

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0148/09  
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to the Council

Subject: EMAS - Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

The European Union has set itself high goals for climate protection. If companies and citizens are playing their part in achieving these goals, they are entitled to expect the same of European institutions, which should set a good example.

Has the Council decided to implement the Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)? EMAS standards would require the Council to measure, evaluate and improve its commitment to environmental protection.

The Council has a number of places of work and staff have to travel to the various locations, including travelling to other European institutions. The European Parliament, for example, has three seats, in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg.

1. Is the environmental impact of flights by Council staff to the various locations included in environmental assessment?
2. Does the Council have a compensation scheme for offsetting emissions of greenhouse gases caused by flights, for example through donations?
3. With regard to compensation schemes for flights between the various locations, the European Parliament's administration takes the position that a sensible hierarchy of measures is aimed first and foremost at reducing greenhouse gases and that compensation for unavoidable emissions should therefore be treated as of secondary importance. Does the Council share the view that emissions caused by travel between the various locations are unavoidable?