



Council of the
European Union

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**Brussels, 13 September 2019
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COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director
date of receipt:	13 September 2019
To:	Mr Jeppe TRANHOLM-MIKKELSEN, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union

No. Cion doc.:	C(2019) 6425 final
Subject:	COMMISSION DECISION of 10.9.2019 on the Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses

Delegations will find attached document **C(2019) 6425 final** laying down a Commission Decision on the Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses.

The Rome Declaration is scheduled to be adopted by Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer at the 31st Meeting of the Parties (MOP 31) on 4-8 November 2019 in Rome.

The Commission seeks the endorsement of the Council in view of signing the Rome Declaration on behalf of the EU.

The attached Commission Decision will be presented to the Working Party on Environment at its meeting on 20 September 2019.

Encl.: **C(2019) 6425 final**

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Brussels, 10.9.2019
C(2019) 6425 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 10.9.2019

on the Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses

COMMISSION DECISION

of 10.9.2019

on the Rome Declaration on the contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a sustainable cold chain to reduce food losses

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

- (1) Article 17(1) of the Treaty on European Union provides that, with the exception of the common foreign and security policy, the Commission shall ensure the Union's external representation;
- (2) The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (a protocol to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer) seeks to protect human health and the environment against adverse effects resulting, or likely to result, from human activities which modify, or are likely to modify, the ozone layer as well as limiting the potential climatic effects of emissions of these substances;
- (3) The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol established a global phase-down of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) that are powerful greenhouse gases, some with a global warming effect up to 15 000 times greater than CO₂;
- (4) Emissions from HFCs are rising strongly due, in particular, to their increased use in *inter alia* the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector;
- (5) The implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals relate to, *inter alia*, ending hunger and poverty, food security, improved nutrition, climate action, sustainable agriculture and fisheries, health and well-being;
- (6) One-third of all food produced globally for human consumption is either lost or wasted with severe impacts on income, resources such as land and water and on energy together with associated emissions of greenhouse gases;
- (7) The development of sustainable and efficient solutions in the refrigeration and air-conditioning sector to meet future cooling demand, including cold chain initiatives for food preservation is required;
- (8) The Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a Sustainable Cold Chain to Reduce Food Losses (the Declaration) stresses the key role for the cold chain for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and, more specifically, calls for strengthening cooperation and coordination between stakeholders to exchange knowledge and promote innovation of energy efficient solutions and technologies that reduce the use of substances controlled by the Montreal Protocol in the development of the cold chain, thereby contributing to the reduction of food loss and waste and climate change;
- (9) The Declaration is envisaged to be signed on behalf of the EU during the 31st Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that deplete the Ozone Layer in November 2019;

- (10) The Council has been kept informed of the discussions and of the envisaged date for signature of the Declaration;
- (11) The Declaration does not, nor is it intended to, create any binding or legal obligations on any signatories under domestic or international law and it has no financial implications;
- (12) Given the interest of the Union in the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, as well as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, it is appropriate for the EU to sign the Declaration;
- (13) The Declaration should be endorsed by the Council prior to its signing by the Commission on behalf of the Union.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Commission shall sign the “Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a Sustainable Cold Chain to Reduce Food Losses” on behalf of the Union after having obtained the endorsement from the Council.

The text of the “Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a Sustainable Cold Chain to Reduce Food Losses” is attached to this Decision and is submitted to the Council for endorsement.

If on-site adjustments of the text are required in order to ensure agreement by signatories, the text may be adapted accordingly provided that the changes do not substantially affect the substance or the intent of the text.

Article 2

The Commissioner responsible for Climate Action and Energy or the person designated by him/her is authorised to sign the “Rome Declaration on the Contribution of the Montreal Protocol to a Sustainable Cold Chain to Reduce Food Losses” on behalf of the Union.

Done at Brussels, 10.9.2019

For the Commission
Miguel ARIAS CAÑETE
Member of the Commission