

Summary minutes of meeting with EPEE and EFCTC on 23/4 2021

Participants:

[REDACTED]; (EFCTC)
[REDACTED], (EFCTC)
[REDACTED] (EPEE);
[REDACTED] (CLIMA);
[REDACTED] (CLIMA);
[REDACTED] (CLIMA);

EPEE and the EFCTC expressed their concern about the initiative taken in some Member States that potentially could lead to a prohibition of PFAS. They noted that it was not appropriate to treat all PFAS in the same way and that HFCs and HFOs should not be covered because in their view chemically they are not PFAS strictu sensu, but only their potential breakdown products, whose occurrence in many cases has, in the industry view, not been demonstrated, would qualify as PFAS. If a broad PFAS prohibition is however introduced, HFC and HFO using sectors should qualify for an essential use prohibition, since it would otherwise not be possible to replace highly warming HFCs in many appliances. They suggested to include measures to prevent emissions from HFOs in the future F-gas Regulation, in this way many emission can be avoided.

DG CLIMA took note of their concern and mentioned that the PFAS initiative was within the remit of the REACH Directive, and was spearheaded by the initiative of some Member States (DE, DK, SE, as well as NO) and that there were close contacts to the colleagues in DG ENV to ensure consistency between the policies, as well as to the NO environmental agency who is investigating HFOs/HFCs in this context. DG CLIMA confirmed that an essential use exemption was being considered. Also, in the F-gas review impact assessment the Commission is exploring the possibility of expanding the scope for the emission containment measures to also cover equipment containing HFOs.