Heat Pumping for Heating and Cooling: Opportunities Under the Kigali Amendment and cooperation through Centres of Excellence

Date: 3 November 2026

Time: 13:00 to 14:55 (networking reception 20-30 min)

Venue: CAT Kigali, Kigali, Rwanda – Room (TBD)

Organisers: International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) and Directorate-General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) of the European Commission

Audience: National ozone officers, policy makers, scientists, industry and international organizations

About the event

Heat pumping technologies are central for the decarbonisation of heating and cooling, linking the Kigali Amendment's HFC phase-down with efforts to mitigate greenhouse gases emissions, and with wider electrification and energy-efficiency targets. This side event will explore how heat pumps can contribute to refrigerant transition and system efficiency, drawing on the experience of the EU F-gas Regulation and cooperation with the upcoming European Heating and Cooling Competence Centre. It will also highlight that heat pumping technologies can unlock opportunities well beyond countries with high heating demand and the residential sector.

Heat pumping potential is also significant in industrial applications, where high temperature heat pumps can recover and upgrade waste heat for food and beverage processing, dairy and brewing, textiles, pharmaceuticals and agro-processing — sectors with major footprints across Africa, Asia and Latin America. This technology also underpins drying, desalination and district heating and cooling networks, positioning heat pumps as core infrastructure for industrial decarbonisation. Following a scene-setting policy and technical framing, a roundtable will bring together European, African, Asian and Latin American perspectives on the conditions needed to scale up deployment, including refrigerant choice, energy efficiency, safety, standards and skills.

Programme

Time	Session	Speaker
13:00	**Networking reception**	All participants (30 min)
13:30	**Welcome and housekeeping**	Judith Evans, IIR (2 min)
13:32	**Opening framing and introduction of the opening presentations: heat pumping for the Kigali Amendment's next decade**	Yosr Allouche, IIR (5 min)
13:37	**Heat pumping opportunities for heating and cooling**	Willem Van Ierland, DG Clima, European Commission (5 min)
13:42	**High temperature heat pumps — applications, maturity and performance: findings of the IIR Technical Brief**	Prof. Ruzhu Wang, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China (10 min)
13:52	**Building an international heating and cooling competence centre of excellence: HeatX and opportunities for cooperation**	Prof. Björn Palm. KTH Royal Institute of Technology, supported by the Swedish Energy Agency (10 min)
14:02	**Q&A presentations + transition to the Panel session.**	Judith Evans, IIR (10 min)
14:10	**Roundtable and open discussion — scaling up deployment: refrigerant choice, energy efficiency, safety, standards, skills and financing** **Moderated conversation with no presentations. Panellists:** • **Dr. Jean de Dieu Iyakaremye, Senior Researcher - African Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chains (2 questions)** • **Thiago Pietrobon - Director of Environment, ABRAVA (Brazilian Association of Refrigeration, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Heating) (2 questions)** • **Arno Kaschl, DG Clima (1 question)** • **Prof. Ruzhu Wang, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China (1 question)** • **Prof. Björn Palm, KTH, Sweden (1 question)**	Judith Evans with panellists and the floor (40 min) (25min max for 7 questions and 15min for open floor)
14:50	**Discussion recap, three key takeaways and close**	Judith Evans / Radim Cermak, IIR (5 min)
14:55	**Group photo**	All speakers (2 min)


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