Industry leaders predict essential redefinition of HVAC&R within the next 20 years

Eurovent provided effective platform to discuss future challenges and opportunities.

October saw the first-ever Eurovent Summit taking place in Berlin (Germany), with more than 320 industry representatives from around the globe elaborating on key issues ranging from energy efficiency to air quality. Themed 'HVAC&R Rethought', 38 different working sessions and events have led to lively discussions with guests such as EU Commissioner **Connie Hedegaard**, high association representatives and renowned academics – resulting in many thought-provoking results.

One major event marked the 'Energy Efficiency Symposium', organized in partnership with Eurovent members German Engineering Federation (VDMA) and Danish Ventilation. It brought together the EU Commissioner for Climate Action with leading associations from major economic regions. In her keynote speech, Hedegaard stressed the need for joint actions to tackle the 'double challenge' of global warming and increasing energy demands resulting from a growing worldwide population. Energy efficiency and the HVAC&R industry would play a central role in this respect. Adding current geopolitical challenges and energy dependencies to this context, the Commissioner reinforced that 'if there were ever a time where energy efficiency makes sense, then it is now'.

EU Commissioner Connie Hedegaard together with Secretary General Felix Van Eyken and Eurovent President Christian Herten.

International association representatives discussing with Connie Hedegaard.

Energy efficiency as an 'investment for future generations'

Yet, Hedegaard identified two obstacles: a lack of support from a national political level, and a wrong distribution of financial resources. Referring to the recently published "New Climate Economy Report", the Commissioner remarked that the same amount of money should not be spent on the same products and policies each year. Instead, a share of available resources should be invested in new policies and technologies – as an 'investment for future generations' and means to providing sustainable jobs. Connie Hedegaard described the EU as a frontrunner as it is aiming to dedicate 20 percent of its budget to climate and efficiency measures. She hopes for a similar 'spillover effect' as regards the HFC phase-out – with many regions following Europe's move towards safe refrigerants.

Call for effective global standards and coordinated legislation

In the subsequent panel discussion of the 'Energy Efficiency Symposium' with participants from Australia, Brazil, China, the EU, Korea, Japan, Latin and North America, Russia and Turkey, the topics 'global standards', 'uncoordinated policies', and 'air quality' predominated. While many participants called for global standards in order to lessen market barriers, others identified the need to manage increasing regional legislation and resulting complexities. Again others specifically remarked that air quality aspects should not be ignored when thinking about energy efficiency measures.

Health and air quality aspects expected to steer future industry

These and other topics were further addressed in the Eurovent Summit's 'Connecting Global Minds' event. Its aim was to connect Eurovent with ICARHMA (the International Council of Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Heating Manufacturers Associations) members to develop global responses to shared challenges. Participants interactively discussed industry issues around eight roundtables addressing topics ranging from 'the future of our industry' to 'best practices in marketing HVAC&R'. The results proved to be inspiring, leading Eurovent President, Mr **Christian Herten**, to call for the development of a 'global position paper'.

Amongst others, it was concluded that healthy living and air quality requirements are to steer the future HVAC&R sector. Participants held that human factors and environmental considerations are increasingly shaping discussions on energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, stressing healthy living requirements aiming to keep costs of ageing populations and air pollution within limits. In its different forms and applications, HVAC&R will have to adapt to these evolutions and redefine itself within the next 20 years based on predicted demographic and environmental developments. This could also help rising the industry's overall attractiveness. Moreover, industry representatives might have to think along 'provocative operations', incorporating entirely new technologies while cooperating with sectors that no one would have thought of before.

REHVA Secretary General Jan Aufderheijde handing over certificate to Eurovent President Christian Herten to highlight friendship of both associations.

Eurovent and its members prepared for the future

The Eurovent Summit consisted of 38 different sessions over four days, allowing for an extensive exchange beyond product and issue lines. Widening the scope through joint evening events and seminars, while inviting progressive and green thinkers such as Hans-Josef Fell (Energy Watch Group), Ian Knight (University of Cardiff) or Geo Clausen (Technical University of Denmark), enabled participants to think outside the box.

320 attendees from 34 countries, 208 manufacturers and 28 associations were also able to experience ongoing changes in the Eurovent structure. Eurovent and its 18 national member associations acknowledge that products are no longer components or part of a system, but have to be seen from a wider societal point of view that is creating dynamics, phasing out products while introducing entirely new concepts.

In 2016, the Eurovent Summit will take place in Warsaw (Poland).

Morten Schmelzer
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ISH China & CIHE 2015

13-15 May 2015
Beijing, China

ISH CHINA CIHE

ISH China & CIHE, Asia's largest HVAC, plumbing and sanitation exhibition, will be held at the New China International Exhibition Center in Beijing from 13 – 15 May 2015. Organised by Messe Frankfurt (Shanghai) Co Ltd and Beijing B&D Tiger Exhibition Co Ltd, the three-day event expects to host over 1,100 exhibitors, span over 90,000 sqm across seven halls. Amongst is a new hall showcasing comprehensive collection of intelligent and energy-efficient HVAC solutions. Concurrent events play an important role in ISH China & CIHE's success. In 2015, the reputable Sino-European HVAC Congress will officially be renamed to "China International HVAC Congress", focusing on renewable energies, intelligent HVAC technologies, floor heating, ventilation and indoor air quality, and heat pump technologies. Moreover, rainwater harvesting and utilization, as well as grease separation technology will be discussed at the second edition of the China International Building Water Supply & Drainage Forum. **www.ishc-cihe.com**