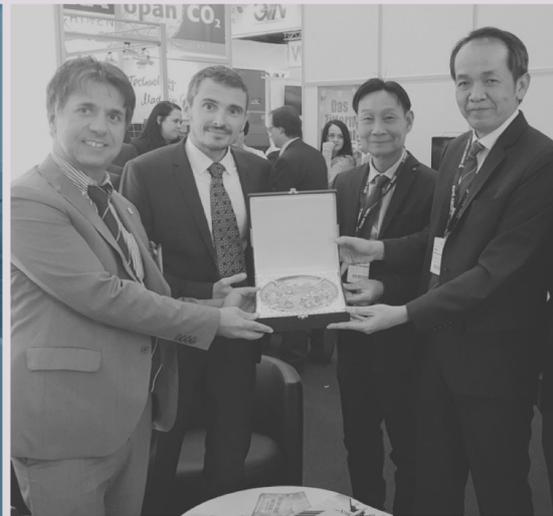


2016

ANNUAL REPORT



The European voice of
refrigeration, air
conditioning and heat
pump contractors



May 2017

1.

President's message



AREA's image has most certainly never been so visible, not just at European but also at international level.

Last year we focussed our efforts and resources on providing tools to assist our contractor members. The logbook, the guide on equipment for flammable refrigerants and the updated F-Gas guide all contribute to achieving this objective. These are very concrete instruments to address issues our contractors are faced with in their daily job. These initiatives also fulfil two basic purposes of AREA:

- 1) providing value to our members, and
- 2) consolidating AREA's position as the reference body for the highest level of competence in refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contracting services.

AREA's image has most certainly never been so visible, not just at European but also at international level. One simple indicator is that we continue to grow as an organisation. We are very proud to see Turkey back in AREA with SOSIAD, who has immediately taken an active role in our association. At the end of the year, we received an application from the Spanish association AEFYT, which should officially join in 2017.

We have also created a new membership category – International Observer – to open AREA to associations from outside Europe. This reflects the international dimension that AREA now has, notably through our cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme. The Thai Refrigeration Association has already joined us as an international observer and we are in discussion with other non-European RACHP installer bodies.

Finally, we have successfully carried out a far-reaching and important structural reform of AREA by revising both our membership fee calculation method and our membership categories. Thanks to a transparent and collaborative process and very open discussions, the adoption went very smoothly. This certainly shows the level of commitment of AREA members and the value they see in our organisation. I am proud to have managed this development and, together with my Board, to have provided AREA with robust structures to continue to bring value to its members.

I would like to end this note by expressing my gratitude to AREA members who unanimously gave me their trust for a second mandate. I feel very honoured and excited at the prospect of continuing to lead AREA in these eventful times.

Per Jonasson

AREA President

2.

