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The  President, Directors and Secretary wish
all our Members, their Families and Friends
a Merry Christmas and
a Peaceful, Healthy, Happy & Successful 2005!

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The AREA newsletter is a dissemination tool. Each Member has received a log in and a password to have access to the Member's section of www.area-eur.be where the newsletters can be printed. You are welcome to communicate these data to your members. If you need other access codes, please contact the secretariat.

The letter in brief

December has been a quiet month for the future F-gas Regulation. Translators are at work. The letter includes the updated position of the EU on Climate Change as well as some related articles. Some useful information from the proposed French Decree on certain refrigerants used in refrigerating and air conditioning equipment is passed on, together with items raised by Snefcca. The secretariat has an English translation of the proposed French Decree.

On the contrary, EC DG Education and Culture has been quite active. The Leonardo Department organized with the Dutch Presidency, a Summit and an exhibition in Maastricht on December 14-16. AREA was present. The details outlined in this letter should chase away any doubt remaining about the fact that vocational training and education will be harmonized sooner or later to allow trans-national mobility. AREA, with its Leonardo project, the (European) Refrigeration Craftsman, is pioneering but appears in good position, when compared to the pilot projects of schools, research institutes and VET bodies. The Secretary expressed an opinion in favour of launching another Leonardo project in 2006 (the present one will end in December 2005). The deadline for applying is September 30, 2005.

CEN TC 182 current work program is mentioned in the standardization section. President Jacquin comments that the CEN work takes little into account from the installers' needs and he proposes to promote the development of European codes of good practice.

AREA wrote one more letter to the Commission to clarify what is covered in the scope of the Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment Directive.

Environment

Report received from EPEE / Hill & Knowlton on November 26 :

Kyoto ratification date confirmation and overview Commission conference climate policy post 2012

Kyoto ratification date confirmation and overview Commission conference climate policy post 2012 The 90-day countdown to the Kyoto Protocol's entry into force was triggered on 18 November when the United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan received the Russian Federation's official ratification. With a requirement for 55% of industrialized nations to ratify it, the treaty couldn't have come into effect without Russia. The Protocol will enter into force on 16 February 2005.

The European focus has now shifted to policy for the post 2012 period. Under the protocol, rules for the post-2012 period must be agreed by 2007. Early UNFCCC talks will take place in Buenos Aires next month.

EU leaders will discuss the issue in March at the Spring European Council. The European Commission will set out its position early next year in the form of a Communication to be released in January 2005. The Commission's Communication will synthesize the benefits and costs of medium and longer term strategies. Traditionally, the Spring European Council is

about competitiveness and the Lisbon Strategy for reform. What the EU will be discussing, between now and the Spring, is the extent to which the EU should take a lead. On 22 November the Commission's DG Environment held a one-day stakeholder meeting to discuss possible elements of the EU's climate change policy post 2012. The conference will provide input for the Commission's Communication on climate change to be discussed during the Spring Council 2005.

The debate is a follow-up to the consultation exercise started by DG Environment on 13 September 2004. It comes a few weeks before the start of the international COP-10 conference from 6-17 December in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The focus remained on the 7 key questions which were the basis of the consultation.

1. Is it important for the EU to continue to show leadership on addressing climate change?
2. On the basis of the EU's 2°C long-term objective, what objectives should the EU set for global and EU climate change policy (including targets, timeframes and pathways for emission reductions)?
3. What type and level of participation should the future climate change regime seek from developed countries and developing countries, what should be the timeframe for such participation and what should the contribution from the EU and other countries?
4. Which technological solutions should be allowed or promoted (e.g. renewable energy, nuclear energy, carbon sequestration, carbon capture and storage)?
5. Should the future global climate regime will maintain the key elements of the Kyoto Protocol, including the Kyoto mechanisms (joint implementation, the clean development mechanism and emissions trading) and what other elements should such regime contain?
6. What are the costs of taking further action on climate change, including competitiveness impacts, and how can/should impacts be addressed?
7. What are the benefits of taking further action on climate change, including avoided damages, competitiveness impacts and ancillary benefits, and how can/should these be encouraged or optimised?

In a key note speech at the start of the conference, Catherine Day Director General of European Commission DG Environment presented possible elements of the post-2012 climate policy for the EU. In her view emissions trading, flexible mechanisms, compliance and targets should all be features future strategy, the European Commission said Monday. These elements represent successful approaches in the present climate change policy. Emissions trading is cost-effective, while the flexible joint implementation and clean development mechanisms encourage investment in low carbon projects in third countries, would be proving their worth and should be carried over past the first Kyoto target period that ends in 2012.

She stressed the need for strong monitoring of compliance to ensure fair play, and targets 'because they work. "It was the EU's responsibility to show the rest of the world that it was possible to deal with climate change and remain competitive, and to persuade the rest of the world to take part.

Speakers on the day included Malte Meinshausen (ETH-Zurich); David Hone(Shell); Lars Friberg (Climate Action Network Europe); Niklas Höhne(Ecofys); Alain Heilbrunn (TOTAL / UNICE); Stephan Singer (WWF-EPO);Christian Egenhofer (Centre for European Studies CEPS); and Bill Hare (Executive Director Green Peace International)

The conference split up into 4 separate working groups looking at the following issues- each group reported back to a plenary session:

1. The climate change challenge (covering the impacts of climate change ; How much do we need to abate globally?; pathways and timeframe for reaching this overall target; benefits and cost of mitigation efforts);

2. The participation challenge (covering the different forms of participation (timing, type); cost implication of participation; How to build broad participation? Incentives for participation / disincentives);
 3. The innovation challenge (covering technological / economic potential of key technologies Technology R&D Technology transfer; Cost and benefits of innovation; and International technology cooperation);
 4. Future architecture (covering maintaining widely shared Kyoto principles; Additional elements for a successful regime; adaptation/technology/development needs; costs and benefits in different architectures; and hedging competitiveness).
- There was general acceptance of the need for diverse and flexible framework of international rules on climate change after the Kyoto protocol's first compliance period.

The current Kyoto model of national emission caps faces serious opposition and the feeling is these concerns must be accommodated in any future architecture. There must be a bigger focus on adaptation to climate impacts, and a "major technological component" to the accord. Kyoto must also cover more sectors, such as aviation.

