

# EMAS - Newsletter

## The European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme

Improving your environmental  
and business performance

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas>

### Editorial

#### The European Institutions Issue

At the European Commission, we are often asked questions like "What is the Commission doing to reduce its own impact on the environment?". Or more specifically "EC buildings produce nearly 70,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> a year, equivalent to car use of 470 million kms! What are you doing about it?" So we have decided to practice what we preach and apply EMAS in five pilot Commission services.

EMAS shows these services how to improve their environmental performance systematically and set their own priorities. More importantly, it is helping about 3,500 staff to adopt more environmentally responsible behaviour, which means that they now think more carefully about how they use natural resources in all aspects of their lives, at work and at home.

I hope this will serve as an example to other public administrations, such as ministries and local authorities. I believe that EMAS will help them make the right management decisions by considering all possible interests, including the environment, so making their communities better places to live in.



**Catherine Day**  
DG Environment  
Director General



European Commission

### Report

## Commission services prepare for the EMAS fitness test

**Five services in Brussels are part of the pilot project to implement EMAS: the Secretariat-General, DG Environment, DG Personnel & Administration, the Office for Infrastructure and Logistics and DG Informatics.**

Since 2002, four Commission pilot services, with the addition of DG Informatics in 2004, have been engaged in improving the environmental performance of their daily activities in significant areas such as energy, water, waste and mobility. Three years on, the pilot project is coming to an end and these pioneer services are eager to demonstrate that EMAS has proved useful in lessening their impacts on the environment and that it would be worthwhile implementing the scheme in the Institution as a whole.

Before the end of the year, an independent auditor, Det Norske Veritas, will verify that four of the five pilot services (DG Informatics in 2006) are currently applying EMAS in the right way and in preparation for this crucial stage, the services carried out their own internal audits in 2004/2005. The outcome was generally positive, finding senior management support and clear enthusiasm among the staff involved



with the project, as well as the existence of a clear vision and direction steering the process. On the other hand, it pointed out some areas that need further improvement such as the need to update some building permits and the need to strengthen the system dealing with non-conformities, corrective and preventive actions. Finally the audit stressed the need to integrate environmental actions, for example to reduce waste generation, into the existing services' planning and evaluation procedures so that they can be systematically

**Continued on next page >**



**EMAS**

Performance, Credibility, Transparency

Continuation from page 1 > monitored and reviewed. The senior management has paid due attention to the findings and have made the necessary arrangements to ensure that the services will pass their EMAS fitness test.

The pilot services are now looking forward to reaching the next milestones in the project: the publication of the environmental statement, which is expected at the beginning of 2006, and the preparation and adoption of a Commission Decision to extend EMAS to the whole Commission.

The Berlaymont building hosts the Commissioners in Brussels. It integrates eco-design features, such as rainwater collection, co-generation, and an interactive facade with sensors to adjust lighting and air conditioning.



**The Office for Infrastructure and Logistics in Brussels (OIB) is one of the five pilot services implementing EMAS in the European Commission. Gabrielle de Perignon was appointed OIB EMAS Officer in September 2004 specifically to support the management of EMAS.**

**The OIB plays a key role in managing the Commission's logistics and infrastructure. Could you give an insight into the OIB and the EMAS structure put in place?**

OIB involves about 750 staff and manages all 62 Commission buildings located in Brussels, including 11 self-service restaurants and 34 cafeterias, printing facilities, waste management and cleaning. EMAS activities are integrated within the overall management plan of OIB, and the senior managers are very committed to its implementation, which consequently motivates all our staff. Although OIB started environmental actions several years ago, EMAS allows us to have a more systematic approach and to develop improved monitoring systems.

**EMAS implementation started about a year ago. What benefits have you noticed so far?**

I would say that the most important benefit provided by EMAS is making sure that we comply with the environmental legislation, in particular through the environmental permits of our buildings and their monitoring. However, our activities also include:

## Interview

# EMAS in practice in Commission buildings



- **Printing of internal documents**, where increased use of our Intranet has considerably reduced paper consumption, for instance the printing of phone books has been reduced from 70,000 to 2,800 copies. We also use chlorine free paper and vegetable inks.
- **Office supplies**: we decided to replace personal printers by shared printers and set up automatic recto-verso printing devices. This year 83 old printers were replaced by 25 new shared ones. We started monitoring paper and cartridge consumption to evaluate the impact of our actions.
- **Waste**: we are phasing in the separate collection of waste (recyclable, glass, and soon organic) in parallel with mounting a strong awareness-raising campaign in all cafeterias, self-service restaurants, nurseries and kindergartens.
- **Transport**: 152 bicycles are now available for staff (up from 90 last year), and their use has doubled between 2003 and 2004. In addition, we are preparing a mobility plan for Commission staff in collaboration with the Brussels Institute for Environmental Management.

