

EMAS - Newsletter

The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental
and business performance

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas>



Editorial

This newsletter focuses on organisations that have renewed their registration under EMAS for at least three years. Newly registered organisations tend to focus on development of an environmental management system (EMS) and proper monitoring, before moving on to improve the most important direct environmental impacts. Renewing EMAS registration allows for continual improvement of direct environmental impacts, but also for widening an organisation's scope to more secondary and indirect impacts.

In this edition we highlight Tetra Pak in Spain, which, having set a global target of 25% recycling of used packages, has already achieved recycling of 32% of production within Spain. At a local level, the small rural commune of Varese Ligure uses EMAS as a key instrument to achieve its goal of 100% sustainability. From organic agriculture to renewable energy, the municipality has achieved great success over the last six years. Finally, resin producer CWS Lackfabrik shares eleven years of EMS development, identifying the benefits realised during their continual process of improvement. Recognition is given to EMAS as an effective tool to achieve long term environmental objectives, but also as paramount in environmental awareness, communication and employee involvement.

The EMAS Team, Environment Directorate General, Unit G2, European Commission.



European Commission

EMAS beyond three years

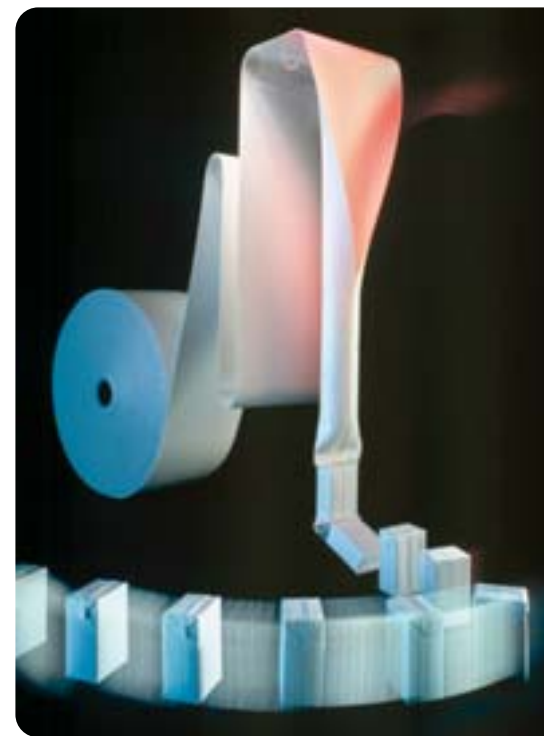
Report

Continual improvement is key to Tetra Pak Spain

Tetra Pak received the national EMAS award in Spain last year in recognition of its continual environmental improvement. The organisation comprises two entities: Tetra Pak Envase which registered under EMAS as early as 1997 as the first EMAS registration in the Madrid region, and Tetra Pak Hispania, only recently created.

Tetra Pak specialises in the manufacture of liquid food packaging, as well as machinery and services for packaging of beverages, including printing on packaging. The plant, located in Arganda, has 480 employees. Tetra Pak wants to be a leader in sustainable development and takes a proactive attitude towards environmental improvements. It considers that caring for the environment brings competitive advantage through better client satisfaction and a good company reputation.

Following EMAS registration Tetra Pak concentrated on the development of an EMS and direct environmental impacts, with environmental objectives focused on waste reduction where standardization of routine



9,000 Tetra Pak packages in roll vs. 9,000 refillable containers. Tetra Pak containers represent 3% of the weight of a packed beverage. One million empty containers can be transported in two trucks, whereas it takes 58 trucks for the equivalent in refillable packaging.

Continued on next page >



EMAS

Performance, Credibility, Transparency

Continuation from page 1 >

procedures and technological changes helped to minimise waste to 4.5% of input by 2004. In 2000 Tetra Pak introduced a life cycle approach (called CICLOPE) to integrate indirect aspects, and in particular waste generated from used packages. Indirect environmental aspects became of increasing importance and, in association with Ecoembes, a non-profit organisation dealing with waste separation, Tetra Pak increased recycling from 22,000 to 39,000 tons between 2001 and 2004. This corresponds to 32% of the production in Spain and surpasses the worldwide group target of 25%.

Tetra Pak has continued to introduce new areas of environmental action over the years. Since 2002 energy consumption has been

monitored through 33 meters and, together with an electricity consumption audit, has resulted in a 12% energy saving with further targets being set for the future.

Renewal of EMAS registration has also allowed a widening of environmental considerations to include secondary impacts. Tetra Pak has a unified environmental management system and quality system, and since 2004 provides data on social aspects as part of the Global Reporting Initiative. The environmental indicators show an overall 22% increase in environmental achievements in 2005, highlighting that continued environmental improvement remains possible, even nine years after first registering with EMAS.

Best practice

100% sustainable Varese Ligure

Situated in the Liguria mountains in Italy, Varese Ligure is a rural commune, 95% of which is covered by forest. The 2,400 inhabitants encountered economic difficulties 10 years ago and, suffering from a lack of jobs and rural exodus, the municipality opted for a strong policy of sustainable development to enhance tourism and agriculture. EMAS was introduced as early as 1999 with official registration under EMAS II in 2001.



