

*The European voice of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps contractors*

# *ANNUAL REPORT*

# *2013*

*April 2014*

## Foreword by the President



“My personal aim when I took office [...] was to help raise our profile and firmly establish AREA in the general domain, and I do believe the members have achieved that”

Firstly, as I approach the end of my second term serving as AREA President and prepare to hand over the reins to my successor, I would like to repeat that it has been a huge honour and a privilege for me to serve the association for four years in this capacity. I certainly have been lucky that my time coincided with the F-Gas review so there was plenty to keep our General Secretary, Board members, task force Chairs and myself busy. We also had an increased presence and involvement in external meetings such as Chillventa, and conferences run by Centro Studi Galileo, EPEE and the AHRI. I am pleased to confirm that AREA will have a strong presence at Chillventa again in 2014 and plans are well advanced for a repetition of the popular AREA Cocktail event.

A number of very positive meetings in Brussels with the Commission and MEPs throughout the year helped AREA to get our message out to a wide audience, and the invitation to [address](#) the European Parliament’s Environment Committee really was a mark of how far AREA has come in recent years in being placed at the very heart of the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump sector as the definitive voice of the contracting community. My personal aim when I took office at AREA was to help raise our profile and firmly establish AREA in the general domain, and I do believe the members have achieved that. None of that is possible without the input and expertise of a number of professionals all dedicated to ensuring a better commercial and technical environment for our members’ members to thrive in and I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank my fellow Board members for all their hard work and dedication; the task force members for some truly excellent work; and our General Secretary and his team at Orgalime for their unstinting professionalism and dedication.

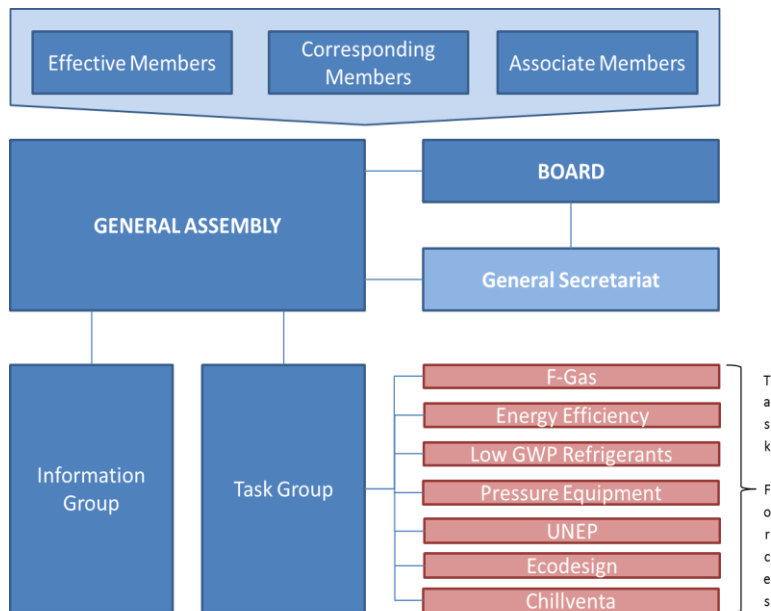
It is good to know this strong team will remain largely the same as we head into the next phase of the F-Gas review process – where the Commission works with the national authorities on developing the Implementing Acts to enable the new regulation to work. AREA will once again be at the heart of making these Implementing Acts as effective as possible in supporting the regulation and helping to achieve the original objectives: minimising emissions by professionalising the sector. At the same time, through our collaboration with UNEP, we hope to continue influencing the industry in the wider world ensuring a better refrigeration and air conditioning sector for all.

**Graeme Fox**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Fox', written in a cursive style.

# ORGANISATION

## Working bodies



**Chairman Info Group**  
**Seamus Kerr**  
(IRI, Ireland)



**Chairman Task Group**  
**Wolfgang Zaremski**  
(VDKF, Germany)



## Board of Directors



**President**  
**Graeme Fox**  
(RACGHP/B&ES, UK)



**Vice-President**  
**Marco Buoni**  
(ATF, Italy)



**Treasurer**  
**Per Jonasson**  
(KYL, Sweden)



**Member**  
**Peter Bachmann**  
(BIV, Germany)



**Member**  
**Philippe Roy**  
(SNEFCCA, France)



## INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

### More companies behind the AREA flag

An internal enquiry towards our membership has enabled us to update our representativeness figures. Compared to 2008, AREA represents less members (20 instead of 24) and countries (17 instead of 19) but much more companies (13,000 against 9,000). As the economic climate is more difficult, the number of employees has decreased from 125,000 to 110,000 though the turnover has actually increased from €20 bn to €23 bn. Interestingly an average RACHP contracting company counts 8 employees and has €1.8 million annual turnover. AREA can certainly claim to represent SMEs.