Organisation



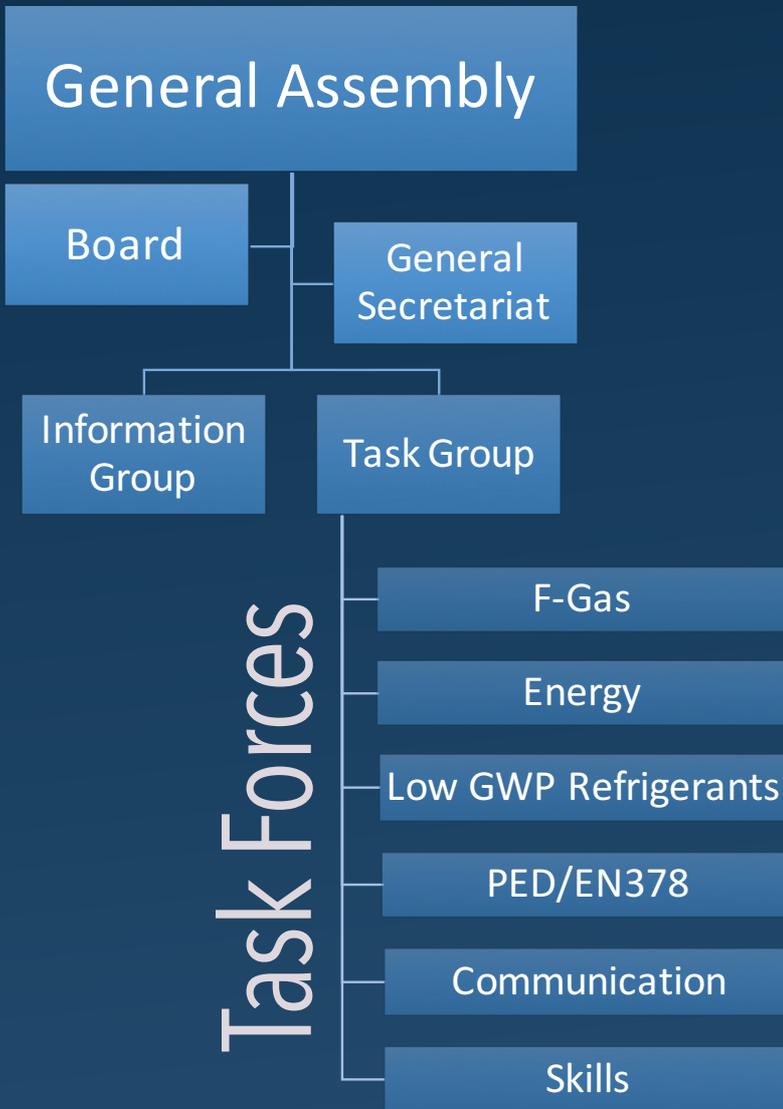
Effective members

Associate members

International observers



Chairman Info Group
Seamus Kerr
IRI, Ireland



Chairman Task Group
Wolfgang Zaremski
VDKF, Germany



Board of Directors

Left to right: Marco Buoni (Vice-President International Affairs, ATF, Italy), Wolfgang Zaremski (Treasurer, VDKF, Germany), Per Jonasson (President, SKVP, Sweden), Coen van de Sande (Vice-President, NVKL, Netherlands), Graeme Fox (Past President, BESA, UK) and Stig Rath (Member, VKE, Norway).

3.

Internal developments



Per Jonasson re-elected President of AREA

On 14th May 2016, Per Jonasson was re-elected President of AREA for 2 years on the occasion of the AREA General Assembly spring meeting in Dublin. The AREA Board remains relatively stable with only one new member.

21 out of 23 members gathered in Dublin on the occasion of the AREA spring General Assembly meeting hosted by the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland. Per Jonasson was unanimously given another two-year mandate and Coen van de Sande (NVKL, the Netherlands) was nominated Vice-President. Wolfgang Zaremski (VDKF, Germany) took the position of Treasurer.

Marco Buoni (ATF, Italy), who represents AREA at many events and meetings worldwide, was given the title of Vice-President International Affairs. This decision reflects the key position of Mr. Buoni, who has notably played an important role in reinforcing cooperation with UNEP.

Stig Rath (VKE, Norway) joined the Board as a Director in replacement of Peter Bachmann (BIV, Germany) who left after 6 years. Members expressed their thanks to Peter, who contributed to AREA's work and value, especially by strengthening the collaboration with Chillventa. Stig has been involved in AREA for several years and currently chairs the Task Force Skills.

AREA reorganises its membership structure

AREA unanimously adopted a new membership fee calculation method at its spring 2016 General Assembly meeting. The new method approximates fee levels whilst "upgrading" the status of all current associate members to effective members. This will not only provide a solid financial basis for the future of AREA but will also make AREA more "representative" as all its former associate members are now able to vote and be elected to the Board.

Moreover, in view of its increased international activities and the links AREA is building with a number of RAC associations worldwide, it was felt sensible to open membership to non-European associations representing installers and contractors with an observer status. This will also address a need to increase competence in developing countries, where UNEP is supporting the creation and financing of national associations. A new category of membership - international observers - was therefore created.