### What are the next steps?

In collaboration with the four other pilot services, we are planning many awareness-raising activities, like the distribution of 3,000 EMAS cups, an internal EMAS website on the Intranet and a poster campaign. Moreover training of key staff continues and will help to facilitate implementation. The external audit will be taking place until November so we aim to register as EMAS compliant by the end of this year. Then, we hope that the Commission will decide to extend EMAS to other services.



In-house measures of the EEA included: Offices being equipped with two waste bins, one for recycling paper and one for other waste; separate collection was established for batteries, bottles, cardboard, electronic equipment, toner cartridges, chemicals and organic kitchen waste; and canteen staff making every effort to serve locally grown and organic food. The Agency also led the way among EU bodies by agreeing a printing contract with an EMAS registered printing house.



## Best practice

# The European Environment Agency becomes the **first EU body** to achieve EMAS registration

**The European Environment Agency (EEA) in Copenhagen has now registered with EMAS after a development phase and implementation process of less than two years. The EEA is the first EU body to achieve EMAS registration.**

## Top-down commitment from Management

Since its creation in the early 1990s the EEA has been a pioneer in collecting, processing and publishing data and information on the broader European environment. By 2002, however, there was mounting external pressure on the EEA to give an example and work towards building up an environmental management system and achieving EMAS registration. Management in the Agency became convinced from within that it was time to act. The kick-off meeting generated much enthusiasm, but it was immediately clear that a strong commitment from the senior management team was needed before building up a management system. This came a few months later when management became involved, expressing the view that “we must take our own medicine” and “this will strengthen staff pride and the Agency’s sense of identity”.

## Combined with bottom-up staff participation

Immediately after approval of the system, staff seminars were organised to explain the environmental management system and improvement projects. Three internal auditors were trained to audit a few staff members. An intense information campaign was then launched, consisting of, among other things, almost weekly newsletter articles and short EMAS related “Did you know?” notices on the intranet. All of this helped to mobilise staff, who started to send questions and improvement proposals to the environmental coordinator.

The certificate of EMAS registration was handed over to the executive director by the Danish ministry on 4 April 2005. The lesson to draw from the EEA’s experience is clear. Not only is a committed environmental coordinator a necessity, but the possibility to count on both the commitment of leadership from the top and on the mobilisation of all staff. This helps to ensure that the environmental management system will be internalised in the day-to-day workings of the organisation.

For more information on EEA and its environmental management system, please visit <http://www.eea.eu.int/> or send an e-mail to [Tarja.Porkka@eea.eu.int](mailto:Tarja.Porkka@eea.eu.int).



The EEA aims to extend the amount of electricity consumed from renewable sources, e.g. wind energy, to over 30%.



## EMAS in figures

The number of sites, 4,224 on September 15<sup>th</sup>, has topped the all time record of 3,912 reached in December 2001. The number of organisations has steadily increased in 2005 to reach 3,126. This confirms the overall growth in numbers taking place since 2004. The statistics are now collected for both registered organisations and registered sites.

Registered organisations	and sites
Austria	266 353
Belgium	33 226
Cyprus	0 0
Czech Republic	18 20
Denmark	122 282
Estonia	0 0
Finland	40 48
France	17 17
Germany	1,527 1,938
Greece	14 14
Hungary	1 1
Ireland	8 8
Italy	340 413
Latvia	0 0
Lithuania	0 0
Malta	1 1
Luxembourg	1 1
Netherlands	23 27
Norway	25 25
Poland	0 0
Portugal	29 33
Slovak Republic	2 2
Slovenia	1 1
Spain	496 635
Sweden	100 115
United Kingdom	63 64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,126 4,224</b>

### Leading industrial sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Chemicals	264
• Food and beverages	247
• Sewage and refuse disposal	213
• Fabricated metal products, except machinery and equipment	204
• Electricity, gas, steam and hot water	162

