerning the overall EU energy efficiency target of 30% which is no longer binding. Moreover, the energy savings obligations of 1.5% decrease to 1% for the period 2026-2030, unless the mid-term review in 2024 concludes that the EU is not on track to meet its targets. A condition of cost-effectiveness in the metering and billing obligations is also introduced. This position is the basis for the negotiations with the European Parliament which should start before the end of the year.

In the European Parliament, the [draft report](#) of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and the [draft opinion](#) of the Environment (ENVI) Committee on the review of the Energy Efficiency Directive are both available. The main proposals of the draft report (Rapporteur: Adam Gierek, Poland, S&D) concern the targets: the rapporteur proposes a 2030 EU 35% energy efficiency (EE) binding target with national indicative targets. In the draft opinion, the rapporteur (Jytte Guteland, Sweden, S&D) proposes an EU 40% binding target as well as binding targets at national level. The draft report will be adopted on 10 October and the draft opinion on 7 September. The plenary vote will take place in November.

Renewable Energy Directive

In the European Parliament, the [draft report](#) of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and [the draft opinion](#) of the Environment (ENVI) Committee on the review of the Renewable Energy Sources directive are both available. In the draft report, the rapporteur (José Blanco-Lopez, Spain, S&D) proposes to increase the EU binding target on the share of renewable energy from 27% to 35% and to accompany it with national binding targets. Moreover, Member States must increase the share of renewable energy supplied for heating and cooling by at least 2 percentage points every year (instead of 1 percentage point as proposed by the Commission).

The rapporteur for opinion (Bas Eickhout, Netherlands, Greens) suggests an EU binding target of at least 45% share of renewable energy and national binding targets. The draft report and opinion will be adopted in the ITRE and ENVI Committees on 11 October and the plenary vote will take place at the end of November.

The EU Council is working on a position and published the first [proposal for a compromise](#) which expresses the Member States' current position. This text includes two main changes. Firstly, the Commission is now empowered to adopt delegated acts to establish a methodology for calculating the quantity of renewable energy used for heating and cooling and district heating and cooling, and to revise Annex VII on calculation of energy from heat pumps (article 7). Secondly, concerning the annual 1% increase in the share of renewable energy in heating and cooling supply, a starting point of

the level achieved in 2020 is added as well as an exemption for countries with a level of 60% or more (article 23).

Circular economy policy

The European Commission is implementing its circular economy policy, notably in tackling the resource efficiency issue at the production phase. In this context, the Ecodesign framework is required to significantly contribute to further recycling and re-use. The Commission systematically investigates requirements to tackle material efficiency issues at the design phase in ongoing and upcoming review of Ecodesign measures, such as the regulation on air-conditioners. Examples of product specific and horizontal requirements are minimum durability of products, availability of spare parts, design for repair, upgradeability, design for disassembly and marking of hazardous substances in plastics.

As a reminder, the European Commission adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package in 2015. This plan intended to address the whole value chain, from production and consumption to waste management and the market for secondary raw materials. The Commission already addressed the recycling issue and the waste phase through its review of the EU legislation on waste.

Within the next months, the European Commission will focus on the substitution of hazardous substances. The objective is twofold: to promote non-toxic material cycles and to enhance the uptake of secondary raw materials.

European Parliament own initiative report on product lifetime

The European Parliament adopted an own-initiative report: *“Longer lifetime for products: benefits for consumers and companies”*. Although proposed measures are not legally binding, the European Parliament suggests various measures for the implementation the circular economy policy.

This initiative aims to encourage the production of durable, high-quality and repairable products and reduce built-in obsolescence. For example, MEPs call on the European Commission to ensure products are designed to be robust, including through minimum resistance criteria, easily repaired and upgradable. They encourage the availability of spare parts for key components, including batteries, at an affordable price. They also suggest a “voluntary European label” covering the product's durability, upgradeability in line with technical progress and reparability.

Ecodesign and energy labelling measures on air-conditioner

The European Commission launched the review of Ecodesign measures on air-conditioners (206/2012 and 626/2011). Viegand Maagøe and Armines (see study website [here](#)) are carrying out a study until mid-2018. The first [draft interim report](#) on scope and markets was published in June 2017.

The consultant suggests extending the scope to air-to-air heat pumps and air conditioner that uses ventilation exhaust air (thermal power below or equal to 12 kW). As regards the Energy labelling

Regulation 626/2011, the scope should follow the Ecodesign Regulation, with the exception of comfort fans.

As regards minimum performance requirements, the draft report concluded that there is important margin available for increasing performance of split air conditioners in cooling mode. It also noted that both the US and Japan have more ambitious requirements today than the EU.

Considering the market, the world air conditioner market is expected to grow by factor four from 2015 to the year 2050. Today, mobile split and window/wall air conditioners have almost completely disappeared from the EU market. Regarding fixed air conditioners, they are now nearly all reversible (> 99%). In 2015, the sales were approximately 4 million units and the stock was 53.7 million units. The sales and stocks are expected to increase and reach above 10 million units in sales and 98.5 million units in stock by 2030. The comfort decision to install air conditioning is influenced by climate (and global warming will increase air conditioning penetration), building regulations and affordability, the increasing gross national income (GNI) per capita will increase the consumers' willingness to buy air conditioners.