Additional information regarding Norwegian authorities' claim of a 25 percent increase in HFCs in the atmosphere :

The claim is made in the annual report 2003 on greenhouse gas monitoring done carried out by the Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU) and financed by the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority (SFT). (The measurements were done at the Zeppelin observation station at Svalbard, Norway).

The report says that the concentrations of most greenhouse gases in the atmosphere continue to increase. According to the report the strongest rise of about 25 % in the concentrations are due to the two most commonly used HFCs (125 and 134a). The report can be consulted through the following link: <http://www.sft.no/publikasjoner/overvaking/2042/ta2042.pdf>

The report highlights that the rise is probably a consequence of the phasing-out of CFCs controlled by the Montreal Protocol, seeing that HFCs have been introduced as substitutes for CFCs.

An article on Climate Change transmitted by Hill & Knowlton on December 2 :

Humans Raise Risk of Europe Heat waves

LONDON - Human activity has raised the risk of more heatwaves like last year's, which gave Europe probably its hottest summer since 1500, scientists said on Wednesday.

Tens of thousands of people in Europe died during the sweltering weather as the mercury soared to new highs. Unusual meteorological conditions were blamed for the extremely hot, dry summer. But Peter Stott, of the

gas emissions, at least doubled the risk of the unusual event.

"We are responsible for increasing significantly the risk of such heatwaves, largely through greenhouse gas emissions" Stott told Reuters.

"If we carry on as usual with emissions, our predictions indicate that every other year will be as hot as 2003 by the middle of the century," he added.

Stott and his colleagues studied climate change throughout the 20th century. They suspect human influence probably started altering the climate as far back as the 18th century.

"But it has only been in the last 50 years that the temperature has really started to accelerate as a result of greenhouse gas emissions," Stott said.

The scientists set out to determine the chances of having a European heatwave like last year's and whether the odds have changed.

Using climate models, they compared what the weather would have probably been like without any human influences, with simulations that included the impact of greenhouse gas emissions.

"It showed there was a significant observed warming in Europe that was associated with increasing greenhouse gas emissions," said Stott, who reported the findings in the journal Nature.

"We saw that there was a much greater risk of heat waves now than there used to be in the pre-industrial climate."

Stott and his colleagues estimated that as much as three-quarters of the current risk of a heatwave is due to human influence on climate.

In a commentary in the journal, Swiss and German scientists described the research as a breakthrough because it is the first successful attempt to detect man-made influence on a specific extreme climate event.

"The advent of such attributable studies might profoundly affect the course of international negotiations on ways to mitigate, adapt to and ultimately pay for the consequences of climate change," said Christoph Schar, at the Institute for Atmospheric and Climate Science in Zurich, and Gerd Jendritzky, of the German Weather Service in Freiburg.

Story by Patricia Reaney

Story Date: 2/12/2004

Information received from EPEE on December 15 :

“The Commission is moving ahead on analyzing HFC emissions in the refrigerated transport sector (non-MAC). A UK company, Risk & Policy Analysts Ltd, have started to send questionnaires to the industry to build up base line scenarios and ideas for future policy.

The emphasis in the questionnaire is on the use of HFCs and the existing and future trends in the use of non-HFC refrigerants. Particularly worrying is the author's statement that studies have previous studies assume a 50 per cent per annum leakage rate. If so, (or if unchallenged if not true) the policy recommendation will undoubtedly be a ban, at least along the lines of MAC.”

The full questionnaire and the covering letter from the British Consultant are available at the secretariat.

Important : Mr. Cedric Sloan, Director General of FETA/BRA, has warned that the methodology proposed is criticized by the transport industry in the UK and that the questionnaire should be addressed with care.

F-Gas Regulation issue

Interesting opinion of SNEFCCA

The French proposed F-gas Decree applicable to refrigeration and air conditioning equipment is somewhat ahead of schedule as it integrates most of the articles of the proposed EC Regulation. The lobbying of our Member in the French environment shows some aspects which are interesting for AREA to consider at the European level, for instance when the Second Reading will start in the Parliament. Here are examples taken in the proposed French Decree :

- Obligation to employ certified RAC personnel/companies for installation and maintenance activities (*and not only for containment and recovery activities as mentioned in the proposed EC Regulation*)
- Mobile air conditioning is included in the scope of the Decree
- The general criteria for certifying RAC personnel/companies are listed; the certification is valid for 5 years. The certification specifies which types of equipment and which types of applications are covered.
- Besides being impartial and objective, the certifying organizations must prove competence in the activities to be controlled.

SNEFCCA proposes to go further in the labelling article : the label should specify that the equipment has to be installed and maintained only by a certified company/person. And “The list of the certified companies is available on www. ...” or “The list of the certified companies has to be supplied by the seller” would be interesting additions. It appears that the French Ministries concerned are open to these comments.

The AREA secretariat has an English translation of the

1. -----IND- **2004 0499 F-- EN-** ----- 20041210 --- --- PROJET
Draft (French) Decree on certain refrigerants used in refrigerating and air-conditioning equipment.

Education & vocational training



Leonardo da Vinci

The Refrigeration Craftsman project

AREA/Leonardo Project EUR/02/C/F/NT- 84604

Agreement N° 2002-4549/001-001LE2X

Letter received from the Commission :



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Education and Culture
Vocational training
Application and dissemination of innovation

04D036351.

Brussels, 07/12/2004
COM3/

Norman C Mitchell / Robert Berckmans
Air conditioning and Refrigeration
European Association (AREA)
Beau Site-Première Avenue, 88
B-1330 RIXENSART

Subject: Leonardo da Vinci Programme – Evaluation of Interim Report

Project Title or Acronym: The Refrigeration Craftsman - Competence and qualification of personnel working in the field of refrigeration

Project Reference: EUR/02/C/F/NT-84604

Agreement Number: 2002-4549

Dear Mr Mitchell / Mr Berckmans

With regard to the above referenced project, I am pleased to inform you that the evaluation is now complete and that, pursuant to article 5.1 of the agreement, a second pre-financing payment of **EUR 36 560,73**, will be made in the near future.

