

EMAS - Factsheet

EMAS GLOBAL – SUPERIOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT WORLDWIDE

EMAS goes global

Companies with international business interests such as multinational enterprises and suppliers are increasingly held to higher environmental performance standards by governments, consumers, civil society organisations, the media and other stakeholders all over the world. EMAS companies systematically improve their environmental performance to enhance their competitiveness and to avoid severe damage to their reputation and brand image. EMAS is now – like ISO 14001 – applicable worldwide (EMAS Global).¹

What does EMAS Global mean in practice?

To improve the applicability of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) scheme and to strengthen its outreach, three new registration modes are available in addition to the 'classical' EU Registration. This leads to two registration modes focusing on registrations within Europe and two EMAS registration modes with a transboundary scope, affecting not only European countries but any country in the world (see Figure 1):

- **EU Registration:** an organisation registers its site(s) individually in the European country in which it (they) are located.
- **EU Corporate Registration:** allows an organisation to register multiple sites from different European countries under one corporate registration procedure in one (leading) country of registration. Organisations can use one registration number and streamline their auditing and reporting processes.
- **Global Registration:** an organisation registers its site(s) in one or more non-European countries.
- **Global Corporate Registration:** a combination of EU Corporate and Global Registration. It allows an organisation to register its site(s) located in one or more European countries and in one or more non-European countries under one corporate registration procedure in one (leading) country of registration. Organisations can use a single registration number and streamline their auditing and reporting processes.

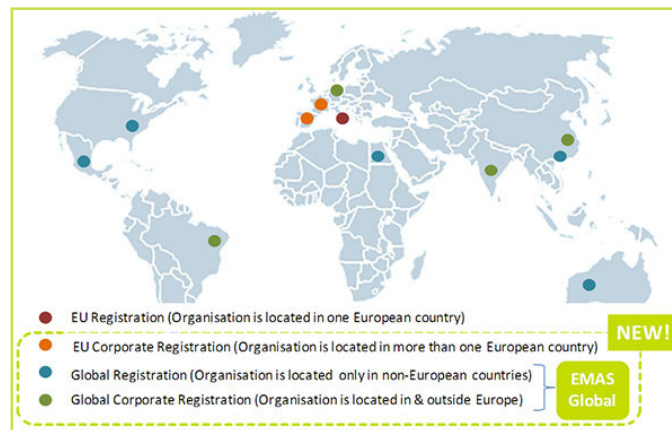


Figure 1: EMAS registration modes

Which are the key actors for EMAS Global?

EMAS is the most credible environmental management tool due to its high requirements for external auditing and official registration with government bodies. To assure this credibility a similar application of EMAS is available outside Europe through the activities of key actors (see Figure 2).

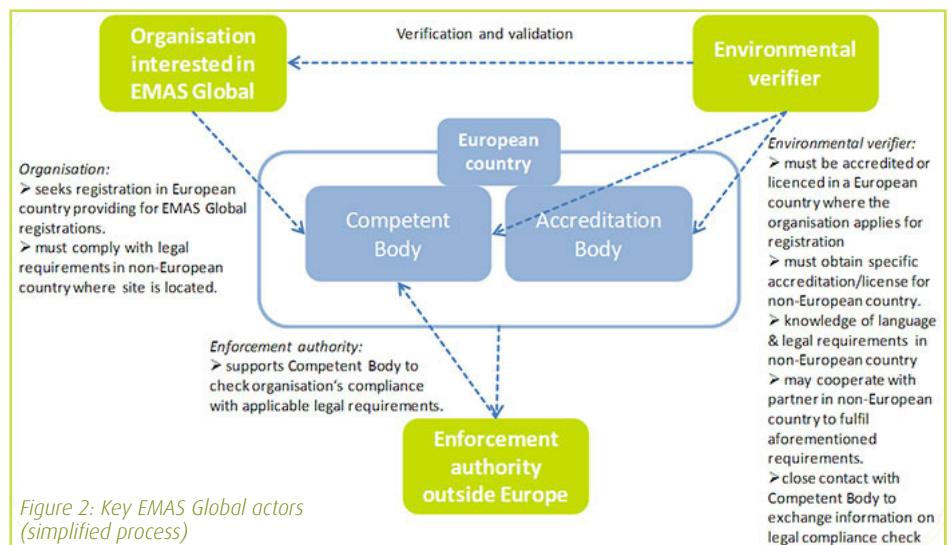


Figure 2: Key EMAS Global actors (simplified process)

What are the benefits of EMAS Global?

The Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is the EU's voluntary scheme designed for companies and other organisations committing themselves to evaluate, manage and improve their environmental performance. Implementing EMAS outside Europe is suitable for those companies willing to go the 'extra mile' beyond other international environmental management tools. It is particularly useful for companies which have business interests in Europe and for European companies with production sites outside Europe.

