

Ad-hoc dialogue on EU F-gas regulation and HFC emission reduction

– Joint Minutes 14th February 2024

1. F-gas and HFC (Hydrofluorocarbons) policy officials from Japan and EU together with Japanese relevant industry experts met on 14th February 2024. Those present are shown in ANNEX.
2. Policy officials from both sides explained recent developments on HFC emission reduction measures in Japan and EU. METI presented revision of the Act on the Protection of the Ozone Layer to be compliant with Kigali Amendment. METI touched upon reduction target of Fluorocarbons consumption and its past record.
3. DG CLIMA explained recent revision of F-gas regulation to achieve steep reduction of emission of HFCs and other F-gases in order to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 as well as to be compliant with Kigali Amendment. DG CLIMA introduced that some Implementing Acts are being drafted to complement the regulation, such as certification, training and reporting requirement. DG CLIMA pointed out that the legislative procedure of the regulation was open and transparent so that industry stakeholders could participate.
4. METI has announced that Japanese government has submit opinion on EU's F-gas regulation through WTO/TBT process. METI also expressed its willingness to have a bilateral dialogue with DG CLIMA in a constructive manner and invite industry experts to incorporate their practical knowledge.
5. JBCE explained about Japanese Industry's presence in heat pump and air conditioning market in EU, including their investment and contribution for employment.
6. JRAIA raised concern on safety when highly flammable refrigerant is used especially for split-type heat pump products. JRAIA pointed out necessity to assess life-cycle safety of equipment and explained characteristics of propane as well as limits of relevant IEC/EN standards. In response to Japanese interests, DG CLIMA explained that exemption provisions were introduced for most of product categories in the regulation to deal with safety requirements. DG CLIMA mentioned that additional safety measures will be taken for instalment and maintenance of the equipment through training and certification.
7. JFMA explained about Research and Development of HFOs (Hydrofluoroolefin) refrigerant with low GWP (Global Warming Potential). JFMA warned that full ban of F-gases could have negative impact on technological development of HFOs and requested review of the regulation in order to make HFOs available on the market in the future. DG CLIMA mentioned that there is a concern over HFOs as a form of PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) which are environmental pollutants.
8. Both sides agreed to continue this Ad-hoc dialogue for smooth implementation of F-gas regulation and its foreseen revision in the future.