Consequently, the AREA statutes were amended to reflect these various changes, notably in the different types of membership: abolition of intermediate members, limitation of associate membership to sectors related to RACHP contractors, and introduction of a new category, international observers. It was also specified that associate members and international observers do not have voting rights.

SOSIAD (Turkey) joins AREA

SOSIAD, the Turkish Association of the Refrigeration Industry and Businessmen, joined AREA on 14th May 2016 on the occasion of the AREA General Assembly spring meeting in Dublin. AREA now counts 23 members in 20 countries.

Created in 2005, SOSIAD is a national association serving the refrigeration sector that represents RAC contractors, wholesalers and manufacturers. Among its activities, SOSIAD organises training programmes with its industry partners, develops and adapts new standards and offers consulting services. Its primary aim is to establish a robust, progressive and innovative base for the Turkish refrigeration industry in a sustainable economy, ensuring compliance with national and international standards and regulations, in cooperation with national and international refrigeration societies.

Thailand to become AREA's first International Observer

The Thai Refrigeration Association has been granted temporary membership as an International Observer, a status created in spring 2016. TRA is to formally become a member of AREA at the General Assembly meeting in spring 2017 in Amsterdam.

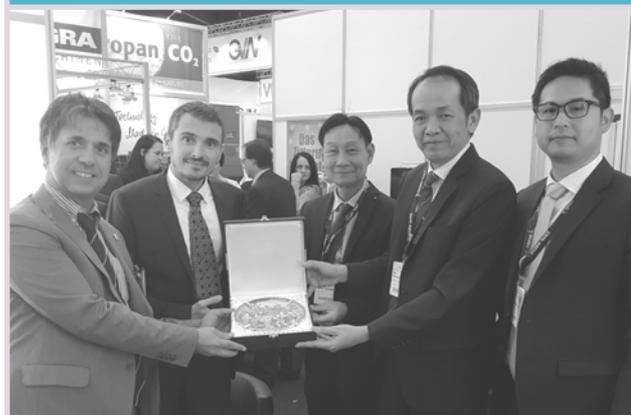
TRA representatives met the AREA Vice-President International Affairs Marco Buoni and Secretary General Olivier Janin on the occasion of the last Chillventa exhibition. The fruitful discussion certainly highlighted the mutual interest for cooperation, notably on matters of competence and skills. TRA filed its application a few weeks later.

As an International Observer, TRA will be able to join all the activities and working bodies of AREA, thereby gaining early and privileged knowledge on future developments. TRA will also benefit from the network provided by the 23 national associations present in AREA and the association's image in Europe and worldwide.



Photo (left to right): Kadir Isa (SOSIAD), Per Jonasson (AREA) and Kivanc Aslantas (SOSIAD)

AREA and TRA meet at Chillventa



4.

Task Forces



F-Gas

The revised F-Gas Regulation started to apply on 1st January 2015. A year later, a number of practical issues had emerged and required clarifications, explanations or at least a common understanding. The activities of the Task Force therefore mostly revolved around addressing these issues by providing guidance and tools for our contractors.

First, we published a [Logbook](#) in the form of a simple spreadsheet that serves as a tool for contractors and their clients to fulfil their record-keeping obligations under Article 6 of the F-Gas Regulation. It is very simple to use and can easily be adapted to each contractor's or customer's needs. It is available in English and Spanish.

Mindful of the fact that the new rules on delivery of f-gases could be abused, AREA made a [flyer for distributors](#). This guide aims to provide a practical tool for distributors to help them fulfil their obligations under the F-Gas Regulation. It notably includes a simple flowchart, which describes the steps to be taken to decide on which refrigerant to supply to whom.

AREA is also involved in an ongoing study of refrigerant prices. This study, ordered by the European Commission, aims at monitoring the evolution of refrigerant prices as a result of the phase-down scheme. Through its members, AREA has put forward a number of contracting companies that are taking part.

