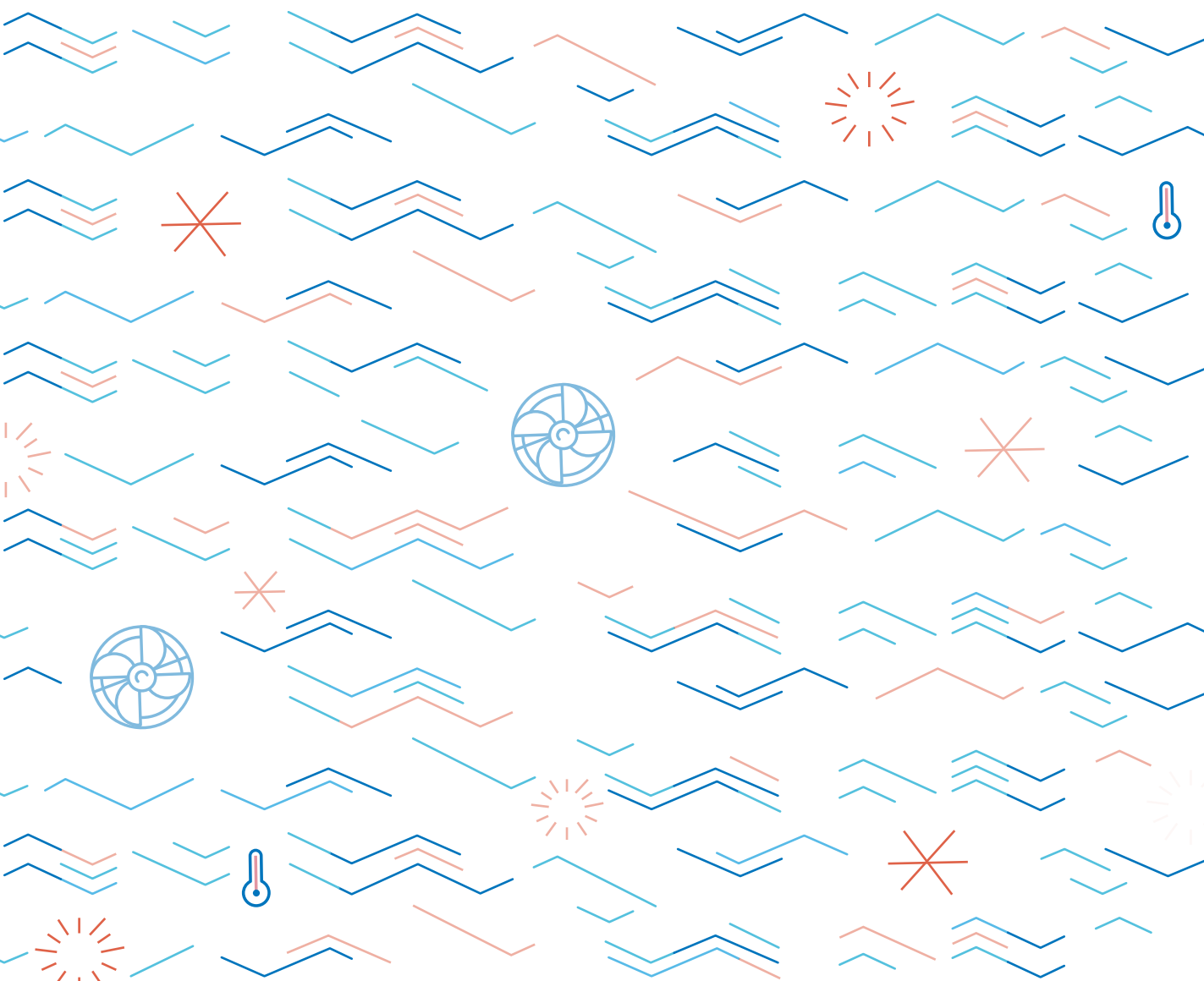


AREA Annual Report 2018



THE EUROPEAN VOICE OF REFRIGERATION,
AIR CONDITIONING AND HEAT PUMP CONTRACTORS



Foreword by the President



“

We are the first European association of RACHP contractors and we act as an example globally of how 26 different national organisations can work together for the better good of our sector.

