



- 21 members from 18 European countries
- > 9,000 companies
- 125,000 workforce
- € 20 bn annual turnover

## The Voice of European Refrigeration, Air Conditioning & Heat Pump Contractors



### **Foreword by the President: the importance of professional contractors**



*At a time when climate change and energy efficiency are at the heart of our attentions, the role of professional refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pumps contractors is essential in providing expert advice and high-standard services for our customers to make the right choice. AREA fulfils an important mission by defending contractors' interests at European level, promoting harmonised high-level professional standards and voicing unbiased opinions on all refrigerants.*

*This brochure provides a concise overview of our association, its mission, structure, activities, as well as the people who make AREA. Our Secretariat is at your disposal for further information.*

**Graeme Fox (HVCA/RACG), President of AREA**

**History** ■ Officially founded in 1989 at the initiative of Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Sweden and UK

■ **Original goals**

- Coordinate education & training to foster uniform qualifications and techniques
- Share information
- Promote environmental protection
- Make joint technical recommendations

**AREA today** AREA, the Air conditioning, Refrigeration and Heat Pump contractors' European Association, represents, defends and promotes the interests of 21 national associations of refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors present in 18 European countries. AREA members presently represent more than 9,000 small and medium size companies employing some 125,000 people and with an annual turnover approaching € 20 bn.

**AREA  
Mission &  
Objectives**

■ **General mission statement:** “support and initiate activities to promote the industry and its high standards of quality, in order to serve the users' interest in a safe and uninterrupted usage of efficient refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment, and to create and to maintain a favourable business climate for the refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump contractors, in terms of quality, safety, employment, fair competition and profitability”

■ **General objectives**

- Harmonisation of education & training / certification
- Promotion of technical evolutions
- Environmental protection / tackling climate change / energy efficiency
- Recommendations on and promotion of professional techniques & high-level standards

**Ongoing  
activities**

■ **Regulatory aspects**

- F-Gas implementation & review
- Monitoring of ODS
- Energy Efficiency
- Climate Change
- Eco-design of energy-related products

■ **Professional standards**

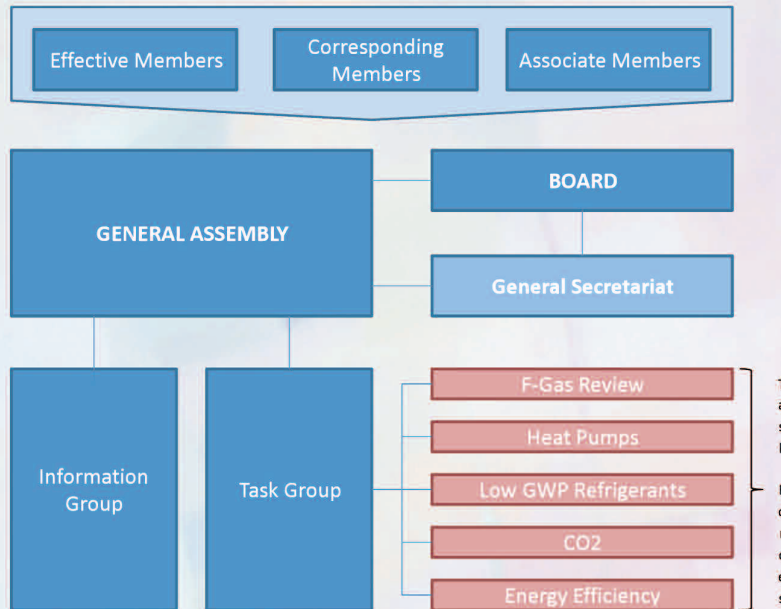
- Heat Pumps installation: Renewable Energy Sources Directive, QualiCert project
- F-Gas leakage testing: Real Skills Europe project

■ **Professional guidance**

- CO<sub>2</sub>
- Other low GWP refrigerants



## AREA structure



### Officers:

President	<b>Graeme Fox</b> (HVCA/RACG, United Kingdom)
Vice-President	<b>Marco Buoni</b> (ATF, Italy)
Past President	<b>Gerhard Neuhauser</b> (OKKV, Austria)
Director/Treasurer	<b>Frank Heuberger</b> (BIV, Germany)
Director	<b>Per Jonasson</b> (KYL, Sweden)
Director	<b>Philippe Roy</b> (SNEFCCA, France)



Left to right:  
P. Roy, M. Buoni,  
F. Heuberger, G. Fox,  
G. Neuhauser,  
P. Jonasson

### AREA activities are mainly undertaken by several working bodies:

- **Information Group**, in charge of assessing any regulatory, legislative, vocational or technical issue relevant to the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pumps contracting sector, and devising strategies and work plans.
- **Task Group**, in charge of streamlining and coordinating the activities and priorities of ad hoc task forces.
- **Task Forces** active to deal with specific issues and formulate draft positions.