Note that this does not reflect a final acceptance of expenditure submitted at this stage, on the part of the European Commission, for which a decision will be made upon the submission of the final project report.

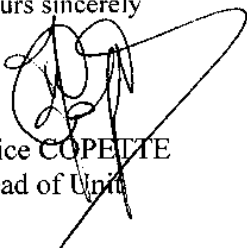
As a result of the Interim Evaluation of your project, could we now ask that you provide the European Commission/TAO with 2 copies of the surveys in each of the 7 languages.

Additionally, please observe the following recommendations (resulting from the Interim Evaluation):

- please ensure that, in the Final Report, dissemination activities are fully explained (aimed at which groups, type of activity, undertaken by whom, results, etc.);
- please ensure, in the Final Report, that conversion rates are provided where original expenditure is in a currency other than EUR (c.f. Section II.3.5 of the Administrative & Financial Handbook for Promoters).

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions concerning the above.

Yours sincerely



Alice COPETTE
Head of Unit

MAASTRICHT, DECEMBER 15-16, 2004

The AREA / Leonardo project management team attended the European Commission / Dutch Presidency event “From Copenhagen to Maastricht : Strengthening European Cooperation in Vocational Education and Training”.



MM. J. Reijmers, K. Beermann, R. Berckmans in front of the Maastricht stand

(Reminder from the AREA secretariat :

The Copenhagen Declaration

Economic and social developments in Europe over the last decade have increasingly underlined the need for a European dimension for education and training. The Lisbon European Council in March 2000 set the very ambitious strategic objective for the Union to become the world's most dynamic knowledge-based economy. In Barcelona, in March 2002, the European Council endorsed the Work Programme calling for European education and training to become a world quality reference by 2010.

In response to the Barcelona mandate, the Council of the European Union adopted on November 12, 2002 a Resolution on enhanced cooperation in vocational education and training. This resolution invites the Member States and the Commission, to involve the candidate countries and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) – EEA (European Economic Area) countries, as well as the social partners, in promoting an increased cooperation in vocational education and training.

The resolution calls for the development of reference levels, common principles for certification, and common measures, including a credit transfer system for vocational education and training “VET”.

The following principles will underpin enhanced cooperation in VET :

- *measures should be voluntary and principally developed through bottom-up cooperation;*
- *initiatives must be focused on the needs of citizens and user organizations.)*

AREA was present in one of the 38 stands, together with World Skills and Skills Nederland. Thank you to Skills Nederland, Mr. J. de Goey, for his excellent organization. As he said it, **a skills competition is an instrument for image building of vocational training**.

Some positive comments were received about our European Refrigeration Craftsman project, in particular from the Leonardo project Manager, Mr. Aristides Clades.

MM. Reijmers and Beermann mainly represented our association at the stand and visited the other exhibitors while Secretary Berckmans attended several seminars and conferences : Promoter session (for new projects), Credit transfer in VET, How to develop an excellent valorisation plan.

Here are the main pieces of information collected.

Mr. Michel Richonnier, Director of Directorate B, Vocational Training, informed about the important agreement reached on the previous day by 32 European Ministers of Education and Social Partners (25 Member States, 4 candidate countries, 3 EFTA/EEA countries).

The agreement, that will be known as the Maastricht Agreement, focuses on developing transparency, quality and mutual trust to facilitate a genuine European labour market.

Priority will be given to :

the development of an open and flexible European qualifications framework, founded on transparency and mutual trust. The framework will provide a common reference to facilitate the recognition and transferability of qualifications covering both VET and general (secondary and higher) education, based mainly on competences and learning outcomes. It will improve permeability within education and training systems, provide a reference for the validation of informally acquired competences and support the smooth and effective functioning of the European, national and sectoral labour markets. The framework should be underpinned by a set of common reference levels. It should be supported by instruments agreed at European level, particularly quality assurance mechanisms to create the necessary mutual trust. The framework should facilitate the voluntary development of competence based solutions at the European level enabling sectors to address the new education and training challenges caused by the internationalisation of trade and technology.

the development and implementation of the European credit transfer system for VET (ECVET) in order to allow learners to build upon the achievements resulting from their learning pathways when moving between learning systems. ECVET will be based on competences and learning outcomes, taking account of their definition at national or sectoral levels. It will take into account the experience of the ECTS in the field of higher education and the Europass framework. The practical implementation should include the development of voluntary agreements between VET providers throughout Europe. The system will be broad-based and flexible to enable its progressive implementation at the national level, with priority given initially to the formal learning system.

First concrete result : the EUROPASS

Europass initiative launched in Maastricht

The new Europass framework for the transparency of qualifications and competencies was launched on 14 December during the Ministerial meeting in Maastricht. Europass should become operational and available to all citizens shortly afterwards in 2005.

The implications of Europass for the open EU labour market and, ultimately, as a milestone on the road towards the Lisbon aims are quite obvious: Europass will make it a lot easier to directly communicate learning achievements across different European countries. But the launch of the initiative has both implications and potential positive spin-off

effects for many countries beyond the boundaries of the current European Union. The European Training Foundation helps prepare future Member States for the adoption of the set of documents, but also sees a potential for Europass as a model solution to a regular 'brain twister' in many of its partner countries: national or cross-border transparency in vocational qualifications.

Europass has been on the drawing board for two years and will initially consist of a set of documents, commonly referred to as the Europass, that will help people throughout the European Union interpret achievements made in other European countries.

It contains a CV in a standardised format, records language skills, competences attained through work experience and formal learning, and so on. Its strength is that it stops short of providing the actual interpretation of the qualifications it describes. The Europass is an accreditation tool, not a formal accreditation itself. Accreditation and recognition of training is still a hot potato throughout Europe, and the project would have been doomed if it had dared to tread this area. But its seemingly unassuming nature – 'just' translating national achievements into a common format and international language – is its strength. This also applies when it comes to serving as a model for countries in other parts of the world, because the Europass is unprecedented internationally in both scale and scope. Other documents have been developed on the back of Community programmes such as Leonardo, or together with other international organisations, such as UNESCO and Council of Europe, and pioneered by agencies such as Cedefop (the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education). From the outset, the European Commission has made it very clear that the Europass is meant to be a framework model.