When I was elected, I announced that my motto would be: “A renowned European Association, working towards worldwide cooperation to achieve global objectives”.

AREA is a unique association. We are the first European association of RACHP contractors and we act as an example globally of how 26 different national organisations can work together for the better good of our sector. Our strength lies in our numbers: 26 independent associations in 22 countries from the EU and beyond, representing 125.000 small and medium enterprises, whose activities make up a core part of the EU economy and are vital for its success. We can be proud of the joint work towards the implementation of Fgas Regulation, the phase-down and the solution to problems which are occurring as we follow this path. We are supporting the worldwide shift to new technologies, taking advantage of the knowledge and leadership that we have in Europe.

In 2018 we worked on projects such as “Real Alternatives”, which will be expanded next year to “Train the Trainers” in several additional countries. We strive for a common knowledge across Europe which will help all the associations and related training providers to grow together. We are in the process of expanding this programme globally through two United Nations Projects: the universal Training Kit UT-KAR and the refrigerant driving license RDL.

The biennial international event Chillventa, which we are a partner of, demonstrated the importance of our sector. We were deeply involved in its success

through the booth, seminars and our autumn meeting. Chillventa also gave us an opportunity to meet other European associations interested in joining AREA. Let us see how these contacts will develop.

AREA does not just work well internally but also externally with the many organisations with which it has established a solid relationship (ASERCOM, EPEE, IIR, UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP, AHRI, ASHRAE, ...). Our presence at major events and the several publications we have issued demonstrate the strength of our network.

More work will come in 2019 and we will conduct this as usual with passion and by joining forces together. Whilst we will continue our projects, we will prepare a Vision 2025 to present to the new European Parliament and European Commission. We will also be a partner at the European Conference - UNEP-IIR-AREA-CSG “XVIII EU Conference about the latest technologies” in Milan and EPEE-EVIA “EUREKA” in Bruges. We will attend and be involved in the MOP31 Protocol of Montreal conference, which will decide the future of the Kigali amendment in Rome in November.

In parallel to this work we will continue to address the many challenges that our contractors face, such as the availability of and transition to new refrigerants, price monitoring, illegal trade and much more...

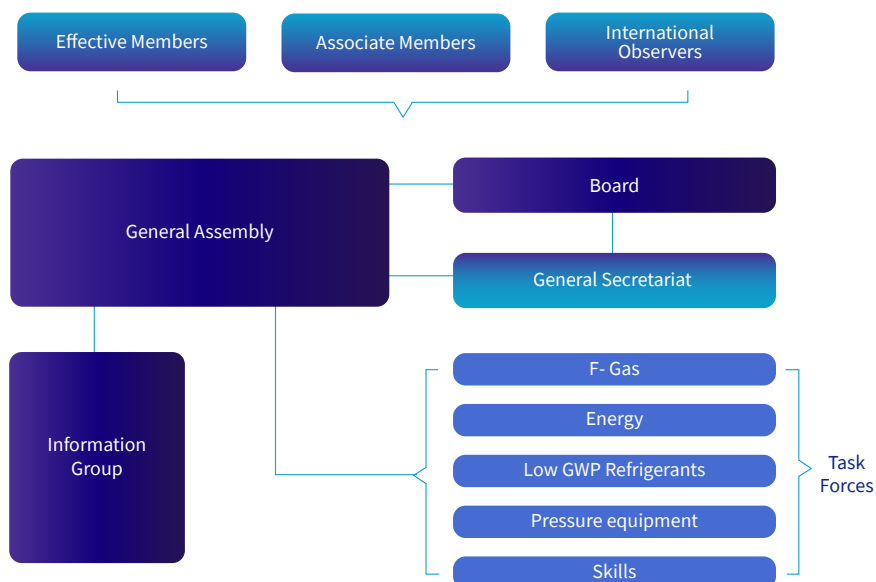
AREA is working for Europe but looking to the world.