### Leading service sectors:

Sectors	Registrations
• Hotels and restaurants	208
• Public authorities	166
• Transport	116
• Education	104
• Health and social work	100

## News

### EMAS in the European Parliament

The European Parliament (EP) is steaming ahead for the full implementation of EMAS. On 11 May 2005 the Bureau decided a set of environmental objectives for the Parliament and requested the Secretary-General to set up an environmental management system in conformity with EMAS. This work is now in progress. Three working groups have been established: for the development of an action plan, for environmental communication, and for coordination between the different services of the EP. Environmental management pages are being developed on the EP's newly re-designed intranet site, and training courses for staff are being planned. The final report from the working groups will be delivered to the Secretary-General by December 2005.

### The European Investment Bank (EIB) not only finances green projects but also considers aiming for EMAS

A little more than a year ago, a group of staff members from the Bank's Health & Safety at Work Committee, attended a seminar entitled "The Implementation of EMAS in Administrations", organised by the European Commission. Consequently, they proposed a feasibility study on EMAS at the EIB. As a first step a screening and scoping study was carried out by the Danish consultancy COWI A/S. The objective of the study was the identification and articulation of the 'case for change', i.e. to assess the adequacy of the Bank's current environmental housekeeping and to consider the advantages of adopting an EMAS option in its place. A draft report submitted to the Bank examines the results of a series of interviews with a large number of key staff members and a review of internal procedures, documents etc. A workshop will then examine the applicability of EMAS to the Bank by means of a so-called SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. Following this analysis and the report in general, the Bank's management will decide whether or not to proceed with the implementation of EMAS.

The EMAS newsletter is published by the EMAS Helpdesk on behalf of the European Commission. An electronic copy is available on the Internet at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas> or by subscribing to the mailing list.

For a free subscription, comments or further information send an email to the EMAS Helpdesk at: [emas@cec.eu.int](mailto:emas@cec.eu.int) or write to the following address:  
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c/o Bradley Dunbar Associates — Rond Point Schuman 6 — B-1040 Brussels — BELGIUM  
Voicemail/Fax: + 32 2 282 84 54

## Upcoming events

24 March 2006  
**Brussels, Belgium**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> EMAS Local Authorities' Forum and COMPASS Award Ceremony**

For more information contact ICLEI at [iclei-europe@iclei-europe.org](mailto:iclei-europe@iclei-europe.org)

16 > 17 February 2006  
**Lisbon, Portugal**  
**International Conference on Tourism and Environment 2006**

Eco-labels or Environmental Management Certifications (ISO or EMAS).  
Fore more information contact [claudia.jesus-rydin@nordeconsult.com](mailto:claudia.jesus-rydin@nordeconsult.com)

15 December 2005  
**Berlin, Germany**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of EMAS and of DAU**

High profile event marking the anniversary of implementing EMAS in Germany and the 10th anniversary of the German Accreditation Body DAU. More information will soon be available from the Ministry of the Environment, Consumer Protection and Nuclear Safety in Germany and DAU.

1 December 2005  
**QEII Conference Centre, London**  
**IEEMA EMS National Forum 2005**

A one day Conference & Exhibition bringing together over 300 EMS professionals. For further information including exhibition & sponsorship opportunities please email [iema@iema.net](mailto:events@iema.net)

24 > 25 October 2005  
**Location: to be announced**  
**EMS Implementation Course**

Find more information on <http://www.m-ems.com/program.htm>

19 October 2005  
**Munich, Germany**  
**Umweltgutachtertag (Environmental Verifier's Day)**

For more information contact Fr. Wiedermann at [vnu@vnu-ev.de](mailto:vnu@vnu-ev.de)

19 October 2005  
**QEII Conference Centre, London**  
**Leading By Example - Sustainable Procurement in the Public Sector**

Visit <http://govnet.co.uk/procurement/> for more information

18 > 19 October 2005  
**Göteborg, Sweden**  
**SIFU Seminar EMAS and ISO 14001**

Basic course on how to implement an EMS and integrate it into existing management systems. For more information read the curriculum on the SIFU website <http://www.sifu.se/12965>

12 October 2005  
**Poland**  
**EMAS Awards for Poland**

For more information please visit: [www.emas-polska.pl/](http://www.emas-polska.pl/)