Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer: Kigali amendment

2017/0016(NLE) - 02/02/2017 - Preparatory document

PURPOSE: to conclude the agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer adopted in Kigali.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the European Union has already approved the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer, the Montreal Protocol and the four previous amendments to the Protocol.

At the 28th meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda, from 10th to 15th October 2016, the text of an amendment to that Protocol (**the Kigali amendment**) was adopted, adding a **stepwise reduction of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons** (HFC) to the control measures of the Montreal Protocol.

A stepwise reduction of the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons is necessary to reduce the contribution of those substances to climate change and to prevent their unlimited introduction, in particular in developing countries.

CONTENT: the proposal concerns the adoption by the Council of a decision on the conclusion of the agreement to **amend the Montreal Protocol** on substances that deplete the ozone layer, adopted in Kigali on 15 October 2016.

The text of the Kigali amendment divides countries into three groups based on when they should reduce the use of HFCs:

- the first group, which includes the most economically developed countries, must implement the first reductions in HFCs during the period 2019-2023 and undertake to **reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) by 85% by 2036**, compared to the period 2011-2013 as a reference;
- a second group of countries will freeze its HFC consumption and production between 2024 and 2028 and commit to reducing its consumption by **80% by 2045**;
- the remaining countries will freeze their consumption and production by 2028 and 2031. Together, countries will have to reduce HFC levels by **85% by 2047**.

The Kigali Amendment will enter into force on 1 January 2019, provided that at least 20 parties have deposited their instruments of ratification.

The envisaged phase-down of HFCs is implemented through Regulation (EU) No 517/2014 that will have to be revised at a later stage in order to ensure compliance with the Kigali Amendment beyond 2030.

Until 2030, the last year for which the Regulation determines a reduction step, the phase-down schedule is stricter than the future control measures under the Montreal Protocol.