Thank you.

Marco Buoni, President

Organisation

Working bodies



Board of Directors



Left to right: Grzegorz Michalski (KFCh NRF, Poland), Graeme Fox (Member, BESA, UK), Stig Rath (Treasurer, VKE, Norway), Marco Buoni (President, ATF, Italy), Gerhard Neuhauser (Vice-President, ÖKKV, Austria) and Per Jonasson (Past President, SKVP, Sweden)

Internal Affairs

Marco Buoni becomes President of AREA

On 25th May 2018, Marco Buoni was elected President of AREA on the occasion of the AREA General Assembly spring meeting in Vienna. Grzegorz Michalski (KFCh, Poland) and former President Gerhard Neuhauser (ÖKKV, Austria) joined the Board whilst Coen van der Sande (NVKL, Netherlands) and Wolfgang Zaremski (VDKF, Germany), stepped down.

A renowned European Association, working towards worldwide cooperation to achieve global objectives

In his introductory speech, Mr. Buoni underlined the importance of the AREA network. “We have seen the

growing importance of our association and of our national associations, the AREA members. We are stronger united.” He went on, listing the challenges that the industry faces: the safety issues related to new alternative refrigerants, the standards, reliability, recovery and recycling, energy efficiency and technical competence achieved through professional training regarding all refrigerants, including flammables in particular. Mr. Buoni also noted that he intends to continue AREA work at international level: “We should also strive for global acceptance of what we have achieved and its successful operation in Europe.”



Hellas Union Fgas (Greece) joins AREA



On 26th May 2018, Hellas Union Fgas (Hufgas) became member of AREA on the occasion of the spring general assembly meeting in Vienna.

Founded in December with 30 members, the association was officially recognised by the Greek authorities 3 months later and now counts 220 members from all 13 regions of Greece. The association's main purposes lie in the identification of issues for the sector, the provision of support to its members and the protection of the environment. It is notably very active on training.

Thanos Biris, President of the Greek association, said: "We in Hellas Union Fgas (SOPIMIPSIK), are a new and fast-growing association, which gives a lot of interest, and of course efforts in training, certification and whatever is needed in our sector

for the technicians. I have always wanted to be in touch with the centre of decisions in Europe and after discussing with my dear friend Marco Buoni, we have decided as Hufgas board to join AREA and get involved in working groups, task forces and be in general in close contact with companies and contractors of the HVAC family."

Marco Buoni, President of AREA, said: "I am delighted to see Greece back in AREA. Although it is a young association, Hufgas is already well established and recognised and very dynamic. I am sure that the collaboration with AREA will be extremely mutually beneficial."

AREA now counts 26 member associations from 22 countries, including 19 out of the 28 EU Member States.



Left to right: Nikos Pantelakis, Marco Buoni, Thanos Biris, Dimitris Tairis

Task Forces

Fgas



By Graeme Fox (BESA, UK),
TF Chairman

After a year of sharp price increases and with the entry into force of the second phase of the phase-down scheme, 2018 was expected to be a tough year for the industry. It was indeed to some extent, though against all odds prices peaked and (for some gases) then started to decrease, as demand for HFCs generally decreased too. It remains to be seen whether this trend will continue in 2019.

In this context, the Task Force's main objective was to support members with the implementation of the Regulation. To this end, AREA published two documents: a Technical Bulletin on recycling and a leaflet on R-404A and R-507A developed with other industry stakeholders. With the active role of many AREA members, the leaflet was translated into all EU official languages and supported with a video. It aims at explaining to RACHP contractors why they need to stop installing R-404A and R-507A and what

alternatives are available.

