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Press Release

SF₆ emissions from EU Electrical Industry down 40% since 1995

Ecofys - the energy consultancy - released a study on 28 June 2005 assessing emission reductions from manufacturing and use of SF₆ electrical equipment across Europe. The study concludes that voluntary actions taken by the electricity industry - including both manufacturers and users of electrical equipment - since the mid-nineties have resulted in significant emission reductions. The study also outlines how to access the remaining reduction potentials.

SF₆ is one of the six greenhouse gases regulated under the Kyoto Protocol. Electrical equipment based on SF₆-technology is used in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity all over the world.

The study came to the following conclusions:

- In the EU-15 the contribution of SF₆ from electrical equipment amounted to 0.05 % of the total greenhouse gas emissions in 2002. Although the electricity industry is a major user of SF₆ it is only a minor source of SF₆ emissions.
- Since 1995, voluntary actions by the European electricity industry have resulted in a reduction of 40 % of SF₆ emissions in the EU-25 + Switzerland, Norway and Iceland (EU 25+3). Around 70% the potential for emission reductions has already been realized with specific reduction costs ranging between 0.5 - 40 €/tCO₂-eq. Additional efforts are necessary to achieve full implementation of these measures throughout the electrical industry across Europe.
- Life-cycle-assessments show that the use of SF₆ in electrical equipment can reduce the overall CO₂-emissions from the electricity systems due to reduced network losses. In 2003, this effect is estimated to have avoided emissions of about 1.7 Mt CO₂ across the EU-25+3.

The analysis was carried out on request of CAPIEL, the Coordinating Committee for the Associations of Manufacturers of Industrial Electrical Switchgear and Controlgear in the European Union in cooperation with the Union of the Electricity Industry – EURELECTRIC, representing the main utilities in the European Union.

The study can be downloaded at www.capiel-electric.com. For any further information, you can contact Nadi ASSAF, Capiel Secretary General by email : nassaf@gimelec.fr

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