# TASK FORCES

## Review of the F-Gas Regulation

*By Graeme Fox (RACGHP/B&ES, UK), TF Chairman*



Just before 2013 came to an end, the F Gas Regulation finally achieved political agreement in the trialogue discussions. The next steps in 2014 are for the Parliament and Council to both ratify the agreement and then for the Implementing Acts to be worked out through the Commission. 2013 turned out to be a very intense political stage of the revision with a number of concessions being traded by all parties before agreement was reached. AREA played its part in advising and guiding throughout the process and we look forward to continuing our role as the next stages are worked through.

Although at the end of the discussions we were disappointed to see the long standing proposal to ban pre-charging of split equipment dropped, we were happy to reach a compromise agreement whereby the supply of these systems pre-charged is to be controlled by ensuring the systems are installed by certified competent personnel – as has always been the legal requirement under the Regulation even if the implementation was sporadic at best.

There does remain some confusion and concern, however, at some of the agreed text. The long derided 3kg references have now been replaced with a more logical CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent figure which makes it GWP weighted and far more relevant in terms of environmental protection, but that has in turn led to a great deal of confusion as to how much of which gas actually comes into scope or how frequently a system will have to be leak tested. AREA is working on a smartphone App to assist field technicians and design engineers to understand what these figures actually mean in practical terms. Some of the proposed dates for banning the use of some equipment which currently needs to use higher GWP HFCs to maintain efficiencies seem optimistic and time will tell if they are achievable in reality. Some concern about definitions after the last minute inclusion of restrictions on using certain gases in multipack refrigeration systems will also give us plenty to occupy ourselves with over the coming months.

My thanks go to the Task Force members who inputted into the discussions throughout the year and to our general secretary for his organisation, dedication and professionalism. As we prepare to engage in discussions on the Implementing Acts it is clear that there is still a lot of work to do!

## Energy efficiency

*By Per Jonasson (KYL, Sweden), TF Chairman*



With the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) formally approved, focus for the task force group changed from watching the interests of RACHP contractors in how the directive was formulated, towards following and watching the interpretation and implementation of it. Its rather vague wording opens up for a variety of interpretations, especially when it comes to the “comprehensive assessment” of the potential for the application of high efficiency co-generation and District Heating and Cooling. It can be expected that countries and regions already now with high penetration of district energy such as the Nordic countries, France and some parts of central Europe will see a more district energy friendly interpretation.

It was also decided to widen the Task Force activities towards providing guidance on how to defend and promote local RACHP solutions when facing district energy providers. This as a consequence of the EED and its implementing as well as an increasing competition from energy companies and their district energy concept.

As a result, two reports were presented during the year. One in the form of a comprehensive non-paper followed by a more general public version, both named “Guidelines – How to approach District Cooling”. Main objective with the guidelines are to support local RACHP contractors in their daily work by presenting how DC planners and operators think, act and argue when promoting District Cooling technology. The report presents the history of District Cooling and how it has developed in Europe. It also covers different technical solutions, and finally under what circumstances District energy can be competitive compared to traditional local production alternatives.

## Pressure Equipment

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



The Task Force was set up to address the difficulties contractors are faced with in some EU Member States when it comes to implementing requirements set by the Pressure Equipment Directive. AREA took part in an evaluation of the Directive in 2013 and explained these problems. This evaluation has led to a recast of the Directive, which was still ongoing at the end of 2013. Directive 2009/105/EC on simple pressure vessels was also recasted.

The TF PED has set some new goals for 2014:

- To simplify the rules regarding cooling circuits for SME's
- To harmonize not only the EN378-2 standard but also part 1 and 3

## Low GWP refrigerants

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



After the adoption of our guidelines on minimum training & certification requirements for contractors for systems working with low GWP refrigerants, 2014 was more dedicated to communicating and advocating our positions and ideas. On 2-4 September, I took part in the IIR Conference on Compressors and Coolants that took place in Častá Papiernička. I participated as chairman and moderator of the session on “Low GWP Refrigerants” and presented a paper on “[Low GWP Refrigerants handling issues](#)”.

AREA also decided to take part in the REAL Alternative project, the aim of which is to develop training materials for improving workforce skills in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector in alternative refrigerants (Carbon dioxide, Ammonia, Flammable and Low Flammables). This project perfectly complements our work on low GWP refrigerants and will provide a practical implementation of our guidelines.

Finally, the Task Force closely worked on the revision of the F-Gas Regulation, and notably on the part dedicated to training & certification. Despite our efforts, compulsory certification on low GWP refrigerants was eventually not retained for legal reasons (scope of the F-Gas Regulation unsuitable to legislating on low GWP refrigerants). We will however continue to work on achieving this objective, which we consider as essential to ensure safety of contractors, users and the public at large.

## UNEP

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



In the framework of our ongoing cooperation with UNEP, I was invited as key speaker to a [webinar](#) on “*Training and Certification Schemes for Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Technicians*”, that took place on 19 March. I also took part in a UNEP-UNIDO Expert Group meeting on the Implementation of HCFC Phase-out Management Plans in Sub-Saharan African Countries. The meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November in Vienna.

