**ECRAN Climate - Working Group**  **1: “Climate Policy Development and Building Climate Awareness”**

**Task 1.2: Regional Training programme of the Selected Climate *Acquis***

**Sub Task 1.2.A WORKSHOP ON ODS AND F GASES**

**Tirana. Albania**

27-28 May 2014

**Background – Fluorinated gases (F-gases) Regulations**

Fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) are powerful greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming if released into the atmosphere, with much greater warming potential than carbon dioxide (CO2). In order to further reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, Regulation No. 842/2006 and 10 pieces of implementing Regulations were adopted. These Regulations mainly target certain industrial applications of fluorinated gases (F-gases). The main Regulation covers the use of Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6)in all their applications with the exception of the prohibition of the use of F-gases in new types of cars and vans introduced from 2011, which is covered by the MAC Directive (2006/40/EC). Furthermore, reporting provisions have been introduced to facilitate monitoring of the Regulation's measures and to ensure that its objectives are being met.

The F-gas Regulation aims at:

* Improving the **prevention of leakage** from equipment containing F-gases. Measures comprise: containment of gases and proper recovery of equipment; training and certification of personnel and of companies handling these gases; labelling of equipment containing F-gases; reporting on imports, exports and production of F-gases;
* **Avoiding F-gases in some applications** where environmentally superior alternatives are cost-effective. Measures include restrictions on the marketing and use of certain products and equipment containing F-gases.

The fluorinated gases they regulate are used for a wide range of applications, e.g.: Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are used as refrigerants, cleaning solvents and foam blowing agents; Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) are used in semi-conductor manufacture, as cleaning solvents and as foam blowing agents; Sulphur hexafluorides (SF6) are used in high-voltage switch gear, magnesium and aluminium production. As many of the earlier generation of cooling agents were phased out by the Montreal Protocol, industry substituted many of these gases with HFCs and PFCs as these do not deplete the ozone layer.

However, these gases are contributing to climate change, thus the EU decided to regulate their marketing and use. Industry is increasingly developing alternatives to fluorinated gases, but some of these gases are less safe for consumers than the fluorinated gases. Hence, a gradual approach and the gradual substitution of these gases will be necessary. During this transitional period until all uses of F-gases can be phased out, it is also necessary to regulate the applications using F-gases with regard to checking, filling and disposal operations to minimise leakage. For this purpose, a certification scheme is established for certain companies, which require that staff involved in handling applications with F-gases have the necessary qualifications and training.

Although Regulation (EC) No. 842/2006 mainly aims at environmental protection, it also seeks to ensure that the requirements on the use of fluorinated greenhouse gases and the marketing and labelling of products and equipment containing such gases are harmonised in the EU. For instance, restrictions are justified where alternative gases are available and the further improvement of containment is not possible. Annex 1 lists fluorinated gases falling under the scope of the Regulation and also sets out the method for calculating the total global warming potential for a preparation. Annex II sets out a schedule for placing on the market prohibitions of fluorinated gases in certain products and equipment.

Regulation No. 842/2006 has been supplemented with ten implementing Regulations laying down more specific requirements concerning:

* Standard **leakage checking requirements** for stationary refrigeration, air conditioning equipment, heat pump equipment and stationary fire protection systems containing certain fluorinated greenhouse gases;
* **Labelling** requirements for products and equipment containing certain fluorinated greenhouse gases;
* Format for the **report** to be submitted by producers, importers and exporters of certain fluorinated greenhouse gases;
* **Certification** of companies and technical staff handling applications with fluorinated greenhouse gases and the mutual recognition of the certificates of other Member States. These concern the following applications containing certain fluorinated greenhouse gases:
	+ Stationary refrigeration
	+ Stationary air conditioning equipment
	+ Stationary heat pump equipment
	+ Stationary fire protection systems and fire extinguishers
	+ High-voltage switchgear
* **Certification** of companies and technical staff **recovering** certain fluorinated greenhouse gas based solvents from equipment
* Minimum requirements for **training** programmes and the conditions for mutual recognition of training attestations for personnel as regards mobile air conditioning systems containing certain fluorinated greenhouse gases
* The **format** for **notification of the training and certification programmes** of the Member States

A new revised F-gas Regulation is expected to come into force in May 2014.  The new Regulation will reduce F-gas emissions by two-thirds of today's levels by 2030 and ban the use of F-gases in some new equipment where viable climate-friendly alternatives are readily available. The main novelty and driver for moving towards climate-friendly technologies is the introduction of a phase-down measure which from 2015 will limit the total amount of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – the most significant group of F-gases - sold in the EU and reduce their quantities in steps to one-fifth of today's sales by 2030. This measure is accompanied by a number of new restrictions on the use and sale of F-gases in equipment.

