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Eurovent develops Position Paper on particulate concentration limits in ventilation systems and indoor air

Association's position a response to continued lack of meaningful EU regulatory requirements on IAQ after recast EPBD

Brussels, 25 July 2019. The Eurovent Association has developed a plain and concise Position Paper recommending the European Commission to introduce limits on the particulate matter concentration in the supply air of ventilation systems and to develop a comprehensive approach to PM in indoor air itself. The Position Paper reflects the industry's support for regulatory requirements that level the playing field and foster recognition of the importance of adequate ventilation for the health and well-being of building occupants.

Indoor air quality is a preeminent concern for Eurovent and its members, who always emphatically welcome the stricter air purity norms coming with the development of more demanding legislation, standards, and health-conscious attitudes. Although air quality considerations were incorporated in the recast Energy Performance in Buildings Directive, there are still no concrete enforceable IAQ requirements in the EU. Ventilation systems play a crucial role in the quality of indoor air, but in the absence of EU regulatory requirements, they are not always adequately serviced, nor their components timely replaced.

Jan Andersson of Camfil, Chairman of the Eurovent Product Group 'Air Filters', has said:

"Developing a regulatory regime on Indoor Air Quality is complex and we recognise that there are no silver bullets. However, without any concrete legislation, the clean air needs of building occupants and the IAQ solutions that can meet them will remain undervalued. With this Position Paper, we hope to make clear that a first concrete step towards enforceable limits on certain indoor pollutants – short of being a perfect solution – is better than the status quo. Eurovent does, and will continue to, support initiatives to make the building engineering sector more energy efficient and sustainable, but we cannot lose sight of functionality, health and safety considerations as well."

The Position Paper was developed in the Eurovent Product Group 'Air Filters' and focusses on particulate matter, which affects more people than any other pollutant. Exposure to PM can cause decreased lung function, skin and eye problems, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and dementia. The introduction of harmonised enforceable requirements across the Single Market would help protect building occupants from those risks and level the playing field for companies providing IAQ solutions.

Enclosed documents

Eurovent Association logo files
PDF version of the Press Release
PDF version of the Position Paper

Eurovent and transparency

When assessing position papers, are you aware whom you are dealing with?

Eurovent's structure rests upon democratic decision-making procedures between its members and their representatives. The more than 1.000 organisations within the Eurovent network count on us to represent their needs in a fair and transparent manner. Accordingly, we can answer policy makers' questions regarding our representativeness and decisions-making processes as follows:

<p>1. Who receives which number of votes?</p> <p>At Eurovent, the number of votes is never related to organisation sizes, country sizes, or membership fee levels. No matter if SMEs or large organisations, each company receives one vote within our technical working groups. In our General Assembly or Eurovent Commission ('steering committee'), our national member associations receive two votes per country.</p>	<p>2. Who has the final decision-making power?</p> <p>The Eurovent Commission acts as the association's 'steering committee'. It defines the overall association roadmap, makes decisions on horizontal topics, and mediates in case manufacturers cannot agree within technical working groups. The Commission consists of national member associations, receiving two votes per country independent from its size or economic weight.</p>
<p>3. How European is the association?</p> <p>More than 90 per cent of manufacturers within Eurovent manufacture in and come from Europe. They employ around 150.000 people in Europe largely within the secondary sector. Our structure as an umbrella enables us to consolidate manufacturers' positions across the industry, ensuring a broad and credible representation.</p>	<p>4. How representative is the organisation?</p> <p>Eurovent represents more than 1.000 companies of all sizes spread widely across 20+ European countries, which are treated equally. As each country receives the same number of votes, there is no 'leading' country. Our national member associations ensure a wide-ranging national outreach also to remote locations.</p>

Check on us in the [European Union Transparency Register](#) under identification no. 89424237848-89.

We are Europe's Industry Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies – thinking 'Beyond HVACR'

Eurovent is Europe's Industry Association for Indoor Climate (HVAC), Process Cooling, and Food Cold Chain Technologies. Its members from throughout Europe, the Middle East and Africa represent more than 1.000 companies, the majority small and medium-sized manufacturers. Based on objective and verifiable data, these account for a combined annual turnover of more than 30bn Euros, employing around 150.000 people within the association's geographic area. This makes Eurovent one of the largest cross-regional industry committees of its kind. The organisation's activities are based on highly valued democratic decision-making principles, ensuring a level-playing field for the entire industry independent from organisation sizes or membership fees.

Eurovent's roots date back to 1958. Over the years, the Brussels-based organisation has become a well-respected and known stakeholder that builds bridges between manufacturers it represents, associations, legislators and standardisation bodies on a national, regional and international level. While Eurovent strongly supports energy-efficient and sustainable technologies, it advocates a holistic approach that also integrates health, life and work quality as well as safety aspects. Eurovent holds in-depth relations with partner associations around the globe. It is a founding member of the ICARHMA network, supporter of REHVA, and contributor to various EU and UN initiatives.