Finally, we have completed the second update of our [F-Gas Guide](#). The latest version is V3 published in English in October 2016. The update notably includes clarifications provided by a European Commission information note for technicians and users, a table on "the next leak check", information from some implementing regulations (notably on training & certification) and a new annex with useful links. The AREA F-Gas Guide is now available in 7 languages (Czech, Dutch, English, French, Italian, Spanish and Swedish).



Task Force Chairman

Graeme Fox
BESA, UK

Energy

In 2016, in addition to the usual monitoring of relevant Ecodesign lots, AREA's activities in the field of energy were mostly concerned with preparation for the release of the Energy Package, notably in the context of the Heating & Cooling Strategy, which was published in early 2016. Despite some negative generalisations, the Strategy positively and rightfully identified installers as market makers, a conclusion we were obviously pleased with.

AREA responded to the public consultation on the review of the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) Directive. Apart from some general considerations on the need to further encourage the use of renewable energy sources, AREA made it very clear that there is no lack of knowledge among certified heating & cooling installers regarding supplying information and offering renewable energy solutions to their customers. The problem often lies in the preference for lower initial investment instead of lower lifecycle costs. It was pointed out that public information campaigns would be useful to raise users' awareness.

AREA also monitored the review processes of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED). In December, the European Commission issued its Clean Energy Package, which included proposals for revision of the RES Directive, the EPBD and the EED. Their revision will certainly take a fair share of our activities in 2018, as we identified several issues that will require our attention.



Task Force Chairman

Coen van de Sande
NVKL, The Netherlands

Low GWP refrigerants

With the growth of low GWP refrigerant solutions as a result of the EU HFC phase-down scheme, our efforts are devoted to ensuring that the transition takes place smoothly and safely, for contractors and users alike.

With this objective in mind, a highlight of AREA's activities in 2016 was certainly the guide on equipment for low GWP flammable refrigerants. This guide gives service technicians a tool to understand the equipment that should be used to service refrigeration plants containing flammable low GWP refrigerants in category A2L (lower flammability) or A3 (higher flammability). Published in the spring of 2016, it is now available in 8 languages, including a translation into Arabic under the supervision of the United Nations Environment Programme.

AREA also closely followed EU initiatives and provided input to the report on barriers to the take-up of low GWP technologies. Finally, AREA is still involved in international discussions on minimum competence, both in the context of the United Nations Environment Programme ("Refrigerants Driving Licence" initiative) and at industry level ("Global Refrigerant Management Initiative", GRMI). Closer cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme is expected in the near future, as AREA will be developing a Universal Training Kit for Alternative Refrigerants.



Task Force Chairman

Marco Buoni
ATF, Italy

5.

Communications



AREA new website

The new AREA website went online in the spring of 2016. More modern and with a fresh layout, it also shows better AREA's news and work, notably the publications.

www.area-eur.be

The screenshot shows the AREA website homepage. At the top is the AREA logo and a navigation menu with links: HOME, ABOUT AREA, PUBLICATIONS, NEWS, ORGANISATIONS, EVENTS, JOBS IN COOLING, and LINKS. There are also links for 'Contact us', 'Members area', and 'Search'. The main content area features a 'Welcome to AREA.' section with a brief description of the organization and a 'Learn more' button. Below this is a 'LATEST NEWS' section with four featured articles, each with a thumbnail image and a title:

- AREA article in Ozonaction Special Issue 2017** (27 APR 2017)
- AREA position on the Clean Energy Package** (14 MAR 2017)
- AREA guide on equipment for flammable refrigerants available in Arabic** (24 FEB 2017)
- AREA F-Gas guide now available in Swedish** (17 JAN 2017)

AREA promotes jobs on its website

Further to the decision of the Task Force Skills, AREA has created a specific section on its website dedicated to the promotion of jobs in cooling. The page explains the many opportunities offered by a career in the RACHP industry and invites interested youngsters to make contact with their national RACHP contractors association.

