

**Question for written answer E-001866/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Jo Leinen (S&D)

Subject: Illicit trade in refrigerants

Under the F-Gas Regulation, Member States are required, inter alia, to phase down the sale of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) – which have a relatively high global warming potential (GWP) if released into the atmosphere – via a quota system that determines the amount and quality of HFCs that can be sold in the EU. However, the burgeoning illegal trade in refrigerants – which are mainly exported from Asia – is jeopardising the goals of the F-Gas Regulation.

What measures can the Commission take to reach out to the Member States where the illicit trade in refrigerants primarily takes place?

Is it cooperating with national authorities and seeking to better enforce customs checks?

Will it seek to work with its Asian counterparts to identify and track exports of refrigerants destined for the EU market?