The Fieschi-Castello with two towers stands in the middle of the Piazza Fieschi. Varese Ligure has a unique historical center from the 14th Century with many picturesque sights. To preserve this heritage the inhabitants of Varese Ligure actively support the city's environmentally friendly policy.

"EMAS gives us the chance to realise our transformation to a modern organisation which implements an environmental policy and supports continual environmental improvement" said former Mayor Maurizio Caranza following EMAS registration in 2001. Since then, Varese Ligure has worked in an integrated manner on several fronts, receiving praise from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for its restoration of the historical centre. Environmentally, the commune initially focused on water metering and fostered waste separation in the city, increasing it from 21.4% in 2001 to 33.6% three years later. A total of 97% of water is now treated with UV rays instead of chlorine, thereby improving the water taste and quality.

Renewable energy is another major area of focus, with two 2 million kWh wind generators being constructed in 2000, and a further two planned. Solar panels have been installed in the municipal building, covering 98% of its needs, and in a school where they produce 4,600 kWh. This results in a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 9.6 tons from the solar panels and 8,000 tons from the wind farm each year. Not surprisingly, Varese Ligure became the first Italian commune to win the European Energy Award in the category "100% renewable energy communities - rural".

Having considered direct environmental impacts in the first years of EMAS registration, Varese Ligure has subsequently been able to give more attention to indirect aspects, such as the development of organic agriculture. The number of organic farms has increased from 50 in 2000 to 76 in 2004, and now cover 1,340 hectares. Additional benefits from soil and biodiversity protection are that they favour fire and landslide prevention, and protect water resources.

Importantly, these efforts are supported by a strong communication policy. In recent years an Environmental Education Centre has raised awareness in the population and in schools, and the administration organises regular events to convey specific messages such as the importance of sorting waste, energy saving or healthy food. A specific campaign was organised to help the population understand the importance of EMAS in reaching the ambitious objectives of the environmental policy over so many years.

"We have shown commitment and obstinacy in the last six years. We are sure that the future will bring new challenges to our sustainable development, but our environmental management system is the best instrument to overcome them" says Mayor Michela Marcone.



Chemical Engineer Dr. Herzog made CWS one of the pioneer companies in initiating and promoting EMAS.



Interview

Interview with **Dr. Heinz Herzog** CWS Lackfabrik Düren, Germany

The CWS Lackfabrik GmbH & Co KG in Düren, Germany, is a producer of resins and powder coatings with 160 employees. Managing Director Dr. Heinz Herzog, is a Chemical Engineer and Proxy for Quality Assurance, Environmental and Employment Protection. Since 1994 he has been responsible for the Integrated Management System at CWS.

What were the major challenges of implementing EMAS in the beginning?

In 1994 our aim was to integrate environmental protection into the day-to-day business. We wanted to guarantee legal compliance and to plan well to save time and costs. The EMAS regulation was still new so the main challenge was to interpret and implement EMAS correctly, since no entity was familiar with the system and no guidelines nor exemplary environmental statement was available.

Could you outline the successive steps of EMAS at CWS since 1994?

CWS set up an integrated environmental management system, including quality assurance and employment protection, which has been retained over 11 years. During the first phase of EMAS implementation, CWS focused on elementary goals that required investment, such as tackling major emissions caused by solvent vapours and dust. In terms of legal compliance we had to cope with a patchwork of EU and German legislation which required great diligence at that time. After this, EMAS created synergies, since its accomplishment guarantees that numerous national requirements are already fulfilled, so local approval procedures became demonstrably shorter. At a later stage, when options for technological improvements were exhausted, we focused on reducing emissions in the production process and trained our staff to develop less harmful recipes. Currently EMAS serves us to uphold the standards reached and to more easily keep pace with upcoming regulations such as the new EU framework for Chemicals (REACH).

What benefits did CWS derive from EMAS and what was the most important target you reached?

Most important is communication. It became our key management tool as staff motivation improved



The CWS site in Germany developed a detailed policy on the production of benzene-free solvents through the application of EMAS.

considerably through regular meetings and discussions, which also created an increased sense of responsibility among our workers. In addition everybody in the company is sensitive to the most environmentally friendly methods in his field of responsibility. For example, if a new heating source is needed, each worker is trained to use waste energy first rather than procure a new gas tube. In 10 years, cost savings on raw materials totalled 500,000 EUR and as a result of introducing environmentally friendly coating compounds in 2004 turnover increased by 33%. Continuous innovation and research have become integral to our daily work and within the last 5 years, the development period for new products has decreased by 5%. Finally the public distribution of environmental statements has strengthened the company's goodwill.

What is your vision of EMAS at CWS for the future?

I have recently convinced five other companies to register under EMAS since it eases the implementation of a crisis-proof company strategy. To succeed in the long-term, constant ecological and social thinking are indispensable. EMAS will continue to serve us as the management tool to realize this in the future.