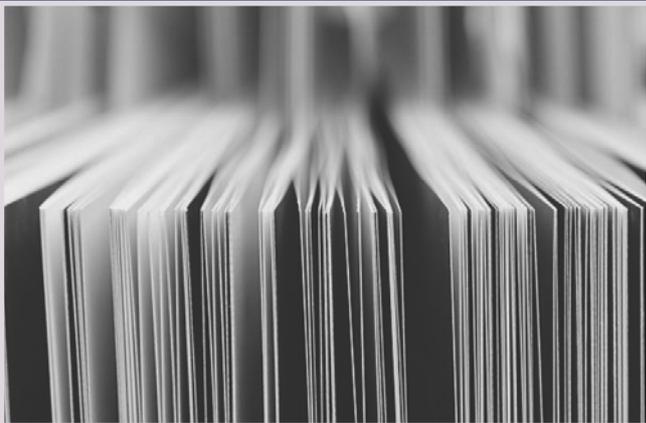
The screenshot shows the 'Jobs in cooling' page on the AREA website. The page title is 'Jobs in cooling'. Below the title is a navigation breadcrumb: 'Home > Jobs in cooling'. The main content area features a large heading: 'Explore a career in cooling!'. Below this is a graphic illustrating the projected increase in refrigeration and air conditioning units by 2030. The graphic shows three units labeled 'Now' and six units labeled '2030'. A text box next to the graphic states: 'By 2030 the number of refrigerators & air conditioners in Europe will double. Let's make them more sustainable with renewable technologies.' The graphic also includes the logos for 'ec.europa.eu/energy' and 'EnergyEurope'.

Whether you are happiest at home or an adventurous globetrotter, a career in the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump industry can help you realise your dreams. As an installer you have the freedom to work locally, or around the world. Unlimited in scope of work, you will learn all about using energy transfer to supply heat to or remove it from all kinds of buildings, vehicles and environments.

Refrigeration and air conditioning systems exist everywhere in society: shops, offices, hotels, ice rinks, ships, hospitals... there is virtually nowhere you can go in the world where refrigeration technology is not essential to modern life.

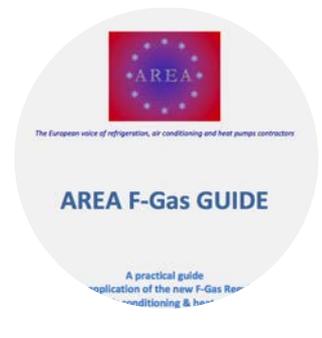
6.

Publications



F-Gas Guide (3rd edition)

Practical guide on the application of the new F-gas Regulation to refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors



Guide on equipment for low GWP (flammable) refrigerants



AREA F-Gas Logbook

Tool for contractors and their clients to fulfil their record keeping obligations under Article 6 of the F-Gas Regulation.



Delivery of F-Gases: a practical guide for distributors

Practical tool for distributors to help them fulfil their obligations under the F-Gas Regulation



Brochure on International Observer status in AREA

Information on the new AREA membership category



AREA Annual Report 2015

Report on AREA activities in 2015



All publications can be downloaded at <http://area-eur.be/publications>

7.

Events

Joint Network and Thematic Meetings of the ODS Officers of Africa and West Asia

17-23 March 2016, Victoria Falls

UNEP OzonAction and the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate of the Republic of Zimbabwe organised the joint meeting of the Ozone Officers' Network for Africa and West Asia on 17-23 March 2016 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. The meeting took place at a critical time in the life of the Montreal Protocol, when countries are striving to meet their commitments to phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) while addressing technological challenges related to different consumer sectors and trying to maximise climate benefits by leapfrogging to energy-efficient, low-GWP alternatives and technologies where feasible.

AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni took part and gave a presentation on training & certification schemes for servicing technicians.

UNEP workshop on Assessment of Global Training Programmes

11-12 April 2016, Paris

UNEP held an International Stakeholder workshop on assessment of global training programmes in the refrigeration servicing sector on 11-12 April 2016 in Paris. AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni gave two presentations:

- Present scenario in refrigeration and air conditioning capacity building in Europe, classroom training and REAL Alternatives, gaps
- Projects for training in developed and developing countries on alternative technologies - AREA perspectives and guidelines

ATMOsphere Europea

19-20 April 2016, Barcelona

AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni spoke at the ATMOsphere Europe conference held on 19-20 April in Barcelona. Mr. Buoni addressed the topic of [training on low GWP refrigerants](#).



IRI Seminar

12 May 2016, Dublin

AREA Past President and TF Fgas Chairman Graeme Fox and Secretary General Olivier Janin spoke at a seminar of the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland. Mr. Fox presented the implementation and application of the Fgas Regulation whilst Mr. Janin explained how the EU works and what the role and activities of AREA are.

The IRI Seminar took place on Thursday, 12th May, the day before the AREA General Assembly spring meeting started. The event was organised in Dublin by the IRI.

ASERCOM-EPEE Symposium

11 October 2016, Chillventa, Nuremberg

Training plays a crucial role in the phase-down of HFCs. There is a need to raise awareness of natural and alternative refrigerants, the use of which will increase as a result of the phase-down.

Training will close the gap covering the important aspects of safety, flammability, toxicity and high pressure, which will need to be considered. AREA recommended that global and European decision-makers, as well as industry enforce minimum requirements for certification of contractors handling low GWP refrigerants in pushing their market uptake.

Mr. Buoni's presentation also gave an overview of training supply and demand around the world. A global agreement on HFCs phase-down needs to be anticipated by a global increase in competence of technicians handling the new refrigerants. The certification of personnel started in Europe in 2008; it is accepted and generally well implemented in all EU countries, which is an example of good work for harmonisation of knowledge.

IIR Conference - Cold Chain in High Ambient Temperature Countries

25-26 October 2016, Tunis

AREA Vice-President for International Affairs Marco Buoni presented EU examples in training & certification for hot ambient countries on the occasion of the IIR conference on the cold chain held on 25-26 October in Tunis.

In hot countries, where microbial growth is faster as a result of high temperatures, the use of refrigeration must be regarded as essential.

Around 80% of the world's population lives in developing countries (the majority of these countries have a hot climate: equatorial, tropical or Mediterranean) and it is estimated that 50% of the population of these countries lives in towns with increasingly severe food supply problems as they are still without refrigeration.

Photo (right): UNEP workshop on Assessment of Global Training Programmes, 11-12 April 2016, Paris



Photos (left): IRI Seminar, 12 May 2016, Dublin

Photo (right): ATMOsphere Europea 19-20 April 2016, Barcelona



Photo (down): ASERCOM-EPEE Symposium, 11 October 2016, Chillventa, Nuremberg



Photo (up): IIR Conference - Cold Chain in High Ambient Temperature Countries, 25-26 October 2016, Tunis



Photo (up): Joint Network and Thematic Meetings of the ODS Officers of Africa and West Asia, 17-23 March 2016, Victoria Falls

Air conditioning and Refrigeration European Association – AREA aisbl

EU Transparency Register: 03396347383-49

8.

Contact



BluePoint Brussels – Bd. A. Reyers 80 – 1030
Brussels (Belgium)



+32 2 206 68 66



info@area-eur.be

Secretary General: Olivier Janin



Regulatory Affairs: Anne Claire Rasselet



Administration: Janet Almond



AREA MEMBERS

AREA voices the interests of
23 national associations from
20 countries representing
13,000 companies employing
110,000 people and with
an annual turnover approaching
€ 23 billion.

The average company thus
employs **8** people and generates
€ 1.8 million turnover.

AUSTRIA



www.oekkv.at

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www.ubf-aca.be

CZECH REPUBLIC



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CROATIA



CRACA - www.hurkt.hr

DENMARK



AKB - www.koeleteknik.dk

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www.insituteofrefrigerationireland.ie

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