It covers five documents now, but nothing stands in the way of expanding or extending it in the future.

The new Europass framework

The Europass should be conceived as a framework whose exact composition can be adjusted over time. Initially, the Europass will embrace five documents.

The European CV: the backbone of the portfolio

The European CV is a slightly improved version of the common European CV format established through a Commission Recommendation in March 2002. Improvements only concern the terminology; all other features remain unchanged. Like all CVs, this is a personal document completed by the person concerned.

The European Language Portfolio: recording language skills

The European Language Portfolio adapts a model previously agreed within the Council of Europe and based on the Common Framework for Languages. It is a document where citizens can record the linguistic and cultural skills they have acquired. It contains in particular a Language Passport, where holders can give details on their proficiency in languages.

Countries can adapt the common model, for instance to better gear it to the needs of specific target groups.

The Diploma Supplement: transparency in higher education

The diploma supplement concerns higher education: it is the document jointly developed with the Council of Europe and UNESCO, to make higher education degrees more transparent.

The Certificate Supplement: transparency in vocational education and training

The certificate supplement concerns vocational education and training. This proposal does not make any change to the common format agreed informally by the Member States and used by national authorities to prepare the actual supplements for each certificate. This document has a different nature from the others, as it does not refer to its specific holder: a certificate supplement clarifies the vocational qualification to which it refers, and is the same for all those who hold that qualification.

The Europass Mobility: making mobility visible

The current Europass-Training document will be replaced by the MobiliPass. The MobiliPass is meant to record European learning pathways – periods of learning in another country that satisfy certain quality criteria. Importantly, this learning needs to be linked neither to work nor to Community programmes. Access to all information related to Europass will become available through a Europass portal, accessible in 25 European languages. The portal will become operational in 2005. The websites set up by National Europass Centres will provide additional vocational guidance and support to those seeking employment in another European country.

Find out more:

Europass Training - http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/europass/index_en.html

European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) -

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/programmes/socrates/ects_en.html

Another initiative : PLOTEUS portal
(Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European Space)

PLOTEUS aims to help **students, job seekers, workers, parents, guidance counsellors and teachers** to find out information about **studying in Europe**.

On PLOTEUS you can find all relevant information about **life-long learning in Europe**:

- [Learning opportunities and training possibilities](#) available throughout the European Union. This section contains a lot of links to web sites of **universities** and **higher education** institutions, databases of **schools** and **vocational training** and **adult education courses**.
- [Education and training systems](#): descriptions and explanations about the different education systems of European countries.
- [Exchange programmes](#) and [grants](#) (**Erasmus, Leonardo da Vinci, Socrates, Tempus**) available in European countries. Who to contact, how to apply for grants, etc.
- Everything you need to know when [moving abroad](#) to another European country: cost of living, tuition fees, finding accommodation, legal framework and other general information for European countries.

European programs are now open to the candidate countries, but also Turkey, the Western Balkans and Switzerland.

Europe has budgeted 13,620 billions EUR for Education & Vocational Training activities in the coming period 2007-2013.

A minimum of 25% (probably >30%) will be allocated to the Leonardo da Vinci programmes.

Mr. Sergio Corti and Mrs. Alice Copette (Head of the Unit in charge of our AREA project) explained that Leonardo projects will have to be **innovative, trans-national** and **must have an after-life** : so dissemination is not enough anymore, dissemination is replaced by “valorisation” which means that future Leonardo projects will have to make sure that their results are exploited by the users in a sustainable and concrete way.

It will also be essential that all partners are active and play their expected role (no sleeping partner anymore).

When applying for a project, the promoter will have to present his “valorisation” plan :

- what activities to perform during (and not at the end only!) the project, to make sure that the users (target group or sector) are involved and prepared to implement the results;
- how to do it and by whom;
- when to do it (time table to be annexed);
- what are the human and financial means put together to achieve these objectives (between 15 and 20% of the whole budget, normally).

The AREA project Manager, Mr. Aristides Clades made a presentation on the new Leonardo product data base.

For detailed information, please visit :

<http://leonardo.cec.eu.int/psd/Help/USER'S%20MANUAL%20PSD.doc>

Mr. Clades gave AREA a positive feedback on the current activities. In fact, the Refrigeration Craftsman project has potential to justify another Leonardo project. The next available call for new projects is for the year 2006 : the deadline for submitting pre-proposals is September 30, 2005.

Secretary Berckmans attended the seminar on credit transfer in VET (please read earlier about ECVET in the priorities stated in the Maastricht Agreement/Communiqué).

The issue is to design first (implementation will follow) a credit transfer system for vocational training aiming in particular at a better mobility of learners. The engineering of such a system should lead to shared principles and common methodologies.

An example was given about the specialty of mechanical engineering. It is a pilot project managed by the Austrian Consultant 3s Research Laboratory with the following partners :

- IBW Institute for Research on Qualification and Training in the Austrian Economy,
- ÖIBF Austrian Institute for Research on Vocational Training,
- NUOV National Institute of Technical and Vocational Education – Czech Republic
- CIRIUS Danish Centre for International Cooperation and Mobility in Education and Training,
- BIAT Institute for Technical Vocational Education, Flensburg, Germany,
- NIVE NSZI National Institute of Vocational Education – Hungary,
- RSO S.p.A. – Italy,
- Stichting Kenteq – NL.

The approach is also to list activities that the mechanical engineer should be able to perform but without any reference to standards, regulations or directives. Next to the activities, credits are arbitrarily given to formal educational courses and in company-training.

For those interested, here is the address of the promoter : Jörg Markowitsch : markowitsch@3s.co.at

Editor's note : in my opinion, taking into account the complexity of comparing courses in the various European countries and regions, and the fact that education experts are lacking field experience allowing them to judge what is concretely needed for a technician to be able to correctly perform a specific task, such a challenge will be very hard to turn into a success.

The AREA approach is unique in the sense that it is the industry of RAC installation which is setting up the portfolio of necessary qualifications and skills. All the other examples seen are worked on by representatives of schools, research institutes and national educational bodies.

The AREA representatives visited the stand of EFVET European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training.

