Heating and Cooling:

Essential for the health of people and of the planet

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BIOGRAPHY
Andrea Voigt was appointed Director General of EPEE, the voice of the refrigeration, air-conditioning and heat pump industry (HVACR) in Europe, in 2009. Headquartered in Brussels and dedicated to creating favourable framework conditions for the development and deployment of sustainable technologies, EPEE represents leading manufacturers as well as associations from Europe, Asia and North America.
Voigt’s experience in the HVACR industry spans over two decades with a strong focus on energy efficiency, renewable energies and climate related topics. Under her leadership, EPEE has become one of the leading HVACR industry trade associations on a European and global level, partnering with UN Environment (UNEP) on several projects, working with international initiatives such as the Cool Coalition and the Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and leading the CountOnCooling Campaign for sustainable cooling. She is a member of ASHRAE, the German engineers’ society DKV and a Board member of the EU Coalition for Energy Savings, a leading cross-sectoral association advocating for a stronger focus on energy efficiency.
A German national, Voigt is fluent in English and French, holding degrees in public administration (MPA), applied linguistic science (MA) and marketing (CIM).

ABSTRACT
Fossil fuels account for roughly 80% of the total final energy consumption in the world. They represent with over 70% by far the biggest contributor to total greenhouse gas emissions and also impact human health: for example, in 2018, air pollution from burning fossil fuels was estimated to be responsible for 4.5 million deaths. Addressing fossil fuels is essential to achieve the Paris Agreement.
Heating and cooling have a key role to play as they represent roughly half of the total final energy consumption in the world, with 90% of it still being based on fossil fuels – mainly for heating purposes. On the other hand, renewable energies already represent over 25% of the power sector, growing steadily. This is important in view of cooling, which is mainly driven by electricity.
A number of recent global reports analysed the heating & cooling sector more closely with a particular focus on cooling since this market is expected to grow significantly in light of a warming climate and trends such as urbanisation, digitalisation and a growing middle class. The findings of all reports concur that cooling is essential for life – safe and fresh food, health, well-being, productivity – and that it entails a significant potential for emission savings through the efficient use of energy, resources and the refrigerant transition.
Sustainable approaches include the equipment itself, the way it is installed, maintained, controlled and integrated into a broader system, new business models, etc. This presentation will give an overview on the role of cooling for life, how it can contribute to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and what is still needed for a broader deployment of readily available solutions.