Regarding low GWP refrigerant, R32 products are put on the market at the same capacity, efficiency and price as middle efficiency or premium R410A units. It thus seems that the impact of the GWP bonus has been null or negligible.

Review of the Energy labelling Directive

The European Parliament and the Council reached a compromise on the revised Energy Labelling Directive in spring 2017. Then, the European parliament and the Council formally adopted this compromise text in June. As a next step, the revised Energy labelling regulation will be published in the Official Journal within the next weeks.

As a reminder, the European Parliament and the Council backed up the Commission proposal to revert back to an "A to G" labelling scale. They also set a rescaling mechanism for existing labels, but also future labels. As regards cooling equipment, new labels will be developed within 6 years after the new regulation enters into force: new labels will be introduced on the market by 2024. Per the new provisions, suppliers must provide both the current and the rescaled labels as well as product information sheets to dealers for a period of four months before the mandatory display of the rescaled label. Then, dealers must replace the existing labels on products displayed in shops and online with the rescaled label within 14 working days from the mandatory display date.

In addition, a new product registration database will be launched by 1 January 2019. This new instrument will include a public part and a compliance part accessible to authorities to facilitate enforcement. Suppliers should provide specific parts of the technical documentation.

PROJECTS

REAL Alternatives for LIFE project gets started

Funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the REAL Alternatives for LIFE consortium met in June for the project kick-off meeting.

The REAL Alternatives for LIFE project, an extension of the previous Real Alternatives project, is funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the LIFE programme.

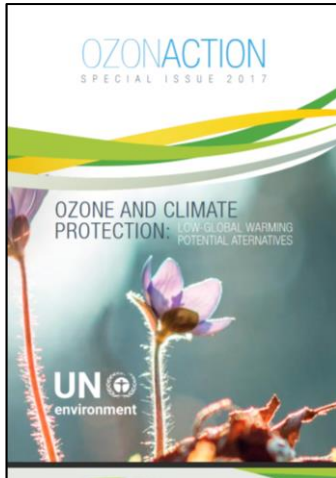
As part of this funding programme, the European Commission is co-financing a consortium of European training centres, associations to provide “train the trainer” sessions on low GWP refrigerants (hydrocarbons, CO₂, ammonia, HFOs, R32) in order to ensure safe, efficient, reliable and cost-effective implementation.

The objective of the project is to develop new and update existing training material, as well as to introduce a range of practical exercises and assessments with an aim to standardising skills sets and requirements for handling low GWP refrigerants across the globe. The project will promote the best practice in training in this field whilst equally increasing awareness, experience and knowledge at all levels by ensuring a presence at key national, EU and international meetings, conferences and events. Confirming its international scope, courses will be conducted in 13 languages and 15 countries are involved in the project.

The Project Management team includes the Institute of Refrigeration (IOR) and London South Bank University in the UK, the University College Limburg and AREA in Belgium, IKKE Regional Training Centre in Germany, ATF Trade Association in Italy, PROZON Foundation for climate protection refrigerant reclamation organization in Poland, and the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) in France. In addition, several AREA members will feature as “stakeholders”: SCHKT (Czech Republic), SZCHKT (Slovakia), APIRAC (Portugal), CNI (Spain) and SOSIAD (Turkey).



PUBLICATIONS



AREA article in Ozonation Special Issue 2017

Check <http://area-eur.be/news/area-article-ozonation-special-issue-2017>



AREA Annual Report 2016

Check <http://area-eur.be/news/area-annual-report-2016>



EIA's 7th Chilling Facts report

Check: <https://eia-international.org/wp-content/uploads/Chilling-Facts-VII-FINAL.pdf>

EVENTS

XVII UNEP-IIR-CSG-ATF Conference on the latest technology in refrigeration and air conditioning

The outcomes of the conference that was held in June are now available:

- Results and conclusions of the Congress ([click here](#) and please view attachment)
- Photos of the event ([click here](#))
- Power Point slideshow presentations – view only ([click here](#))
- Video of Mr. Buoni’s speech ([click here](#))



AREA speaks about the Kigali Agreement



The Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer agreed to phase down HFCs on 15 October 2016 in Kigali (Rwanda). The UN Environment OzonAction developed a video to find out from renowned international scientific, health, technical, financial and national experts about the background and significance of this Kigali amendment.

In this interview, AREA Vice-President International Affairs Marco Buoni explains the opportunities offered by the Kigali amendment, notably in terms of energy efficiency and jobs creation in particular in developing countries. He also stresses the importance of training on alternative refrigerants that present different properties to those of HFCs.

<https://youtu.be/VXRcGGm1DtI?t=4m43s>

<https://youtu.be/VXRcGGm1DtI?t=7m55s>



**1st IIR International
Conference
on the Application
of HFO Refrigerants**

Birmingham

2nd – 5th September

2018

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