The principal aim of EFVET is to provide a transnational framework to support all co-operative actions aimed at enhancing and improving technical and vocational education and training; in particular:

- to facilitate networking and partnership
- to stimulate creation of co-operative projects and thematic networks
- to enable widescale promotion and dissemination of innovative measures and transnational projects
- to provide technical support and advice to its members and help them access E.C. programmes
- to act as an agent for collaborative projects with TVET (technical and vocational education and training) organisations in outside Europe
- to represent the views of its members issues in the European public forum and provide a platform for the European Commission and others to consult .

The members of EFVET are : TVET (technical and vocational education and training) institutions in both the public and private sectors, national associations, consortia of colleges and schools, validating bodies, companies with training departments, individuals and public TVET bodies.

AREA will contact the Brussels office of EFVET in order to get their assistance in disseminating the results of the Leonardo project to their members.

KENTEQ, partner in the AREA Refrigeration Craftsman project, was also present with another project EURCERT, about a methodology for European certification in VET on the basis of one selected qualification in the energy production and distribution sector. Mr. Jan Reijmers will follow up with the Kenteq officers to study any similarity that could be used in the AREA project.

The article on the next page was published in the last issue of the VDKF Magazine :

Erster europäischer Berufswettbewerb

Niederlande entscheiden erste AREA Skills Competition

Den ersten Europäischen Berufswettbewerb junger Kälte- und Klimaanlagebauer unter dem Dach der AREA (Air Conditioning and Refrigeration European Association) entschied das Team der Niederlande vor Deutschland und Schweden.

Es folgten die Teilnehmer aus Großbritannien, Frankreich, Dänemark und Ungarn. 7 Länderteams hatten mit je zwei Kandidaten an der Ausscheidung um die „Morten Arvig Trophäe“ (Gründerpräsident der AREA) teilgenommen und als Aufgabe u.a. einen befahrbaren Eisring gebaut. In der Aufgabe enthalten waren Projektierung, Auswahl und Installation der Komponenten, Lötarbeiten und sicherer



Gewonnen haben alle. Teilnehmer, Organisatoren, Juroren und Helfer scharen sich zum Gruppenbild um die Sieger aus den Niederlanden.



Der Eisring mit den Sponsorentafeln hielt und wurde von Bo Berglund (ehem. Olympia-Bronzemedailenträger im Eishockey aus Schweden und AREA-Mitglied) sowie der Deutschen Jugendmeisterin Judith Hesse eingeweiht.

Umgang mit Kältemitteln. In weiteren Aufgaben maßen die Wettbewerber ihr Können bei der Erstellung einer Wärmerückgewinnungseinheit und bei der Leckagesuche samt Fehlerbehebung.

Die Skills Competition gehört in

den Rahmen eines von der EU geförderten Leonardo-Projektes für ein harmonisiertes Berufsbild der Kälte- und Klimaanlagebauer in Europa und wurde vom VDKF auf der IKK als einem der Hauptsponsoren maßgeblich unterstützt. (S.W)



Nicht nur Männerarbeit. Eines der Wettbewerbs-teams konzentriert bei der Arbeit.

Standardisation

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, President Jacquin, attending the last CEN Annual Meeting in Lyon on 30 September, had been disappointed by the lack of consideration for the opinion of the Small & Medium size Enterprises and by the high operational cost of the CEN organization.

National Standardization Associations or Institutes have generally the same drawbacks. The elaboration of norms is a very complex procedure and our trade depends on strong mechanical and electrical sub-organizations that are also coordinating European and International positions.

President Jacquin asked the SNEFCCA delegate with AFNOR Association Française de Normalisation to look into the situation. He came to the following conclusions :

- the voice of the RAC installers is not influential,
- the contractors show little interest to the standardization work (they have no time, no appropriate means to follow up), giving priority to the monitoring of existing and new regulations,
- fortunately the regulations take into account the norms,
- it seems unrealistic to try to change the existing system and procedures,
- BUT WHAT IS POSSIBLE IS TO PROMOTE, Nationally and, why not at the European level through AREA, CODES OF GOOD PRACTICE, STATE OF THE ART TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS. In France there are documents called DTU which offer a good starting point.

Les documents Techniques Unifiés (D.T.U.)

Ils constituent les règles de l'art d'une profession. Même cas de figure que pour les normes:

- pour les marchés publics : ils sont imposés par voie réglementaire;

-pour les marchés privés : seulement par voie contractuelle.

The work to be performed is important but feasible with efficient task forces / working groups gathering the information available with the RAC installers. At least the contractors would have at their disposal practical documents that they understand and are able to use in their professional activities.

The last CEN/TEC 182 meeting took place in Munich on October 28, 2004. Our Member's representatives, Mr Joop Hoogkamer (the Netherlands) and Mr Lars Nordell (Sweden) attended the session.

Please remember that any message or opinion on the subjects studied by TC 182 can be forwarded to the AREA secretariat that will analyse the content with the appropriate committee and inform the above mentioned Representatives of any matter conveyed to AREA and of European interest.

The TC 182 agenda included :

CEN/TC 182- Standards under development

Project reference	Title	Current status	DAV
prEN 12693	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Positive displacement refrigerant compressors	Under Approval	2001-08
prEN 14276-1	Pressure equipment for refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Part 1: Vessels - General requirements	Under Approval	2004-05
prEN 14276-2	Pressure equipment for refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Part 2: Piping - General requirements	Under Approval	2004-07
prEN 378-1 rev	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Part 1: Basic requirements, definitions, classification and selection criteria	Under Approval	2005-02
prEN 378-2 rev	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Part 2: Design, construction, testing, marking and documentation	Under Approval	2005-02
prEN 378-3 rev	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Part 3: Installation site and personal protection	Under Approval	2005-02
prEN 378-4 rev	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Safety and environmental requirements - Part 4: Operation, maintenance, repair and recovery	Under Approval	2005-02
prEN 14624	Performances of mobile leak detectors and of room controllers of halo-genated refrigerants	Under Approval	2005-04
EN 13136:2001/prA1	Refrigerating systems and heat pumps - Pressure relief devices and their associated piping - Method for calculation	Under Approval	2005-06

The next meeting will be in Stockholm on 4-5 October 2005.

