

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002924/24
to the Commission
Ondřej Krutílek (ECR)
(12 December 2024)**

Subject: Regulation (EU) 2024/573 on fluorinated greenhouse gases

Under Regulation (EU) 2024/573 ⁽¹⁾, fluorinated greenhouse gases are set to be phased out. This regulatory change has already caused delays in investment for new heat pump production lines across Europe and led to a decline in sales of refrigeration and air-conditioning systems, especially in the residential sector.

These developments have implications for the successful implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive ⁽²⁾, which relies on advances in heat pump and air-conditioning technologies. Furthermore, the regulation stipulates that the feasibility of these bans will not be reassessed until 2030, leaving manufacturers and stakeholders in a state of uncertainty for the next six years..

1. How does the Commission plan to address the industry's concerns and provide clear guidance during this extended period of uncertainty?
2. Considering the importance of heat pumps in advancing decarbonisation goals, would the Commission consider an expedited reassessment of the ban on fluorinated greenhouse gases to support alignment with EU climate objectives?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

**Answer given by Mr Hoekstra on behalf of the European Commission
(4 February 2025)**

Regulation (EU) 2024/573 ⁽¹⁾ on fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) includes prohibitions on placing on the market certain F-gas equipment, which are expected to be feasible from the date they apply, provide legal certainty to manufacturers and promote innovation. The latter is clearly evidenced by many new models of heat pumps for private residences that avoid the use of F-gases and are being shown at major trade fairs, e.g. Chillventa ⁽²⁾. New production capacities have been created to produce such equipment.

Conversely, there is no indication that the new F-gas Regulation, which only entered into force in March 2024, has adversely affected the uptake of heat pumps. Rather, a slowing growth of heat pump sales observed in some Member States is attributed by the European Heat Pump Association (EHPA) in its latest report ⁽³⁾ to changes or lack/removal of national support schemes, energy prices favouring gas and fossil fuels and other issues affecting end-users (high interest rates, renovation rate slow-down, inflation).

The Commission intends to carry out a review of the F-gas Regulation by 2030 as provided for in the regulation.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2024/573 of 7 February 2024 on fluorinated greenhouse gases, amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 517/2014, OJ L, 2024/573, 20.2.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/573/oj>.

² Directive (EU) 2024/1275 of 24 April 2024 on the energy performance of buildings, OJ L, 2024/1275, 8.5.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/1275/oj>.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/00573/oj>

⁽²⁾ <https://www.chillventa.de/en>

⁽³⁾ EHPA (2024). European Heat Pump Market and Statistics Report 2024.