EMAS in figures

The number of sites, 4,771 on June 15th, is at an all-time high. The number of organisations has reached 3,300, which is also the highest number ever registered since EMAS II. EMAS registrations have grown steadily in 2005 and 2006. The statistics are now collected for both registered organisations and registered sites.

| Registered organisations | and sites |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Austria | 258 355 |
| Belgium | 36 236 |
| Cyprus | 0 0 |
| Czech Republic | 21 22 |
| Denmark | 121 287 |
| Estonia | 1 1 |
| Finland | 42 49 |
| France | 17 17 |
| Germany | 1,473 1,913 |
| Greece | 34 34 |
| Hungary | 3 5 |
| Ireland | 8 8 |
| Italy | 486 594 |
| Latvia | 0 0 |
| Lithuania | 0 0 |
| Malta | 1 1 |
| Luxembourg | 1 1 |
| Netherlands | 20 24 |
| Norway | 18 18 |
| Poland | 1 1 |
| Portugal | 47 52 |
| Slovak Republic | 2 2 |
| Slovenia | 1 1 |
| Spain | 564 704 |
| Sweden | 84 85 |
| United Kingdom | 61 361 |
| TOTAL | 3,300 4,771 |

Leading industrial sectors:

| Sectors | Registrations |
|---|---------------|
| • Chemicals | 258 |
| • Food and beverages | 257 |
| • Sewage and refuse disposal | 233 |
| • Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment | 215 |
| • Electricity, gas, steam and hot water supply | 171 |

Leading service sectors:

| Sectors | Registrations |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| • Hotels and restaurants | 215 |
| • Public authorities | 170 |
| • Education | 134 |
| • Health and social work | 111 |
| • Transport | 109 |

News

Electrabel Tihange uses **ALARA** to improve its performance

The Electrabel nuclear power plant in Tihange (Belgium) employs about 780 people and has been EMAS registered since 2001. It produces about 3,000 MW – enough to cover the needs of the Walloon region. Since 2002 the organisation has developed an impact analysis tool which gives a detailed overview of all environmental impacts and allows for fast decision-making. Tihange started working according to the ALARA principle (As Low As Reasonably Achievable), in particular for radioactive emissions. The objectives, which have been met, are set at 0.05 to 4% of the legal limit depending on the type of emission. The plant has now reached the technological limits for environmental improvement and maintains them, for instance in water consumption. After 3 years of EMAS implementation, it can focus on other impacts. One new priority is soil pollution from oily waste, which necessitates the replacing of pipes to avoid leakages. In addition, suppliers and new collaborators receive training on environmental aspects, and Electrabel is very active in raising the awareness about its environmental activities at external stakeholders, such as local authorities and schools.

Environmental statements of Electrabel are available at http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/es_library/library_en.htm

Logotronic in Austria expands EMAS to international sales partners

Logotronic, an Austrian manufacturer for hydrometric and meteorology devices has been EMAS registered since 2000. It produces equipment designed to measure and monitor the forces of nature and to provide early warning for natural disasters. Logotronic naturally feels closely linked to the environment and improved the company's ecological and economic approach with EMAS. As emissions due to production and company's activities already had a marginal environmental impact, the company tackled the reduction of packaging and chemical products within the production chain and carefully selected suppliers with respect to their environmental performance. After optimising its environmental performance, Logotronic follows its environmentally friendly philosophy and remains on the scheme to improve its partners' environmental performance at international level. Since 2004 the organisation has concentrated on the expansion of international projects. Its network of sales partners has expanded and the company has launched environmental training for staff in Mozambique.

Please find further information at www.logotronic.at

Upcoming events

8 November 2006
Dresden, Germany
5th Conference on Environmental Management for Economy and Agriculture

More information is available on www.emas.de

11 > 14 October 2006
Saarbrücken, Germany
2nd EASY_ECO Conference

For more information visit www.sustainability.at/easy/?k=conferences&s=saarbruecken

26 September 2006
Brussels, Belgium
40. UGA-Plenum

German Environmental Verifier Committee reviews its position on the EMAS revision.

More information is available on www.emas.de/load.php?name=Kalender&sess=&action=details&id=6&date=1159259400

September 2006
Mainau, Germany
Opening of the EMAS project "EMAS with all senses"

For more information please contact Mr Scheide at Green-IT. Email address: info@green-it.de

12 September 2006
Neu Isenburg, Germany
Meeting of the German Technical Committee for Integrated Management Systems

More information on www.vnu-ev.de/guests/guest.html

4 > 6 July 2006
Malta Enterprise, San Gwann
EMAS Verifiers Training Course

Find more information on www.m-ems.com/program.htm or contact claudio.boffa@msa.org.mt

3 > 4 July 2006
Salzburg, Austria
EMAS Revision Dialog Workshop

Please download the Agenda (PDF, 95 kb) from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/austria/emasworkshop_prgm_de.pdf

27 June 2006
Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna University of Pisa, Italy
Conference on Sustainability Marketing

For information please contact f.testa@sssup.it

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