European legislation

WEEE Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment Directive

Letter sent :

European Commission
Directorate General ENVIRONMENT
Unit G4
Ms Anna PASSERA
Anna.Passera@cec.eu.int
Rue de la Loi, 200
B – 1049 Bruxelles

Brussels, 3 December, 2004

Re : Directive 2002/96/EC on Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment “WEEE”
Mrs M. Klingbeil’s letter TO/AP/cba D(2004)741721 dated October 27, 2004

Dear Ms Passera,

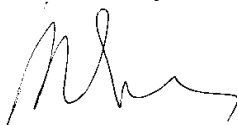
Thank you for the answer to our letter asking to clarify what products are included and what products are excluded in the scope of the WEEE Directive.

We want to bring to your attention an important information. The UK Department of Trade and Industry DTI – Sustainable Development Unit – has issued a non-statutory guidance on the WEEE Directive. This 50-page document is full of useful guidance on how to comply with the legislation and it is available as a download from www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability/weee/index.htm.

Annex B of the DTI guidance document contains a decision tree that can be used to decide whether or not a product might come within the scope of the WEEE Directive. The decision tree takes you through six “decisions” and the last asks “is the product part of another type of equipment or fixed installation?” If it is, then the product is not covered by the Directive. This last piece of DTI guidance is a clear confirmation that installed products are excluded and that only stand alone appliances are included. A copy of the decision tree has been annexed to this letter.

Staying at your disposal and waiting for your comments, we remain,

Yours truly,



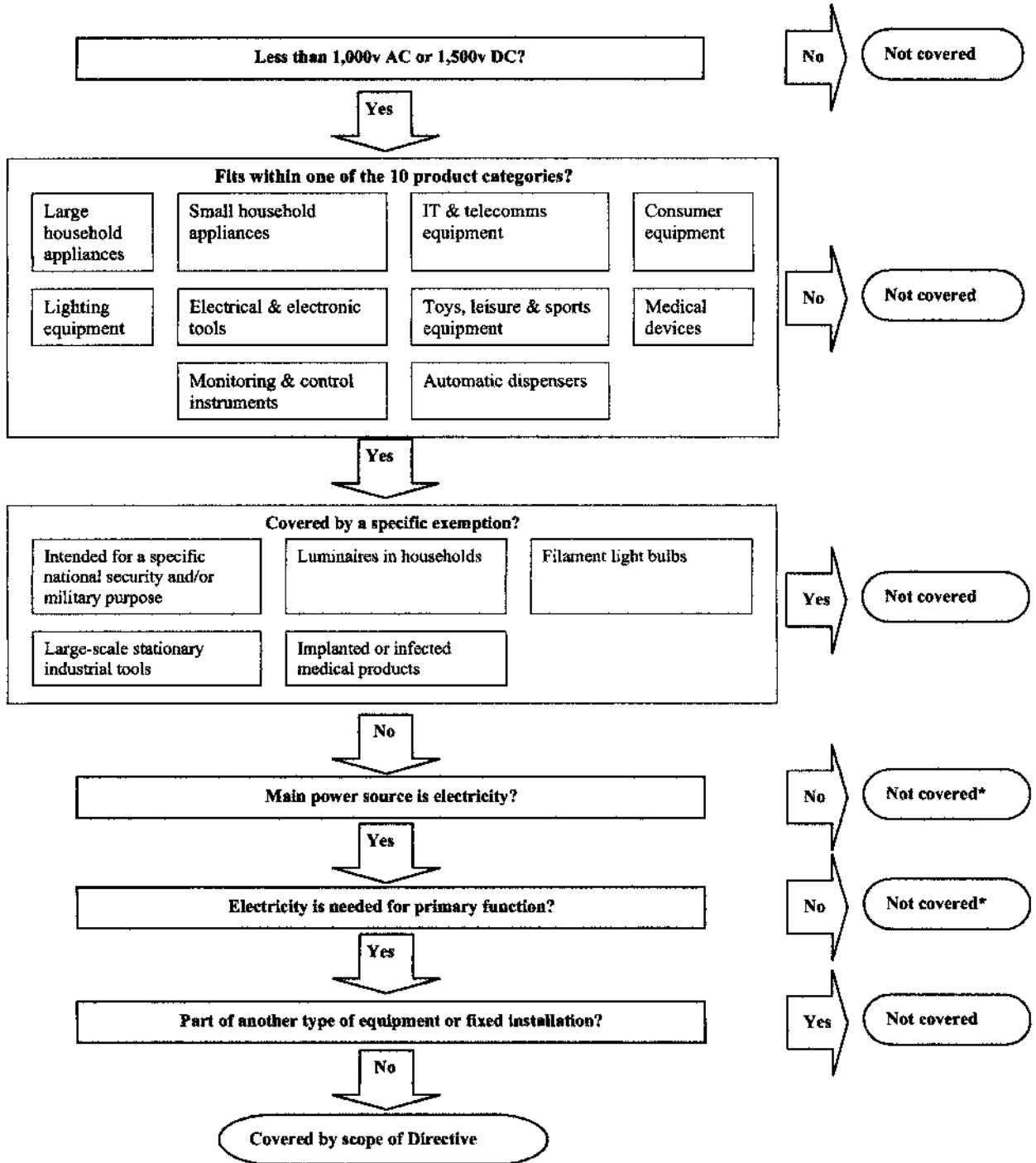
Robert H. Berckmans
Secretary General



Graeme Fox
Chairman Technical & Environment

Annex B

A 'decision tree' that could be used to decide whether or not a product might come within the scope of the WEEE Regulations.



*While these exclusions are not expressly provided for in the Directive, it is the UK view that they apply. Producers should rely on independent legal advice on compliance.

Thank you to FETA/BRA, Mr. Mike Duggan, for the useful information supplied and used in the letter!

EPB Energy Efficiency in Buildings Directive

The October 2004 Review of Eurovent-Cecomaf included an interesting article from Mr. Jorma Railio, Finnish Association of Mechanical Building Services Industries, on the “Influences of EPBD on European standardisation and on the Ventilation and Air conditioning industry”. The AREA Members have received the pdf article on December 17.

News from our Members

We are now 19 Member Associations representing 17 countries. Ireland may join us shortly.

