



EMAS ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



As a contribution to the Green Deal, the European Commission demonstrates its commitment to sustainable development, and sound environmental practice, by ensuring that it reduces the impact of its day-to-day activities in a manner consistent with the policies that it has developed for the European Union.

Continuing efforts to improve its environmental performance that started in 1997, the Commission achieved in 2005 its first registration under the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS). The Commission has implemented EMAS across its eight⁽¹⁾ largest sites in Europe since 2014, and will endeavour to continue extending the scope of its registration to the Executive Agencies and to its representations across Europe.

The Commission will continue to protect the environment, including preventing pollution, and in 2019, her President, Ursula von der Leyen, committed to make the Commission climate neutral by 2030.

On 5 April 2022, the Commission adopted a Communication entitled “Greening the Commission” establishing an action plan and targets to decrease its greenhouse gas emissions and to become climate neutral by 2030.

Under EMAS, the Commission seeks to continually improve its environmental management system and its environmental performance and therefore reduce the environmental impact of its everyday work in accordance with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by :

- (1) Using natural resources more efficiently, particularly in relation to energy, water and products such as paper ;
- (2) Continuously reducing its operations’ atmospheric emissions (mainly from building operations and transport) with the objective of making the Commission climate-neutral by 2030 ;
- (3) Improving waste management and sorting, where waste prevention measures have been exhausted, so that waste recycling is optimised and residual waste reduced ;
- (4) Protecting biodiversity ;
- (5) Promoting sustainable and environmentally responsible public procurement procedures, for example by introducing appropriate criteria into the tender and contract process, and incorporating life cycle cost considerations where feasible ;
- (6) Ensuring (and demonstrating) compliance with environmental legislation and regulations including in relation to emergency preparedness, thereby reducing pollution risks ;
- (7) Encouraging staff and contractors to embrace sustainable behaviour through improved internal communication, awareness-raising, and training ;
- (8) Enjoying transparent relations and dialogue with external parties, taking into account and addressing stakeholders’ expectations ;
- (9) Improving the EMAS system including ensuring consistency with European Union policies.

Additionally, and though not falling within the EMAS scope, the Commission will ensure through assessments carried out by its services, that in relation to its core business, it will :

- (10) Systematically assess the potential economic, social and environmental impacts of major new policy and legislative initiatives and promote systematic integration of environmental objectives into EU policies ;
- (11) Ensure the effectiveness of environmental legislation and funding in creating environmental benefits.

By virtue of the powers conferred on the Appointing Authorities, the European Commission’s EMAS Steering Committee hereby approves this Policy Statement, commits to adopt the Commission’s EMAS objectives, targets and action plan, to supervise the system’s implementation and to monitor the use of its allocated staff and financial resources in order to ensure that the environmental management system runs efficiently.

This document is effective from the date of signature,

Brussels, 04/10/2022

On Behalf of the EMAS Steering Committee,

Gertrud INGESTAD
President

⁽¹⁾ Brussels, Luxembourg, Ispra (Italy), Geel (Belgium), Karlsruhe (Germany), Seville (Spain), Petten (The Netherlands) and Grange (Ireland).