

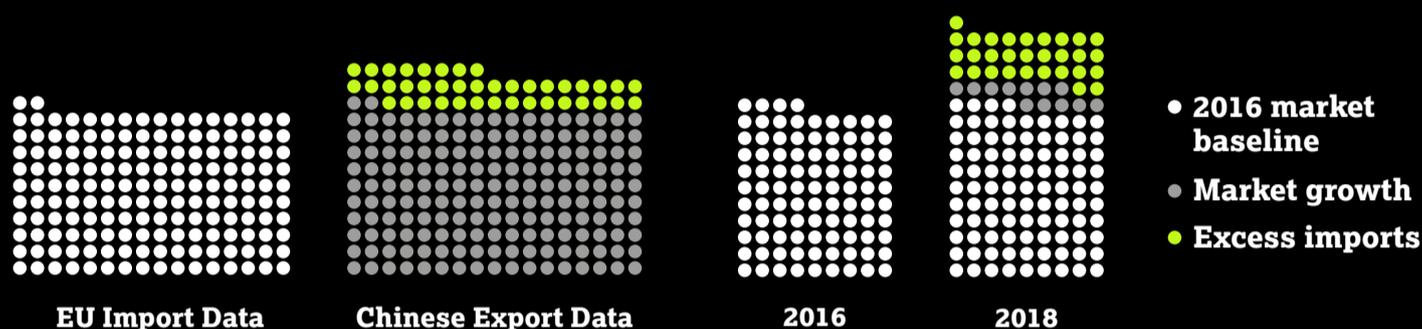
# THE BIGGEST BLACK MARKET YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

Europe's climate goals are being *undermined* by a thriving black market for HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons). Because they enter the EU under the radar of the F-gas quota system, it has been hard to quantify the exact size of the criminal market of HFCs. Now, EFCTC has published the most comprehensive estimate to date.

## NEW DATA UNCOVERS A THRIVING BLACK MARKET

Independent advisory firm *Oxera Consulting LLP* has compared exports from China into the EU with what the EU reports as imports from China.

*Oxera* has also identified a spectacular increase in trade volume from China to EU neighbouring countries around the same time as EU HFC quotas were tightened.



The volume of Chinese HFC exported was **27% higher** than the reported import volume under Eurostat (2018). There is a **gap of 19 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e**, which points to a potential illegal trade flow.

Normal market growth does not justify this increase. Based on this information, EFCTC has calculated that **15 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e** are most likely destined for **illegal transportation** to the European market.

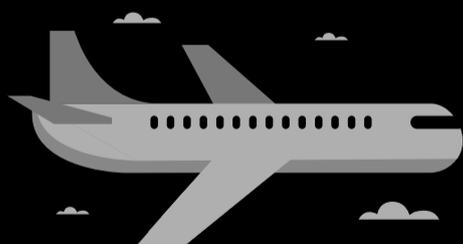
For a deeper dive into the data, [check out this data visualization](#)

IN TOTAL, THE ILLICIT TRADE VOLUME IN HFCS COULD BE AS HIGH AS:

**A THIRD**  
OF THE LEGAL EU MARKET

**34 MILLION**  
TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT

THIS IS EQUIVALENT TO:



All 1.2 million inhabitants of Brussels taking **one transatlantic flight every day for a month**



Adding **25 million** new cars to EU roads in a year

18. Denmark
19. Slovakia
- 20. HFC black market**
21. Croatia
22. Estonia

The EU's **20<sup>th</sup> largest country in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> impact**, if the GWP of illegal HFCs were measured alongside the EU's 27 member states

To find out more about what we're doing to combat illegal HFCs and how you can help to make a difference, visit: [www.stopillegalcooling.eu](http://www.stopillegalcooling.eu)



**STOP SMUGGLING.  
START TRACING.**