Availability of refrigerants was another hot topic. Further to many alerts from members, AREA conducted an internal survey that revealed that a majority of our industry was confronted with a general decrease in refrigerant's availability coupled with an increase of illegal trade. AREA worked together with other industry stakeholders to raise this issue within the industry and, more importantly so, with the European Commission (DG CLIMA and OLAF). This topic will surely keep us busy for some more time.

Finally, AREA replied to the consultation on the review of the Regulation on ozone-depleting substances, expressing general support to the legislation that has proven efficient at reducing consumption of these substances. At this stage it does not look like a substantial revision is to be expected.

Energy



By Per Jonasson (KYL, Sweden),
TF Chairman

Last year, AREA concentrated its efforts on the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). AREA cooperated with EPEE in developing a comprehensive guidance document containing recommendations for the technical implementation of the EPBD. In addition, we also issued a series of political recommendations for the implementation of EPBD at the national level and information materials for our members to understand how it will impact them. The EPBD also introduces a new “Smart Readiness Indicator” (SRI), a future label complementary to existing Energy Performance Certificates to inform building owners and occupants about the adaptability of the building to the needs of the occupants. AREA is closely monitoring its development, as it could present potential business opportunities for our members.

A new topic we have been working on has been the long-term decarbonisation strategy for 2050. We participated in the public consultation to this strategy and were happy to see some of our comments taken into account in the Commission Communication “A Clean Planet for all”. Namely, we stressed the importance of minimising the emissions from heating and cooling by implementing the long-term renovation plans of the EU building stock as introduced in the EPBD.

Low GWP refrigerants



By Marco Buoni (ATF, Italy),
TF Chairman

The phase-down of HFCs in the context of the Fgas Regulation is accelerating the uptake of low GWP alternative refrigerants. Data from the EPEE Gapometer seems to suggest that such an uptake is actually faster than foreseen. It is therefore all the more important to ensure that the industry is ready and adapts quickly to these changes.

The Task Force coordinates the work that AREA is doing on competence in the 3 projects that our association is involved in: REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE (already available in 15 languages), Universal Training Kit for Alternative Refrigerants UT-KAR (with UNEP) and the Refrigerant Driving License RDL. This involvement ensures that the appropriate minimum competence requirements are in place not just in Europe but worldwide. With its experience and expertise, AREA has a key role to play.

Since many alternative refrigerants are flammable, together with industry partners, we also developed a leaflet that provides all the information necessary to get ready for the use of flammable refrigerants. With AREA members’ help, the leaflet was translated into 12 languages. Clear and accessible information at local level is indeed essential.

Finally, since we are witnessing a surge in the development of new synthetic alternatives, our TF serves as a forum for members to exchange on the latest refrigerants. There, we use the strength of our network to share knowledge.

Task Forces

Skills



By Stig Rath (VKE, Norway),
TF Chairman

Most RACHP contracting companies are faced with staff shortages, difficulties to hire and the need to upskill their workforces. Our Task Force Skills tries to support the industry to address these challenges.

One obstacle lies in the lack of identification and visibility of our profession in the education system. This is why we have started working towards a NACE code for air conditioning and refrigeration installation and that each European country register REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN as the generic name of our workers in the EU regulated professions database. The process is long and somewhat difficult, but AREA feels it would shed more light on our professions.

We are also following up the developments of the EN ISO 22712 (formerly EN 13313) standard, which sets the minimum competence requirements of personnel for refrigerating systems and heat pumps. This standard will be similar at European and International level (ISO).

Finally, our TF serves as a forum to exchange best national practices on campaign to attract young engineers to our industry.

Pressure Equipment



By Declan Fitzmaurice (IRI, Ireland),
TF Chairman

The AREA app is now available in 12 languages. On 10 March 2019, there had been a total of 3984 downloads across the 2 platforms iOS and Android (about 50% each), since the app was made available. For iOS, the UK had recorded 590 downloads, Italy 360, Germany 228, Sweden 183 and Norway 169.

