



Brussels, 24 January 2023

The [Switching Gears for Net Zero Alliance](#) warns the current ITRE opinion on F-Gas Regulation will have an adverse impact on the environment and Europe's energy security.

In the wake of today's vote on the F-Gas Regulation in the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), the Switching Gears for Net Zero Alliance expresses its deep concern and calls on MEPs to phase out switchgear relying on F-gases for all voltage levels where F-gas free alternatives are commercially available.

The provisions in the opinion report voted on today could have an adverse impact on the environment as well as Europe's energy security as they allow for F-gases with a high global warming potential (GWP) to continue to be used in switchgear. Switchgears are the 'nodes' of power grids. They are essential to ensure that electricity is transmitted and distributed at the proper voltage level. Today, electricity grids still use harmful high GWP F-gases, such as SF6, as insulating gases.

Fluoronitrile is an F-Gas alternative to SF6 used in mixtures with a GWP up to 2000. Fluoronitrile is **held on patent by a single gas manufacturer** which has publicly announced the discontinuation of production by 2025. This raises the fundamental question of supply chain issues and the high risk of **shortages** or new external **dependencies**, unless policymakers give a clear signal that manufacturers should turn to natural-origin gases

Moving to widely available F-gas-free alternatives would not only bolster innovation and incentivise the creation of European champions operating with natural-origin-gas technologies; it would also lead to future-proof technologies being deployed in European electricity grids. This is crucial to avoid new dependencies especially considering the current energy crisis.

Fabian Lemke, Co-founder, and Managing Director of **Nuventura** said *"Moving forward, we strongly urge the ENVI committee to phase out of switchgear relying on F-gases for all voltage levels when voting on their report in March. At the very least, we urge the European Parliament to maintain the European Commission's original proposal of phasing out of F-gases in switchgear with a GWP value above 10. Europe can either accept the use of harmful F-Gases or make the switch to Natural-Origin Gases, whose usage poses no risks to the environment or to human health. We have the opportunity to create a regulatory environment that strengthens Europe's innovative edge and translates years of research and development into jobs, industrial growth, and competitiveness."*

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ABOUT

The [Switching Gears for Net Zero Alliance](#) brings together Mitsubishi, Nuventura, Schneider, Siemens Energy, Siemens AG and Toshiba - six leading high and medium voltage power equipment manufacturers who are committed to bringing ever cleaner electricity to homes, cars and workplaces.





Switching Gears
for net zero

As the world moves towards green power and electrical solutions to decarbonize our societies, we want to make these technologies even cleaner by making the electricity system itself free of F-gases.

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