21st June 2013

**PRESS RELEASE**

**A DARK DAY FOR DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE**

On Wednesday 19 June, the Environment Committee (ENVI) of the European Parliament (EP) exploited a procedural loophole to deny the majority of MEPs any chance to influence their extreme proposals to amend the F Gas Regulation.

By voting to give their rapporteur a mandate to begin immediate negotiations with the European Council, to their great shame they have side-stepped the normal process of permitting all MEPs an open discussion on the amendments at an initial reading in plenary session of the EP.

Effectively, this provides the rapporteur carte blanche to horse trade with member states behind closed doors. He will be armed with a range of unpalatable measures, such as banning HFC refrigerants in air conditioning from 2020.

This callous act of political expediency should be seen in the context of a desire by Brussels to attend the Montreal Protocol meeting in November with a severe European agreement to phase down HFCs – in the mistaken belief that other nations would follow their ill-advised lead.

It is the owners, operators and users of HFC based RAC equipment across Europe who will once more pay the price of this political folly.

**Notes to Editors**

1. FETA is The Federation of Environmental Trade Associations Ltd
2. Cedric Sloan is the Director General
3. More information is available at: [www.feta.co.uk](http://www.feta.co.uk)