## EVENTS

### XV European Conference, 7/8 June 2013, Milan



AREA President Graeme Fox took part in the [XV European Conference on the latest technologies in air conditioning & refrigeration](#) that was held on 7/8 June in Milan. Mr. Fox [presented AREA's views](#) on the latest developments of the F-Gas Regulation revision with a special focus on 3 priority issues for the contractors: training & certification, the service ban and the pre-charging ban.

You can access the video speech of Mr. Fox [HERE](#)



### IIR Conference on compressors & coolants, 2-4 September 2013, Častá Papiernička



AREA took part in the IIR Conference on Compressors and Coolants on 2-4 September 2013 in Častá Papiernička. The event was organised by our Slovakian member Peter Tomlein, from the Slovak Association for Cooling and Air conditioning Technology (SZ CHKT).

Vice-President Marco Buoni participated as chairman and moderator of the session on "Low GWP Refrigerants" and presented a paper on ["Low GWP Refrigerants handling issues"](#)

The session was well attended with a particularly interesting debate about the importance of having a harmonised legislation especially on Ammonia, as different Member States apply very different laws.



### Cold Chain Forum, 23 October 2013, Paris



On 23 October 2013, AREA Secretary General addressed over 200 RACHP professionals at Cold Chain Forum 2013 in Paris. Mr. Janin presented European installers' point of view and challenges with a future F-gas Regulation. He particularly insisted on the changes to be expected from a HFC phase-down and a resulting enhanced use of low GWP alternatives.

Mr. Janin's presentation (in French) is available [HERE](#).





## AREA addresses UNEP-UNIDO on ODS alternatives



AREA Vice-President Marco Buoni took part in a UNEP-UNIDO Expert Group meeting on the Implementation of HCFC Phase-out Management Plans in Sub-Saharan African Countries. The meeting took place on 27<sup>th</sup> November in Vienna. Mr. Buoni spoke about ["AREA UNIDO UNEP - European Certification of competence in ODS substitutes Fgases and Alternative Refrigerants"](#).

The goal of UNEP and UNIDO is to increase the competence of contractors to prevent the use of ODS and to facilitate the use of alternative refrigerants, primarily Fgases and Hydrocarbons. Some African delegates indicated that they would welcome AREA to facilitate implementation of certification schemes in Africa by providing our experience of the examination process, including questions and answers for theoretical exams and equipment and good practice for practical exercises.

Mr. Buoni was also provisionally invited to coordinate another presentation workshop in Africa, to be held in the first quarter of 2014 on the above topic.



## AREA General Assembly meetings

AREA General Assembly meeting gathered nearly 40 participants on 12-13 April 2013 in Porto. The revision of the F-Gas Regulation was in the focus. It was also decided to re-launch the representativeness survey to update figures on companies and employees. AREA warmly thanks its Portuguese member APIRAC for organising a very nice event. Italian association ASSOFRIGORISTI will hold the next spring 2014 GA meeting in Padua (Italy).

The autumn meeting took place on 4-5 October in Brussels.



(Picture: AREA spring GA, Porto, Portugal)

## PROJECTS



AREA is involved in the REAL Alternatives project, the aim of which is to develop training materials for improving workforce skills in the refrigeration and air conditioning sector in alternative refrigerants (Carbon dioxide, Ammonia, Flammable and Low Flammables). The focus will be on carbon dioxide, ammonia, hydrocarbons and HFO refrigerants. It will improve knowledge in the service and maintenance of these refrigerants in new systems from the point of view of safety, efficiency, reliability and containment.

The project is funded under the Leonardo da Vinci scheme. It officially started on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 and will last until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Delivered through innovative blended learning - a mix of e-learning, face-to-face training materials, practical exercises, assessments and an e-library of learning resources - the programme will bring together industry knowledge and expertise from across Europe. AREA's participation will be focussing on dissemination and involve the Secretariat General, as well as the President and the Treasurer.

The kick-off meeting was held at the end of November in London and AREA presented its ideas for the project's dissemination. The process will be carried out both internally (briefs, newsletter) and externally (website, LinkedIn group, bulletin). Some communication during Chillventa (seminar, brochures, poster) is also envisaged.

The project perfectly complements the work on competence on low GWP Refrigerants that AREA has initiated and will continue in the coming years.

For more information, please see <http://www.realalternatives.eu/>

## SPECIAL HONOUR

### Former AREA President awarded *Légion d'Honneur*



On 20<sup>th</sup> June, AREA former President Jean Jacquin was awarded the French Légion d'Honneur in Paris. AREA's Vice-President Marco Buoni attended the ceremony.

Jean Jacquin was President of AREA between 2004 and 2008.

Photo © D. Eskenazi

## Contact



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**AREA is proud to support**

**CHILLVENTA 2014**

# MEMBERSHIP

## AUSTRIA



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

## BELGIUM



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

## CZECH REPUBLIC



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

## DENMARK



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

## FINLAND



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

## FRANCE



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

## 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)

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

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

## SPAIN



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

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

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[www.feta.co.uk](http://www.feta.co.uk)

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