Emission Reduction Strategies for Professional Travels

Description of measures to reduce emissions and analysis of staff behaviour

Tuesday 28/11
2-3 pm online
AGENDA

• Welcome and introduction of the topic
• Reducing emissions from professional travels: Laure Ledoux (EC)
• Understanding our travel emissions to inform action: APA Alessandro and MUSUMECI Gaetana (EIB)
• Q&A session
• Conclusions
Join the poll in Slido!

Do you have any emissions' reduction measure related to travels at your Institution?

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Do you have any emissions' reduction measure related to travels at your Institution?
Reducing emissions from professional travels

Laure Ledoux, Head of Unit HR.D.7: Greening, Safety & Buildings
How can we reach climate neutrality by 2030?

I. Reduce 60% of emissions
-30% KT CO2eq 2019: 104.5
-60% KT CO2eq 2019: 10.5

II. Compensate 40% of emissions with carbon removals to reach 100% reduction

European Green Deal
Greener buildings
Use more efficient, sustainable, climate-resilient buildings & working space

Greener working place
Reduction of overall office surface; coherence with the new working time decision.
Factor in environmental impact of telework.
Behavioural change: waste reduction, re-use and recycle material.

Greener mobility
Green our mobility whilst reaching out to citizens
Setting the example for missions & greener travels
Promote videoconferencing as the default option.
Optimise the organisation of missions.
Decrease the environmental impact of travel.
Mix in-person/virtual experts’ meetings.

Greener commuting
Boost the use of sustainable modes of transport: mobility plan; develop infrastructure; awareness raising campaigns.
Gradual transition to zero emission Commission vehicles by 2027.

How can we reach climate neutrality by 2030?

European Green Deal
Ensure coherence with other policies of the Green Deal

Circular economy
Enhance use of green public procurement; prioritise low life-cycle environmental and social impact; encourage operators to green their offers.

Ecosystems & Biodiversity
Develop projects on urban and non-urban sites; better integration into society.
Fair, healthy, sustainable and good food (from Farm to fork)
Reduce environmental impact of catering; favouring short-circuits, and use of food labels in canteens.

Pro-active engagement
Staff as an enabler to reach climate neutrality
Staff participation as pioneers
of the transition towards climate neutrality: adhesion of the Commission to Climate Pact; participation in campaigns; adapt to new ways of working; volunteer as green ambassador.
Implement the sustainability, aesthetics and inclusion objectives of the new European Bauhaus in the Commission.

Communication
Raise awareness among EU citizens showing the benefit of moving to carbon neutrality; exchange of good practices with other institutions.

Digitalisation
Supporting us in the transition
Optimise IT operations and assets
Develop digital solutions as an enabler of savings from other emission sources (buildings, mobility) and limit their environmental impact/ energy consumption.
Limit environmental impact of data centres; reduce the number of local ones.
More energy efficient devices.
Ensure coherence with the internal digital strategy.
Greener digital behaviours such as online collaboration tools.

Circular economy
Enhance use of green public procurement; prioritise low life-cycle environmental and social impact; encourage operators to green their offers.

Carbon removals
Compensate the remaining emissions with carbon removal to reach carbon neutrality (100% reduction)
Financial cost of carbon removals
Reducing GHG emission reductions should be done whenever possible.
Await the Commission proposal on carbon removal certification to ensure adequate and efficient carbon removals from the atmosphere.
Assess the opportunity for a pilot project in 2024.
Greening the Commission:
pledge to reduce travel emissions

Staff and experts’ travels emissions reduction by 50% 2019-2024:

- increased usage of digital solutions
- blended way of organising meetings or events
- prioritized greener modes of transport
Guide to Missions review

Where are we?

- ISC completed
- Social dialogue ongoing
- Foreseen adoption: Q1 2024

New elements on Greening and Ethics, as well as a general update and simplification
Staff travel

Smart organisation

- Business travels well justified
- Blended way of meetings
- Less essential meetings organised remotely
- Limit number of staff travelling
- Optimise missions

Smart travelling

- Trains should be used for distances up to 500 km (550 km)
- Financial cost: favour the greener alternative (+40%)
- Duration of journey including checks, boarding and transfers
- Air travels well justified and direct flight preferred
- Travel by road by zero-or low-emission vehicle
- Promote shuttles

Monitoring

- Monitor GHG emissions through an IT tool (MiPS)
Experts' travel

Smart organisation

• Criteria for choosing in-person meetings
  o Sensitive agenda
  o Sensitive act
  o More conducive to bringing about an agreement
  o On discussion of draft acts, a physical meeting is more effective
  o More beneficial for a group
  o MS asking for a physical meeting

• In-person meetings of comitology committees: hybrid format by default.

Smart travelling

• Same principles as for staff travel apply

Monitoring

• Emissions estimated ex-post
Where do we stand now?

Some draft* figures:

In 2022 we reduced the $\text{CO}_2$ emissions from staff travels by 42% compared to 2019

And we reduced by 61% the emissions from experts’ travels (2022 compared to 2019)

Still 2022 was a peculiar year...

*data not yet approved by verifier
Some additional food-for-thoughts:

- 90% emissions from air travel

- Difference between travelling business or economy class

- Additional warming impacts considered

- Internal carbon levy/tax on staffs’ travel
Thank you!

Greening the Commission on MY IC:
Greening the Commission - EMAS (europa.eu)

Greening the Commission pledges on MY IC:
Greening the Commission: pledge to reduce travel emissions (europa.eu)

EMAS in EC: EC-EMAS@ec.europa.eu