**Background – Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Regulations**

The European Union has a strong commitment to protect the ozone layer. To facilitate its recovery the EU has implemented legislation that goes beyond its obligations under international agreements. The consumption of ozone depleting substances, as far as controlled under the Montreal Protocol, has already been reduced to zero since 2010, ten years before the international target of 2020.

To protect the ozone layer the international community has established the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer in 1987, phasing out chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), halons, carbon tetrachloride and methyl bromide, .

The European Union and its Member States are at the forefront of ozone layer protection with a policy that often goes beyond the requirements of the Montreal Protocol.

Furthermore, EU has put in controls for any use of ozone depleting substances that are not considered as consumption under the Montreal Protocol, such as uses of ODS as feedstock in the chemical industry. In particular the EU has banned the use of the toxic methyl bromide for any kind of fumigation.

The EU legislation acted as a driver for the development of innovative technologies such as alternatives for methyl bromide alternatives, new blowing agents for insulation foam, CFC-free metered dose inhalers for the treatment of asthma, and the creation of innovative fire-fighting systems on board ships and airplanes which do not use halons.

The following EU legislation implements the EU obligations as regards the ODS:

* [Commission Regulation (EU) 537/2011 on mechanism for the allocation of quantities of controlled substances allowed for laboratory and analytical uses](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011R0537:EN:NOT)
* [Commission Regulation (EU) No 291/2011 on essential uses of controlled substances other than hydrochlorofluorocarbons for laboratory and analytical purposes in the Union under Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32011R0537:EN:NOT)
* [Commission Regulation (EU) 744/2010 amending Annex VI to Regulation (EC) 1005/2009, with regard to the critical uses of halons](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32010R0744:EN:NOT)
* [Commission Decision 2010/372/EU on the use of controlled substances as process agents](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32010D0372:EN:NOT)
* [Regulation (EC) 1005/2009 on substances that deplete the ozone layer](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009R1005:EN:NOT)

The global consumption of ODS has been reduced by some 98% since countries started taking action under the Montreal Protocol. As a result the atmospheric concentration of the most aggressive types of ODS is falling and the ozone layer is showing the first signs of recovery. Nevertheless, it is not expected to recover fully before the second half of this century.

Much remains to be done to ensure the continued recovery of the ozone layer and to reduce the impact of ODS on climate change. The main actions needed are:

* Ensuring that the existing restrictions on ODS are properly implemented and worldwide use of ODS continues to be reduced;
* Ensuring that ODS are replaced with climate-friendly alternatives;
* Recovering ODS from existing equipment and buildings;
* Preventing illegal trade in ODS;
* Reducing use of ODS in applications that are not considered as consumption under the Montreal Protocol.

**Objectives of the workshop**

Objective is to familiarise the beneficiary with the F-gases and the ODS regulations, with a particular emphasis on the planning and preparation, certification, verifications and training schemes, labelling, responsibilities for commercial, industrial and public sector organizations, as well as reporting requirements in the transposition and implementation of F-gases regulations.

Additionally, there will be an opportunity for sharing of experiences on the knowledge and capacity in the implementation of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol in the ECRAN beneficiary.

**Expected Results of the workshop**

The expected results are:

* Understanding of the EU regulatory architecture on legislation related to F-gases and ozone depleting substances
* Improved understanding of the required steps towards transposition and implementation of the obligations arising from the EU F-gases and ODS Regulations.

**Further information on the workshop**

The workshop is organized in collaboration with the TAIEX Unit who is responsible for provision of logistical arrangements for the nominated beneficiary representatives and TAIEX experts (travel, accommodation and per diems). The assistance will be provided in line with the standard Manual of Procedures for TAIEX Operations

The Focal Points are required to submit the names of their representatives to the ECRAN Secretariat who will communicate the final list of participants further to TAIEX.

The workshop will be held in Tirana, Albania. We kindly invite you to nominate **up to five key experts** in your country that **are already** or **could be** involved in implementing obligations arising from the Montreal Protocol and the EU F-gases and ODS Regulations.

Hereafter please find the Agenda attached.

