



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The European Parliament recognises that it has a duty to make a positive contribution to sustainable development as a long-term goal, not only through its political role and its role in legislative procedures, but also in the context of how it operates and the decisions that it has to take on a day-to-day basis.

The European Parliament has therefore decided that its Administration will embark on the path of applying the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) standard, with the aim of continually improving its environmental results with regard to activities, products and services.

In doing so the European Parliament hereby undertakes to:

- *reduce carbon dioxide emissions*
- *promote the efficient use of energy, water and paper*
- *introduce best practices with regard to waste management*
- *incorporate environmental guidelines into procurement procedures*
- *encourage responsible and appropriate behaviour by training, providing information and increasing the awareness of all its staff, Members and their assistants about those aspects of their activities relating to the environment*
- *take preventive measures to counter pollution*
- *ensure compliance with requirements laid down by environmental legislation and regulations*
- *ensure that everyone within Parliament is committed to EMAS and to the measures to improve the environment which it entails*
- *provide sufficient resources for its environmental management system and activities relating thereto*
- *promote transparent communication and dialogue with interested parties, both internally and externally.*

The European Parliament undertakes to describe, implement and pursue its environmental policy, to communicate it to its Members, its staff, its contractors and any other interested parties and also to make it accessible to the public.

The European Parliament's environmental policy is implemented through its environmental management system. The environmental policy and the environmental management system cover the main environmental aspects, both directly and indirectly, as well as their impact on the sites concerned, and make it possible to establish corresponding objectives.



Jerzy BUZEK, President
Brussels, 28 September 2010



Klaus WELLE, Secretary-General
Brussels, 28 September 2010

Environmental protection (EMAS) in the European Parliament buildings

For staff of companies working for the European Parliament



What is EMAS?

EMAS is the system used by the European Parliament (EP) to reduce the impact of its activities on the environment. EMAS is an environmental management system (EMS) based on ISO standard 14001:2004 and EMAS regulations 1221/2009. The Parliament began to apply EMAS following a Bureau decision in 2004.

The President and the Secretary-General of the EP signed the EMAS policy. This document committed the Parliament to continually reducing its impact on the environment in areas such as the production of office and kitchen waste, the handling of dangerous substances, CO₂ emissions to fight global warming, energy, water and paper consumption, respect for environmental legislation, staff training etc.



Signing of the EMAS policy on 28 September 2010

How can my company contribute to improving the environment at the European Parliament?

You contribute by respecting current environmental legislation, as well as all environmental instructions and procedures. Your company should ensure that all staff who perform tasks which have a significant environmental impact have received the necessary training. Your company therefore plays an essential part in improving environmental quality at the EP.

Our environmental commitment is also set out in the obligations that appear in our new contracts: 'The contractor undertakes to respect (...) the environmental characteristics of the contract and any other similar condition imposed by the specification and explained, where necessary, in the contractor's tender. The European Parliament reserves the right to carry out any checks and inspections direct with the contractor, necessary to ensure that the environmental requirements imposed are being respected (...) Any failure on the part of the contractor to comply with the environmental obligations imposed or any refusal to be checked by the European Parliament or a duly authorised body will allow the European Parliament to terminate the contract'.

If you use substances that are dangerous for the environment, you are obliged to respect the legislation in force and to know the EP's environmental procedures. For more information, please consult your contact at the European Parliament.



If you are in one of our buildings and you discover an accident with significant environmental consequences (such as a fire, explosion, leak of water, fuel oil, gas, oil or any other dangerous substance), please inform the Security Service (☎ 85112). The same number can be used for medical emergencies.



We are grateful to the European Parliament's contractors and subcontractors for their valuable contribution to the sorting, storage and recycling of waste. We would remind you of the importance of sorting waste properly and kindly request that you make your colleagues aware of the importance of your role for the environment.



And what can my company do if it causes other types of environmental damage?

If your company's activities for the European Parliament cause other types of environmental damage (consumption of paper, fuel, electricity, water, production of other types of waste etc.) you can consult your contact at the European Parliament in order to try and improve your environmental performance (the EMAS coordination team will also be happy to help you).

Some tips for every day:



Save water. Turn the tap off completely and alert the appropriate department if you discover a leak.



Save energy. Turn off the light when it isn't needed and save electricity.



Take the stairs instead. It's better for your health and better for the environment!



Recycle your waste. Please collect your waste and use the appropriate bins. Waste which isn't sorted cannot be recycled!



Use public transport for your journeys. Transport is one of the largest sources of CO₂ emissions.

Has the European Parliament already made real progress for the environment? The EP has long been working to improve the environment. Here are some of its achievements:

- The EP has undertaken to reduce its CO₂ emissions by 30% by 2020.
- The Parliament sorts and recycles its waste, paying special attention to hazardous products.
- The Parliament uses electricity from 100% renewable sources, at all three of its sites.
- The EP integrates environmental clauses into its public procurement contracts.

Did you know that the Parliament has obtained EMAS and ISO 14001:2004 certification? So external environmental audits will be carried out each year and your involvement in the environmental management system will also be evaluated.



EMAS is you!