The Task Force is following the developments on the standard EN 378. It is also preparing a short guide on the application of the standard by RACHP contractors.

EVENTS

AREA General Assembly meetings

25-26 May, Vienna & 19 October, Nuremberg



AREA members at the autumn meeting in Nuremberg

22 national associations and close to 40 delegates gathered in Vienna on the occasion of the biggest AREA spring General Assembly meeting, hosted by ÖKKV. On that occasion, Marco Buoni was elected President and Hufgas (Greece) became the 26th member of AREA.

The AREA autumn meeting took place on 19 October 2018 in Nuremberg, right after Chillventa. Members welcomed new delegates: Tom de Boer and Mart

Peeman (NVKL), Papageorgiou Chralampos, Seirlis Aris and Bratsolas Nektorios (HUGAS) and Silvia Romano (ATF). Reports were given on AREA's activities in projects (REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE, UT-KAR, RDL) and at regulatory level (Fgas, ODS, Energy Efficiency, PED...). Lively discussions took place on the issue of illegal trade of refrigerants, on which AREA is working together with other industries.

EVENTS

ATMOsphere 2018

99-21 November 2018, Lago di Garda

AREA President Marco Buoni spoke at the ATMOSphere 2018 in Lago di Garda. Together with representatives from EPEE, Eurovent, EIA and Shecco, Mr. Buoni took part in a debate on the future of industry.



Fgas Industry Roundtable

26 November 2018, Brussels

On 26 November, AREA attended the Industry Roundtable on Fgas organised by EPEE. AREA, EFCTC and EPEE then presented the joint work done at industry level, such as the [joint press release](#) calling on all market players to only buy refrigerants from reputable sources in order to ensure the safe and efficient operation of HVACR equipment. AREA also presented the results of its [internal survey](#), according to which nearly 80% of the industry is aware of illegal trade of some of the most commonly used HFCs.

Projects

REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE

Funded by the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action, the REAL Alternatives for LIFE consortium officially started in June 2017. 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, CO₂, 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.

Last year, the REAL Alternatives 4 LIFE booklets was translated into new languages, making them



available in 14 languages (Czech, German, Spanish, French, Croatian, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Romanian, Portuguese, Slovenian, Finnish, Turkish and Russian). The e-learning based on the modules was also fully revised and updated.

A programme of Study Days was organised 7 November to 19 December 2018, designed to reinforce the practical training associated with the use of low GWP alternative refrigerants. Four study day events were hosted by leading alternative refrigerant training centres in Germany (IKKE), Italy (ATF), Poland (Prozon) and Belgium (UCLL). The training focused on flammables and carbon dioxide, with the number of participants varying from 8-12 per event. These events, which were organised exclusively for the participants in this project, included training providers from Croatia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Spain, Turkey and Portugal.

The project was presented on numerous occasions, notably during the Fgas Consultation Forum in March, the 2nd International Stakeholders Workshop on the Refrigeration Servicing Sector organised by UN Environment, OzonAction in the summer, and Chillventa.

Project partners and stakeholders met in July in Duisburg (hosted by IKKE) and early December at the Bitzer Academy (picture below).

Together with the IIR, AREA is responsible for the promotion of the project and the dissemination of its results. The project will finish in spring 2020.



Projects

AREA works with UNEP to improve competence worldwide



UNEP and AREA are working 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.

Last year, the first module for the general introduction was completed and AREA finished the second phase.

Publications



Leaflet R-404A/
R-507A



Annual Report
2017



Leaflet Flammable
Refrigerants



Technical Bulletin
on Recycling

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

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www.kylmaliit.ee

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www.skll.fi

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www.snefcca.com

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www.biv-kaelte.de

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www.vdkf.de

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hufgas.gr/el-gr

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www.instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie

ITALY



www.associazioneatf.org

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www.assofrigoristi.it

NETHERLANDS



www.nvkl.nl

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