Yours sincerely

Imre Csikós

ECRAN Climate Team Leader

**Draft Agenda Outline and List of Confirmed Participants**

**27-28 May 2014:**

|  |
| --- |
| **DAY 1 - Venue: Tirana, Albania**  |
| **Start** | **Finish** | **Topic** | **Speaker** | **Sub topic/Content** |
| **08:30** | **09:00** | **Registration** |
| 09.00 | 09.30 | Welcome and Introduction | Imre CSIKÓS, ECRAN | * Introduction of participants
* Objectives of the meeting
* Approval of the agenda
* ECRAN Climate - overview
 |
| 09.30 | 10.15 | Introduction to the challenge of F-gases and ODS substances – trends and international policy responses | Dr. Róbert Tóth, Hungarian Meteorological Service | * the scientific problem of F-gases and ODS
* emissions trends for F-gas and ODS
* International policy processes regarding ODS/F-gases (Vienna Convention/Montreal Protocol)
 |
| 10.15 | 11.00 | Brief review of EU legislation on Fluorinated Greenhouse gases  | Dr. Janusz KOZAKIEWICZ, Industrial Chemistry Research Institute Poland | * Introduction of Regulation 842/2006, Commission Regulations issued on its basis, and Directive 2006/40
* Recently changed elements of the EU F-gas regulation
 |
| 11.00 | 11.15 | ***Coffee Break*** |
| 11.15 | 12.00 | F-gases Regulation – Principal Obligations of Member States  | Gudi ALKEMADE, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Netherlands (tbc) | * Planning and preparations
* Certification and verification, training schemes
* Labelling
* Responsibilities for commercial, industrial and public sector organisations
* Reporting requirements
 |
| 12.00 | 13.00 | Brief review of EU legislation on ODS | Dr. Janusz KOZAKIEWICZ, Industrial Chemistry Research Institute Poland | * Regulation 1005/2009 and regulations issued on its basis
* Summary of main aims and provisions
 |
| 13.00 | 14.00 | ***LUNCH*** |
| 14.00 | 14.45 | Principal obligations of Member States resulting from the EU ODS legislation | Jana MASICKOVA, Ministry of Environment, Czech Republic | * Obligations of the commercial, industrial and public sector organisations (undertakings)
* Obligations of Competent Authorities
* Reporting by Member States
	+ Producers
	+ Exporters and importers
	+ For companies destroying controlled substances
	+ For undertakings
* Considerations for planning and preparations
 |
| 14.45 | 15.30 | F-gases and ODS legislation: Implementation in Romania  | Claudia DUMITRU, ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Romania | * Implementation of F-gases Regulations in Romania
* Discussion
 |
| 15.30 | 15.45 | ***Tea*** |
| 15.45 | 16.30 | F-gases and ODS legislation: Implementation in Slovenia  | Irene KOTESKA, Slovenian Environment Agency, Slovenia | * Implementation of F-gases Regulations in Slovenia
* Discussion
 |
| 16.30 | 17.15 | F-gases and ODS legislation: Implementation in Lithuania  | Jurga RABAZAUSKATE-SURVILE, Ministry of Environment, Lithuania | * Implementation of F-gases Regulations in Lithuania
* Discussion
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **DAY 2 - Venue: Tirana, Albania**  |
| **Start** | **Finish** | **Topic** | **Speaker** | **Sub topic/Content** |
| 09.00 | 09.30 | Summary of Day 1 | Jozsef FEILER, ECRAN | * Overview of the key issues discussed
* Highlights of legislative trends, obligations for MSs
* Most important lessons from member states’ implementation
 |
| 09.30 | 10.30 | Practical issues in implementation for Member States –F-gases | Stavros VELIDIS, Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Greece | * Training and certification of personnel and of companies handling these gases
* Practical issues on the implementation of this legislation – experiences from Greece
 |
| 10.30 | 10.45 | ***Coffee Break*** |
| 10.45 | 13.15 | Experience and capacities on implementing legislation in the framework of the Vienna Convention and the Montreal protocol and the EU F-gases Regulation in ECRAN beneficiariesMax 15 minutes per country | CroatiaRepublic of SerbiaFYR of MacedoniaTurkeyKosovo\*Bosnia and HerzegovinaAlbaniaMontenegro  | * Implementing legislation on the countries
* Legal and institutional framework
* F-gases reporting (UNFCCC and MMR)
	+ Strengths, weaknesses and needs
 |
| 13.15 | 14.15 | ***LUNCH*** |
| 14.15 | 16.00 | Practical exercise(Tea will be available) | Facilitated by Imre CSIKÓS, Jozsef FEILER and MS experts | * Transposition of legislation – development of a model plan (F-gas and ODS legislations
* Introduction of the results of the model plans
 |
| 16.00 | 16.30 | Conclusion and wrap up | Imre CSIKÓS |  |

**\***This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the IСJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence**.List of confirmed participants**

| **No.** | **Person** | **Contact Data**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |