

ANNUAL  
REPORT

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THE EUROPEAN  
VOICE of  
refrigeration  
air conditioning  
& heat pumps contractors



APRIL 2018

# FOREWORD by the President



*“The AREA app is a very hands-on tool that can be used by contractors in their daily job onsite.”*

Our industry is undergoing profound changes. The F-Gas Regulation, and more specifically its phase-down scheme, is accelerating the transition to more environmentally friendly alternative refrigerants. This results in two important challenges for our contractors: in the short-term, they must cope with a turbulent market because of sky-rocketing prices of high GWP HFCs; in the medium-term, they must be ready to safely and efficiently handle alternative refrigerants. AREA is working to help them on both fronts.

Market turbulences were expected and warned against as soon as the Regulation was adopted. Together with our national member associations, we have made all efforts to inform and advise, notably on the need to abandon those high GWP refrigerants in applications where suitable low GWP alternatives exist. Alas, we continue to see new installations made with these refrigerants. This is why we have decided, together with fellow trade organisations, to step up our communications efforts to reach out to contractors in the field. A leaflet is in preparation and should be followed with other tools, as appropriate.

We must also help our companies prepare for the transition to alternative refrigerants so that these are handled safely and efficiently. This is the objective behind a series of international and European initiatives in which AREA is taking an active part (Refrigerant Driving Licence, U TKitAR, REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE). This also corresponds to a very important purpose of our association: set the state-of-the art standard of competence.

I would also like to mention an initiative that is complementary to the work above and that we can be particularly proud of: the AREA app. This is a very hands-on tool that can be used by contractors in their daily job onsite. It is not customary for European associations to edit apps but it goes to show that AREA uses modern means. Our members have started translating the app and this should result in its availability in many languages.

Finally, I am happy to see that we have grown further. AEFYT (Spain) and TRA (Thailand) have joined us. AREA now represents 25 organisations from 21 countries in Europe and (far) beyond, making it by far the most representative organisation of its kind.

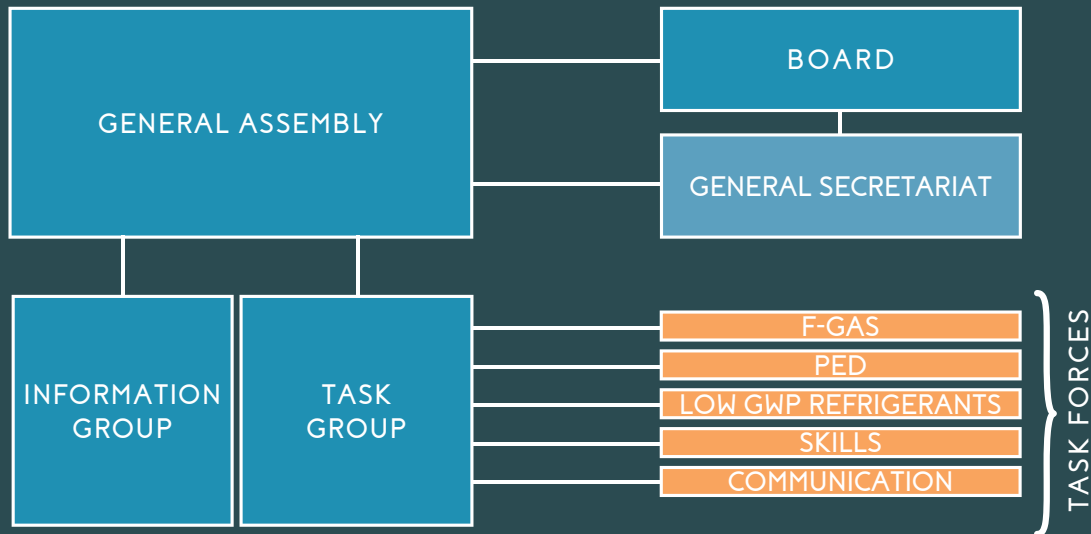
**Per Jonasson**

# ORGANISATION

EFFECTIVE MEMBERS

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS



## WORKING BODIES



### Chairman Info Group

Seamus Kerr  
(IRI, Ireland)



### Chairman Task Group

Wolfgang Zaremski  
(VDKF, Germany)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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

# INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

## AEFYT (SPAIN) AND TRA (THAILAND) JOIN AREA

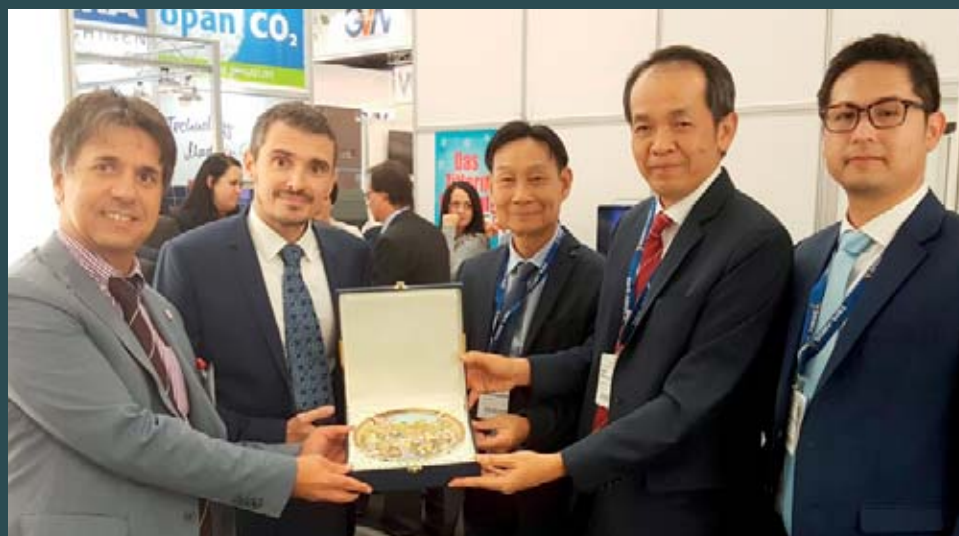


Left to right: Per Jonasson (AREA), Lorena Hernandez (AEFYT), Fernando Garcia (AEFYT)

AREA has further expanded its membership with two new members (AEFYT from Spain and TRA from Thailand) joining AREA on the occasion of the spring 2017 General Assembly meeting that took place on 2-3 June in Amsterdam. AREA now counts 25 national member associations representing 21 countries from Europe and beyond.

AEFYT is the Spanish association representing companies in the cooling and refrigeration industry, including contractors. After an introductory meeting at the end of 2016, they had been granted temporary membership by the Board from 1st January 2017 onwards.

Explaining why membership of AREA was valuable, AEFYT President Roberto Solsona Caballer said: "AREA and AEFYT share common interests and objectives such as cohesion, collaboration, distribution of information and contact between national and international associations to achieve the development of refrigeration techniques and professional certifications".



The Thailand Refrigeration Association (TRA) met with AREA delegates at the last Chillventa exhibition in October 2016. TRA becomes the first AREA International Observer – a new membership category created a year ago to enable non-European refrigeration and air conditioning engineers' associations to join AREA and enjoy membership benefits at a low contribution.

*"I am very proud to see AREA continuing to grow, as it certainly shows the value of our organisation. AEFYT is a strong association that, together with CNI, will reinforce our representativeness in Spain. TRA is our first International Observer and we hope others will follow soon."*

Per Jonasson

# TASK FORCES

## FGAS



### By Graeme Fox (BESA, UK), TF Chairman

2017 saw AREA focussing on the application of the Fgas Regulation with the aim of helping our members cope with the rules and requirements. Our FAQ on the Sale of Pre-charged Equipment very much fulfils this objective by clarifying how the rules apply. So does our app, which helps our contractors in their everyday job onsite. This is a concrete tool we can be proud of and which will certainly raise the profile of AREA throughout the industry. We can expect a large use once the many ongoing translations are completed.

The Fgas Regulation brings about far-reaching changes in the industry. The phase-down scheme is producing the effects AREA has been warning against for a long time, resulting in skyrocketing HFC prices. Contractors must adapt quickly and notably by using alternatives to high GWP refrigerants whenever possible from a service quality point of view. With this in mind, AREA teamed up with EPEE, ASERCOM and EFCTC to produce a leaflet raising awareness on alternatives to R404A and R507A. The communication of this leaflet will take all our efforts next year, all the more with the second very steep stage of the phase-down.

## ENERGY



### By Coen van de Sande (NVKL, Netherlands), TF Chairman

The work of AREA on energy issues was directed almost exclusively on the Clean Energy Package. AREA took a position on the whole package early on but then focussed on recast of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, and more specifically the article related to inspections. We engaged into a variety of advocacy actions, whether on our own or jointly. We thus produced two joint positions (one general and one focussed on environment indoor quality) with a coalition of industries and did a lot of work together with the mechanical contractors' association GCP Europe.

Although the outcome of the revision leaves us with some frustration, we managed to do some damage limitation, notably on the thresholds for inspections. In the next months, we must continue our collaborative work to prepare for the implementation phase and provide our vision of how the legislation should be applied concretely.

## LOW GWP REFRIGERANTS



### By Marco Buoni (ATF, Italy), TF Chairman

Last year the work of our TF Low GWP Refrigerants had an international flavour. AREA is indeed directly or indirectly involved in a couple of projects related to competence on low GWP refrigerants: the Refrigerant Driving Licence and U TKitAR. Such an involvement reflects the international work undertaken by AREA and its close cooperation with UNEP. These projects will continue next year.

Meanwhile, we have also committed to a new EU project, REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE, which will update and extend the former Real Alternatives Europe, and more importantly, fill the gap of practical examination. The project will run until mid-2020.

All this work ultimately fulfils one single objective, ensuring that our contractors are prepared and stay in business.

# EVENTS

## 12TH SUSTAINABILITY SUMMIT INDIA

**6-7 September 2017, New Dehli**

AREA Vice-President International Affairs Marco Buoni took part in the 12th Sustainability Summit: 2030 Agenda - Driving Inclusive Growth that took place on 6-7 September 2017 in New Dehli. During the session dedicated to Green Cooling and Sustainable Refrigeration Mr. Buoni gave a presentation on "Increasing competence in RAC for energy savings, safety and the environment: Real Alternatives", thus introducing AREA's work in the REAL Alternatives for LIFE project.



## ATMOSPHERE 2017

**25-27 September 2017, Berlin**

AREA Vice-President International Affairs Marco Buoni spoke at the ATMOSphere 2017 in Berlin. Mr. Buoni presented the REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE Project in which AREA is involved as a member in charge of communication and dissemination together with the IIR.



# PROJECTS

## REAL ALTERNATIVES 4 LIFE GETS STARTED



Funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the REAL Alternatives for LIFE consortium officially started in June 2017 with a kick-off meeting in London. The REAL Alternatives for LIFE project, an extension of the previous Real Alternatives project, is funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the LIFE programme.

As part of this funding programme, the European Commission is co-financing a consortium of European training centres, associations to provide "train the trainer" sessions on low GWP refrigerants (hydrocarbons, CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia, HFOs, R32) in order to ensure safe, efficient, reliable and cost-effective implementation.

The objective of the project is to develop new and update existing training material, as well as to introduce a range of practical exercises and assessments with an aim to standardising skills sets and requirements for handling low GWP refrigerants across the globe. The project will promote the best practice in training in this field whilst equally increasing awareness, experience and knowledge at all levels by ensuring a presence at key national, EU and international meetings, conferences and events. Confirming its international scope, courses will be conducted in 13 languages and 15 countries are involved in the project.

The Project Management team includes the Institute of Refrigeration (IOR) and London South Bank University in the UK, the University College Limburg and AREA in Belgium, IKKE Regional Training Centre in Germany, ATF Trade Association in Italy, PROZON Foundation for climate protection refrigerant reclamation organization in Poland, and the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) in France. In addition, several AREA members will feature as "stakeholders": SCHKT (Czech Republic), SZCHKT (Slovakia), APIRAC (Portugal), CNI (Spain) and SOSIAD (Turkey).



## AREA WORKS WITH UNEP TO IMPROVE COMPETENCE WORLDWIDE



UNEP and AREA have agreed to work together on the development of training kit on alternative refrigerants. The objective of this project is to design a specialised Universal Training Kit on Alternative Refrigerants ("U TKitAR") for the use of training institutes and centres in developing countries. It will offer state-of-art information and knowledge on the best practices and techniques to manage and handle future - mainly flammable - refrigerants in a sound and safe manner.

U TKitAR will be a multi-stage joint project that will include several modules. The Kit is designed to address the training needs for different applications (domestic, commercial, refrigeration and air-conditioning) as well as different stakeholders (trainers, service technicians, operators...). The project is due to run until the end of 2018.

# COMMUNICATION

## AREA SPONSORS EUROPEAN COMPETITORS AT WORLDSKILLS



Willing to both promote WorldSkills and support European RACHP competitors, AREA sponsored 5 European RACHP competitors from Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Portugal. Each competitor received a €250 sponsorship.

AREA Director and TF Skills Chairman Stig Rath was present at WorldSkills on 15-18 October in Abu Dhabi and followed the European competitors.

## AREA & CHILLVENTA DEEPEN THEIR COOLABORATION



AREA and Chillventa have signed a new partnership agreement that further strengthens their cooperation. AREA is a longstanding supporter of Chillventa. Its management, secretariat and members regularly attend Chillventa since the first edition of the exhibition and AREA is present on the booth of one of its German members, BIV. Moreover, AREA has also timed its autumn general assembly meeting with the exhibition.

The new partnership agreement encompasses both Chillventa and the European Heat Pump Summit. It runs over 2017 and 2018 and will be renewed after the next Chillventa.

AREA President Per Jonasson said:

*“AREA is delighted to strengthen its collaboration with NürnbergMesse who will be able to make the most of the large network provided by our 25 national associations in 22 countries.”*

“We have maintained very good and close contact for many years now.” says Daniela Heinkel, Director Chillventa, NürnbergMesse. “But there’s more to it than just an outstanding business relationship and areas of common interest: there’s the international aspect, too. AREA, for instance, with more than 13,000 companies from 22 countries specialising in cooling, air-conditioning, ventilation and heat pumps; the global NürnbergMesse Group with its international leading exhibition Chillventa – the trade fair for refrigeration, air-conditioning, ventilation and heat pumps; and the European Heat Pump Summit. The newly signed cooperation agreement provides further powerful confirmation of our mutual commitment. We are very pleased to take our good collaborative relationship with AREA to a new level”.



# PUBLICATIONS



FAQ ON SALE OF PRE-CHARGED EQUIPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT 2016



AREA APP

All publications can be downloaded at [www.area-eur.be/publications](http://www.area-eur.be/publications)

# CONTACT



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[www.oekkv.at](http://www.oekkv.at)



## BELGIUM

[www.ubf-aca.be](http://www.ubf-aca.be)



## CZECH REPUBLIC

SCHKT - [www.chlazení.cz](http://www.chlazení.cz)



## CROATIA

CRACA – [www.hurkt.hr](http://www.hurkt.hr)



## DENMARK

AKB - [www.koeleteknik.dk](http://www.koeleteknik.dk)



## ESTONIA

[www.kylmaliit.ee](http://www.kylmaliit.ee)



## FINLAND

[www.skll.fi](http://www.skll.fi)



## FRANCE

[www.snefccca.com](http://www.snefccca.com)



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## GERMANY

[www.biv-kaelte.de](http://www.biv-kaelte.de)



## GERMANY

[www.vdkf.de](http://www.vdkf.de)



## IRELAND

[www.instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie](http://www.instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie)



## ITALY

[www.associazioneatf.org](http://www.associazioneatf.org)



## ITALY

[www.assofrigoristi.it](http://www.assofrigoristi.it)



## NETHERLANDS

[www.nvkl.nl](http://www.nvkl.nl)



## NORWAY

[www.vke.no](http://www.vke.no)



## POLAND

[www.kfch.pl](http://www.kfch.pl)



## PORTUGAL

[www.apirac.pt](http://www.apirac.pt)



## SLOVAKIA

[www.szchkt.org](http://www.szchkt.org)



## SPAIN

[www.cni-instaladores.com](http://www.cni-instaladores.com)



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[www.aefyt.com](http://www.aefyt.com)



## SWEDEN

[www.skvp.se](http://www.skvp.se)



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[www.sosiad.org.tr](http://www.sosiad.org.tr)



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