

# UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme



## **Contact group meeting on strengthening refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations Casale Monferrato (Milano), Italy, 27-29 November 2012**

### **MEDIA BRIEFING**

#### **Strengthening national refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations in Eastern European & Central Asian countries**

**29 November 2012 – Casale Monferrato: The Italian Centro Studi Galileo, the European Association of Refrigeration, Air-conditioning and Heat Pump Contractors (AREA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) concluded the joint training on the management of national refrigeration & air-conditioning (RAC) associations as well as the assessment & certification of RAC experts from Armenia, Croatia, Montenegro, Kyrgyzstan and Macedonia FYR under the F-gas regulation.**

Mr. Marco Buoni, Vice President of AREA and Technical Director of Centro Studi Galileo, Mr. Kelvin Kelly, Training Director of UK-based company Business Edge and Mr. Bassi, Former Director of Embraco, trained the participants on all aspects of the management of national RAC associations. Based on discussions during the meeting, it is planned to produce a fact sheet on how to create and manage national RAC associations. This fact sheet will be shared with countries in other regions.

Representatives of national RAC associations participate since 2009 in the meetings of the Regional Ozone Network for Europe & Central Asia (ECA network) and they play a crucial role in implementing the national HCFC phase-out management plan. The meeting focused on those countries with relatively young RAC associations and those which are planning to establish such associations in the near future. So far, the ECA network supported the creation of national RAC associations in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, and Macedonia FYR.

All participants successfully passed the theoretical and practical assessment and were certified under the F-gas regulation. This certification is mandatory in the member countries of the European Union and will shortly become mandatory in accession countries like Croatia. The theoretical assessment consisted of 45 questions about the

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minimum requirements and competence for personnel to handle HFC refrigerants. Successful candidates had to achieve a score of 80% of correct answers and had 2 attempts. The practical part covers 3 different operations: 1) Indirect leak checking through measuring system parameters (temperature, pressure, fluid velocity), 2) Refrigerant recovery including evacuation and re-charging with minimum emissions, 3) Building a leak tight piping system.

It is expected that the participants will share their experience with their fellow colleagues and Ministry representatives in the respective countries and consider the establishment of similar training & certification schemes for their RAC experts. Based on the discussions and presentations, UNEP will prepare a fact sheet on creating & operating national RAC associations.

Further information

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Captions:

*Picture P1200408* During the break in the courtyard of Centro Studi Galileo Headquarters in Casale Monferrato, from the left: Enrico Buoni director of CSG-Italy, Mr. Predrag Lopičić National Consultant Environmental Protection Agency – Montenegro, Mr. Zholdosbek Zhumaliev President of Association of Refrigeration Technicians "Ecoholod" – Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Halvart Koeppen Regional Officer (ECA) coordinator UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme - UNEP OzonAction, Marco Buoni VicePresident Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European Association AREA, Kelvin Kelly Training Director of Business Edge – UK, Mr. Arshak Astsatryan RAC expert and member of Armenian Refrigeration Association – Armenia, Mr. Tonko Curko President of Croatian RAC and Heat Pumps Association (HURKT) – Croatia, Mr. Vasil Ciconkov President of National Association for RAC Technicians - Macedonia FYR

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*Picture P1200421* In the main hall of Centro Studi Galileo Headquarters, from the left: Federico Riboldi External Affairs manager Centro Studi Galileo, Enrico Buoni director of CSG - Italy, Mr. Tonko Curko President of Croatian RAC and Heat Pumps Association (HURKT) – Croatia, Kelvin Kelly Training Director of Business Edge – UK, Mr. Arshak Astsatryan RAC expert and member of Armenian Refrigeration Association – Armenia, Giorgio Demezzi Mayor of Casale Monferrato-Italy, Mr. Halvart Koeppen Regional Officer (ECA) coordinator UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme - UNEP OzonAction, Marco Buoni VicePresident Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European Association AREA, Mr. Zholdoshbek Zhumaliev President of Association of Refrigeration Technicians "Ecoholod" – Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Predrag Lopičić National Consultant Environmental Protection Agency – Montenegro, Mr. Vasil Ciconkov President of National Association for RAC Technicians - Macedonia FYR

*Picture Practice* During the practical assessment for the certification under the European F-gas Regulation to handle greenhouse gases HFCs. From the left: Mr. Bassi, Former Director of Embraco, trainer of Centro Studi Galileo who trained the participants, Mr. Zholdoshbek Zhumaliev President of Association of Refrigeration Technicians "Ecoholod" – Kyrgyzstan, Mr. Halvart Koeppen Regional Officer (ECA) coordinator UNEP DTIE OzonAction Programme, Kelvin Kelly Training Director of Business Edge – UK