On November 23, the Secretary contacted (again) potential Members in Switzerland, Cyprus, Turkey, Slovenia, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Slovenia has expressed interest and will be present, as an observer, in our next GA in Nice.

Members are kindly encouraged to look for new Associations with which they have a privileged relation.

On November 27, in Milano, our Italian Member, Associazione Tecnici del Freddo ATF, the Universita’Degli Studi di Milano and the Centro Studi Galileo Industria & Formazione, organized a European seminar “Carbon Dioxide as a Refrigerant – Theoretical and Design aspects”.

The Coordinator was Professor Alberto Cavallini, University of Padova, Honorary President of the International Institute of Refrigeration.

Interesting conference papers were forwarded to the AREA Members, as a technical addition to the December 2004 Newsletter, by courtesy of the promoters of the seminar. We are very thankful therefore. Moreover Professor Cavallini has kindly sent a copy of his excellent Power Point presentation to the secretariat (available on request).

AREA had the opportunity to present itself. The audience (> 210 p), counting a substantial part of Italian contractors, expressed real interest in the starting cooperation ATF – AREA.

ATF has asked the installers of the Southern Italy’s association Assofrigo to join the Italian representation in AREA.

Secretary General Marco Buoni has released, on December 2, the ATF web site (in Italian language) with a direct link to AREA website.

website: www.associazioneatf.org
email segreteria@associazioneatf.org

SNEFCCA General Assembly, Montpellier, November 30

Secretary Berckmans was invited to meet the Snefccca members and to present the proposed F-gas Regulation.

President Jacquin explained the open relationship between the National association Snefccca and its daughter (private company) Cristal Formation which is in charge of organizing regional RAC exhibitions and RAC training courses and seminars.

(editor's note : such a set up (international non profit association / limited company) could be applied at the European level when AREA will have the opportunity to manage some revenue generating activities : e.g. seminars, European quality labelling).

HVCA/RACG

Mr. Graeme Fox, Chairman of the Technical & Environmental Committee, will give a presentation on the future F-gas Regulation during the RAC 2005 (March 1-3) exhibition to be held in Birmingham. He will refer to the AREA lobbying activities.

Sister Associations

Recent advertising in EurActiv.com Daily News :

"Common steps for a common future"

EVTA is a vocational training network comprised of 15 members from 14 European countries, representing national training and, in certain cases, national employment services,. Between them **EVTA's** members manage approximately 1500 regional and local training centers, employ 50,000 trainers, psychologists and advisors and train over **1,000,000 people per year**.

Our members reflect different national approaches to vocational training.

- Some are centralized and others decentralized ;
- Some are public and others private ;
- Some are dedicated to vocational training only, while others are integrated vocational training and employment services.

EVTA has been developed as a pan-European network to promote and to contribute to the European vision of vocational training in the 21st century by:

- Creating a permanent laboratory to conceive, develop and test new training methods, procedures and concepts in collaboration with both the public and the private sectors;
- Creating synergies and sharing decades of expertise and knowledge in the field of vocational training;
- Promoting the principle of pan-European training resources and vocational training mobility;

- Helping to bring closer the worlds of training and of education;
- Promoting training and education as a lifelong process for employment, self-esteem and personal satisfaction of people of all ages;
- Promoting the adaptability of the European citizen to changing labour markets.

Our joint actions include:

- the exchange of information and experiences in the field of vocational training;
- the pooling of efforts to better the quality and efficiency of vocational training ;
- the sharing of methods and tools through theme-based working groups : guidance, certification, quality, etc.
- the sharing of human resources and of national vocational training assets;
- replying to European Community tenders for products and services linked to the field of vocational training.

Our member organizations are closely linked to the employment services in their respective countries and are contributing to the implementation of a European employment strategy :

- through dialogue with the social partners at European level;
- by participating with existing bodies in the promotion of European policies and actions for the development of *lifelong learning*;
- by representing the interests and opinions of numerous players concerned by vocational training to the European Institutions and social and economic organizations;
- by opening their Website, to any European player interested in the field of vocational training.

Editor's note : amazingly, EVTA did never informed about their decision to disseminate the Refrigeration Craftsman project and to offer to AREA a "Community" on their extranet EXEMPLO, despite a reminder.

ECSLA European Cold Storage and Logistics Association

AREA Secretary had the opportunity to present AREA to the Board of ECSLA, on November 29. His presentation included the results of the negotiation on Article 5 (Training & Certification programmes) of the coming F-gas Regulation as well as the work performed in the Leonardo da Vinci project The European Refrigeration Craftsman. In the absence of Mr. Wim Van Bon (President, Nekovri – NL), the meeting Chairman was Mr. Jean-Eudes Tesson (Vice-President, USNEF – F).

ECSLA will decide whether they would fully support the AREA position.

The Italian Member, Assologistica (Dr. Ing. Giovanni Piola – Torino) expressed interest in exchanging opinions with ATF.

Only the German Member, Verband Deutscher Kühlhäuser & Kühllogisticunternehmen e.V. VDKL, mentioned that the personnel employed by the cold storage companies, involved in inspections and maintenance activities, did not need to be certified, which was a clear misunderstanding of the proposed F-gas legislation.

Events

President J. Jacquin and Secretary R. Berckmans have been invited to participate in the XIth European Conference on Technological Innovations in the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Industry, with particular reference to new European legislation. The event organized by Centro Studi Galileo Industria & Formazione and our Italian Member ATF, will take place in Milano on June 17-18, 2005.

The next IIR International Conference on Commercial Refrigeration “Thermo-physical properties and transfer processes of refrigerants” will be held in Vicenza, Italy, on 31 August-2 September 2005.

For more information : fax +39 02 6749262, aicarr@aicarr.it, www.aicarr.it/vicenza2005

Services

If you are interested in a new HVAC & R thematic internet portal ...

Email received on December 9 from REFRIGE :

“We are currently developing a thematic portal exclusively dedicated to the HVAC & R area, in which we want to provide all the information about products, brands and services of the area, as well as making it a place for discussion about such topics. Having realized that there is no such portal in the European market, it is one of our goals to gather a vast amount of data, thus creating an complete and extensive data base, allowing to all the professionals of this area to make part of our Directory.

