

Event: PFAS and persistent chemicals: the state of play in Europe with focus on refrigerants in HVAC&R systems.

ATMOsphere, lunch break, Monday 3 July, room Asia Pacific Foyer.

Norwegian Environment Agency

The slides presented by Sandrine Benard and Audun Heggelund, both representatives of the Norwegian Environment Agency, explained to attendees the work targeting per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances - PFAS, also called “forever chemicals” - in the context of the Restriction Proposal submitted under the European Union Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals. The slides listed the problems related to PFAS to human health and further explained to attendees the ground for action on fluorinated refrigerants.

Öko-Recherche

The slides presented by Barbara Gschrey and David Behringer, both representatives of Öko-Recherche, explained to attendees the scientific facts behind the policy initiative targeting PFAS. An accumulation of trifluoroacetic acid - TFA -, a persistent chemical which is an atmospheric degradation product of multiple fluorinated refrigerants, is evident in Europe.

ATMOsphere

The slides presented by Thomas Trevisan, representative of ATMOsphere, explained to attendees the relevance of fluorinated refrigerants to the PFAS Restriction Proposal, listing the fluorinated refrigerants that would be targeted by the restrictive measures if the current proposal is adopted. In addition, the slides list natural refrigerants alternatives to fluorinated refrigerants that are considered PFAS for each sector the RACHP macro sector is composed of.