### Membership benefits

- Access to information on relevant EU regulatory developments
- Defense & promotion of contractors' interests at European level
- Contacts with decision-makers & other stakeholders
- Information exchange & networking with fellow European contractor associations

## List of Members

**Austria:** Österreichischer Kälte- und Klimatechnischer Verein (ÖKKV)  
*President:* Gerhard NEUHAUSER  
[www.oekkv.at](http://www.oekkv.at)

**Belgium:** Union Royale Belge du Froid et du Conditionnement de l'Air/Koninklijke Belgische Vereniging voor Koude en Luchtbehandeling (UBF-ACA)  
*Secretary General:* Linda BUDDAERT  
[www.ubf-aca.be](http://www.ubf-aca.be)

**Czech Republic:** Czech association for cooling air conditioning technology (S CHKT)  
*Delegate:* Jiri BROZ  
[www.chlazení.cz](http://www.chlazení.cz)

**Denmark:** Association of Authorized Refrigeration Contractors (AKB)  
*General Manager:* Lau VOERS  
[www.koeleteknik.dk](http://www.koeleteknik.dk)

**Finland:** Finnish Refrigeration Enterprises Association (FREA)  
*Managing Director:* Petri HANNULA  
[www.skll.fi](http://www.skll.fi)

**France:** Syndicat National des Entreprises du Froid, d'Équipements de Cuisines professionnelles et du Conditionnement de l'Air (SNEFCCA)  
*Secretary General:* Philippe ROY  
[www.snefcca.com](http://www.snefcca.com)

**Germany:** Verband Deutscher Kälte-Klima-Fachbetriebe e.V. (VDKF)  
*President:* Werner HÄCKER  
[www.vdkf.org](http://www.vdkf.org)

**Germany:** Bundesinnungsverband des Deutschen Kälteanlagenbauerhandwerks (BIV)  
*Representative:* Peter BACHMANN  
[www.biv-kaelte.de](http://www.biv-kaelte.de)

**Hungary:** Klímászövetség  
 Gabor M. NAGY  
[www.klimaszovetseg.hu](http://www.klimaszovetseg.hu)

**Ireland:** Institute of Refrigeration Ireland (IRI)  
*Delegate:* Enda HOGAN  
[www.instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie](http://www.instituteofrefrigerationireland.ie)

**Italy:** Associazione Tecnici del Freddo (ATF)  
*General Secretary:* Marco BUONI  
[www.associazioneatf.org](http://www.associazioneatf.org)

**Italy:** Assofrigoristi  
*President:* Valentino VERZOTTO  
[www.assofrigoristi.it](http://www.assofrigoristi.it)

**Netherlands:** Nederlandse Vereniging van Ondernemingen op het gebied van de Koudetechniek en Luchtbehandeling (NVKL)  
*Delegate to AREA:* Coen VAN DER SANDE  
[www.nvkl.nl](http://www.nvkl.nl)

**Norway:** Norwegian Refrigeration and HVAC Association (VKE)  
*President:* Jon VALEN-SENDSTAD  
[www.vke.no](http://www.vke.no)

**Poland:** Krajowe Forum Chłodnictwa (National Refrigeration Forum)  
*President:* Grzegorz MICHALSKI  
[www.kfch.pl](http://www.kfch.pl)

**Portugal:** Associação Portuguesa de Refrigeração e Ar Condicionado (APIRAC)  
*President:* Fernando BRITO  
[www.apirac.pt](http://www.apirac.pt)

**Slovakia:** Slovak Association for Cooling and Air conditioning Technology (SZ CHKT)  
*Secretary General:* Ing. Peter TOMLEIN  
[www.szchkt.org](http://www.szchkt.org)

**Spain:** Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Frio y Climatización (ANEFRYC)  
*Delegate to AREA:* Werner STENZIG, Ricardo MAYOR  
[www.anefryc.com](http://www.anefryc.com)

**Sweden:** Kyl & Värmepumpföretagen (KVF)  
*Delegate to AREA:* Per JONASSON  
[www.kvforetagen.se](http://www.kvforetagen.se)

**United Kingdom:** British Refrigeration Association (BRA) / Federation of Environmental Trade Associations (FETA)  
*Director General:* Cedric SLOAN  
[www.feta.co.uk](http://www.feta.co.uk)

**United Kingdom:** Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Group (HVCA/RACG)  
*Delegate to AREA:* Graeme FOX  
[www.hvca.org.uk](http://www.hvca.org.uk)



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