In order to start building this data base, we will need to access several records, taking as a first step the contact with specific organisations of the area, which can provide us with a listing of companies related to this area, so that we can start to present our Portal among them.

Therefore, we are now contacting you, in order to know if you can provide us with some of your data, mainly in what refers to company's information in your country, in digital or paper format. This way, we would be able to contact them and publicise our portal, attracting more and more users. In exchange, your organisation would have an active participation in our portal, possibly establishing a valuable partnership, profitable both in informative and in commercial ways. You'd be equally listed in our Links section, thus making your presence more known amongst our users.

You can have a close look of our upcoming Portal, watching a demo at <http://41f.com/refrige/demo/>. Any additional doubts can be sent to our Marketing Department, to ananogueira@refrige.com, and will be promptly answered.

We would like to hear from you, hoping for your active collaboration in our portal, helping it to be an active tool for the area.

Best regards

Ana Isabel Nogueira
Refrige Marketing Department”

Legal matters

The Belgian Administration wants to change (again!) the Law concerning the International Non Profit Associations. AREA is one AISBL and fortunately already incorporated. None of the proposed amendment will require action.

I could obtain an explanation from a Brussels based legal office :

BIRD & BIRD

Rue de la Loi 15
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Tel: +32 (0)2 282 6000
Fax: +32 (0)2 282 6011
www.twobirds.com

DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE BELGIAN ACT ON INTERNATIONAL NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATIONS

From: Alain Costantini

Date: 26 November 2004

Re: Short overview of some of the major draft amendments to the Belgian Act on international non-profit associations (Articles 46 to 58 of the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921)

Please note that the present memorandum only gives a brief overview of some of the major amendments proposed to Title III of the Belgian Act of 27 June 1921 regarding non-profit associations, international non-profit associations and foundations (the “Act on Associations”). It thus cannot be construed as a full legal advice in connection with this matter.

Introduction

The Belgian Council of Ministers approved on 28 October 2004 a draft Act (“*loi-programme/programmawet*”), which namely contains a chapter on proposed amendments to the Act (Reference: Doc 51 - 1437/0001 and 1438/0001 and 1437/0002 and 1438/0002 – www.lachambre.be or www.dekamer.be) – hereinafter “the New Act”).

The New Act was submitted to the House of Representatives (“*Chambre/Kamer*”) on 17 November 2004. The Council of State (“*Conseil d’Etat/ Raad van State*”) did not make any comment on the provisions on the New Act amending the Act on Associations

As, at this stage, the New Act can still be amended by the Parliament, the present memorandum is limited to a broad outline of the reform.

Incorporation of a international non-profit association organised under Belgian law (“AISBL/IVZW”) : before a notary

The reform makes it mandatory for an AISBL to be incorporated by notarial deed. Indeed, up until now, the AISBL could either be incorporated either by private deed or by notarial deed.

According to the report of the Government on the New Act, the purpose of this measure is to lighten the incorporation procedure by limiting the control carried out by the Ministry of Justice.

The Ministry will only have to examine whether the purpose of the AISBL has a non-profit in nature and is international before submitting the incorporation deed to the King for signature.

As currently prevailing in the Act on Associations, the new AISBL is granted a full legal status on the date of the King’s signature.

In order however, to have some guarantee of the legacy of the incorporation deed, the latter must be executed before a notary.

By modifying the incorporation procedure, an acceleration of the procedure of approval by the Ministry of Justice and the King, which nowadays might last several months, is sought.

The report of the Government on the New Act adds that an AISBL having an international purpose, but not willing to be incorporated by notarial deed, can opt for the legal form of a (national) Belgian non-profit association (“*ASBL/VZW*”), as the latter has, since the Act of 30 June 2000, no longer been subject to any nationality requirement for its members.

Amendments to the Articles of Association of an AISBL

Only the amendments that affect the purpose of the AISBL will have to be approved by the King.

As far as other amendments are concerned, the reform abolishes any control of the Ministry of Justice and simply replaces it by requiring a notarial deed for the amendments that affect:

- the purpose;
- the powers, notice modalities and decision-making process of the General Assembly as well as the way in which its decisions are made available to its members;
- the conditions of (i) amendments to the Articles of Association, (ii) dissolution and liquidation of the AISBL and (iii) the allocation of the assets.

Filing of documents : Commercial Court

The reform provides that all documents that need to be filed must henceforward be submitted to the Clerk of the Commercial Court and not to the Ministry of Justice anymore.

Indeed, in the medium term (according to our information, around July 2005), the notaries will have direct access to the Crossroad Bank for Enterprises and will in the future even be empowered to carry out some tasks that up until now, only the Commercial Court was able to perform.

Appointment of auditors of an AISBL: power of the General Assembly

Article 53§3 of the Act on Associations provides that the auditor(s) are appointed by the Board of Directors, at least when their appointment is mandatory

This provision will have to be adjusted, as, since the Act of 9 July 2004, article 53§6 of the Act on Associations has been modified to provide that the appointment of auditors belongs to the General Assembly.

Hence, there is a discrepancy between the abovementioned provisions.

However, the Government intends to solve this problem by modifying article 53§5, which in the future will provide that only the General Assembly shall have the power to appoint the auditor(s).

Entry into force of the provisions of the New Act: to be determined by the King

The King has to determine the date of entry into force of the provisions of the New Act.

The provisions of the New Act that grant an advisory role to the Belgian Board of Accounting Standards (“*Commission des Normes Comptables/Commissie voor boekhoudkundige normen*”) – not discussed here – will come into force on 1 January 2005.

The date of entry into force of the other provisions of the New Act will be decided by the King.

As, according to our information, the notaries will only have direct access to the Crossroad Bank for Enterprises around July 2005, it can reasonably be assumed that the provisions related to (i) the mandatory incorporation of an AISBL and (ii) amendments to some provisions by notarial deed will not come into force before July 2005.

However, as far as the pending requests for incorporation of AISBL are concerned, they will remain governed by the provisions that were applicable at the date that the request for incorporation was submitted to the Ministry of Justice.

Bird & Bird Brussels
Alain Costantini
Partner
26 November 2004