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EFCTC welcomes EU Single Window Environment for Customs proposal which will contribute to the fight against illegal trade of HFC gases

Brussels, 28 October 2020 – The European Fluorocarbons Technical Committee (EFCTC) welcomes the legislative proposal set out by the European Commission's EU Single Window Environment for Customs to facilitate the exchange of information between national customs administrations and EU systems for the cross-border movement of goods. Following challenges faced by customs authorities to verify the amount of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) imports against the quota allowed by the F-gas Regulation, the EU Single Window Environment for Customs will provide a real-time connection between the EU's HFC Registry which monitors the quota allocation and the Single Administrative Document which monitors trade with non-EU countries.

"This is a vital step in the fight against illegal trade in HFCs," stated Dr Nick Campbell, Chairman of EFCTC, "the EU Single Window Environment for Customs will allow Member State customs systems to interface automatically with the F-gas portal and to verify instantly at the border that HFC importers both have the appropriate amount of quotas for their imports or whether they have already used up their quotas during the year. This will act as a major deterrent to HFC smugglers. Those that have already used their quota will be carefully monitored."

At the present time, only a number of Member States use the component of the Single Window Environment for Customs, the so-called EU Customs Single Window CERTificates Exchange (EU CSW-CERTEX)¹ system and hence can promptly benefit from the integration of new formalities in the Single Window. An important action for other Member States will be to modify their national systems to interface to the EU CSW-CERTEX component of the Single Window. This will enable them to benefit from the new measures.

"To demonstrate their commitment to tackle illegal trade and to enforce the F-gas Regulation, all Member States must take action as soon as possible, implementation of the Single Window is an important step," added Nick Campbell. "In October EFCTC created a [pledge](#), and the rapid uptake across Member States shows that the issue of illegal HFCs is taken extremely seriously by the many businesses across the supply chain. To date 143 signatories have been received, with numbers rising daily.

"Illegal trade in HFCs is causing major economic harm to those companies that have invested in replacing higher-GWP refrigerants with lower-GWP alternatives as well as undermining the EU's climate objectives."

¹ The EU Single Window Environment for Customs, DG TAXUD, European Commission:

https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/general-information-customs/electronic-customs/eu-single-window-environment-for-customs_en



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EFCTC has opened a confidential Action Line which is available in 14 languages to help the fight against illegal trade. If you have seen any possible instances of illegally-imported HFCs being offered for sale, please contact us at <https://efctc.integrityline.org/>. To find out more about the #SayNoToIllegalHFCs pledge for organisations and individuals to commit to doing their part to eradicate the black market for HFCs, please visit: <https://stopillegalcooling.eu/pledge/>

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Angelica Candido
fluorocarbons@cefic.be
www.fluorocarbons.org

About EFCTC

The European FluoroCarbons Technical Committee is a sector group of the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic) – EU Transparency Register n° 64879142323-90 – and represents the companies Arkema, Chemours, Daikin Chemical, Honeywell and Koura. Its main objectives are to provide up to date information about applications, safety, health and environmental effects for HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons), HFOs (hydrofluoro-olefins), and the relevant European and international legislation.

A sector group of Cefic 