Competitive advantages include:

- Increased resource efficiency (e.g. through energy savings)
- Enhanced corporate reputation
- Higher productivity
- Systematic risk management through "greening" of the supply chain
- EMAS logo is publicly recognised as a seal of superior environmental performance

EMAS registration provides opportunities for:

- A coordinated and streamlined verification and validation process at multiple sites
- Legal compliance through internal and external checks
- Aligned environmental reporting through application of indicators
- Higher employee satisfaction through systematic employee involvement and training
- Commitment to performance improvements and third party verification

¹ In the context of this fact sheet "Europe" means: European Union Member States and EEA countries. Hereinafter referred to as: European countries.

FAQ

Is EMAS Global registration possible in every EU Member State?

The decision to allow EMAS Global registrations is in the hands of individual European countries. A list of countries (in the process of) providing for the registration of organisations/sites from countries outside Europe is available on the European EMAS website.

How do I know which Competent Body and environmental verifier I can contact?

The environmental verifier must be accredited/licensed in the European country where the organisation applies for registration. Hence, the choice of an environmental verifier determines the country of registration and vice versa. This automatically leads to a clear choice on the **Competent Body**. The application is made to a Competent Body of the European country where the organisation's headquarters or management centre designated for the purpose of the EMAS Global registration is located.

What does "headquarters" or "management centre" mean in the EMAS Global context?

Headquarters means a management entity at the top of an organisation with multiple sites that controls and coordinates main functions of the organisation such as strategic planning, communications, tax, legal, marketing, finance, and others.

Management centre means a site, other than headquarters of the organisation with multiple sites, specifically designated for the purpose of registration under the EMAS Regulation, where control and coordination of the environmental management system is ensured.

What are the requirements for environmental verifiers to register organisation in non-European countries?

In addition to their accreditation in a European country, environmental verifiers must obtain a specific accreditation/license for other countries (see Table 1 for further information). This country accreditation/licensing is granted as an add-on to general accreditation/licensing and its requirements. Consequently accreditation/licensing only for non-European countries would not be possible. Key EMAS Global requirements on environmental verifiers are:

- Knowledge and understanding of the legislative, regulatory and administrative requirements in the non-European country;
- Knowledge and understanding of the official language(s) in the non-EU country.

Cooperation between environmental verifiers accredited/licensed in a European country and partner organisations in non-European countries may be possible with regard to the fulfilment of the aforementioned requirements. It is in the remit of European Countries to set up the procedures for environmental verifiers. For further information please contact a national **Accreditation Body** in a European country.

Table 1: Summary of key elements of the Global Registration and Corporate Global Registration process

	Global Registration	Corporate Global Registration
Competent Body (CB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CB must be located in a European country which provides for EMAS Global in the non-European country where organisation is located. • Close contact with environmental verifier on organisation's application. • Set up system to check legal compliance in non-European countries (e.g. in cooperation with enforcement authority in third state). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same rules set up for Global Registration • European country that provides for EMAS Global where the headquarters or management centre is located designates the CB.
Environmental verifier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental verifier must be accredited/licensed in the European country where the organisation applies for registration and the non-European country. • Additional EMAS Global requirements include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of the legislative, regulatory and administrative requirements relating to the environment in the non-European country. • Knowledge and understanding of the official language of the non-European country. • Environmental verifiers may cooperate with partner organisations to fulfil aforementioned requirements. • Legal compliance check can be carried out in cooperation with enforcement authorities. • However, enforcement authorities cannot be contacted by environmental verifiers without the organisation's approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same rules set up for Global Registration • Due to wide scope of many organisations a lead environmental verifier can be appointed, who is responsible for the entire registration process. • If not accredited/licensed for a relevant NACE code, lead environmental verifier may work with other environmental verifiers. • All cooperating environmental verifiers need to be accredited/licensed in a European Country and non-European country covered by the registration procedure.
Other Competent Bodies	Not applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European countries with sites included in the Global Corporate Registration will be consulted and must cooperate with the CB leading the registration. • European countries involved in the registration may set up some cooperation with enforcement authorities in those non-European countries: Bilateral Agreements, International Agreements.

What are the EMAS Global requirements for legal compliance?

Organisations must always be in compliance with national legal requirements in the countries where the sites included in the EMAS registration are located. For example, if registration is sought for a production site in China, an organisation must be in compliance with applicable legal requirements in China. EU legislation can be used as a reference for organisations that want to implement EMAS in non-European countries in order to achieve a high environmental performance.

What are the EMAS Global requirements regarding the environmental statement?

In light of local accountability of EMAS registered organisations the environmental statement needs to be prepared in the official language of the country in which the site is located. The organisation also needs to submit the environmental statement in (one of) the official language(s) of the country where the EMAS Global application is filed. Submitting an English language version is encouraged.

Does an organisation have to report at site or corporate level in the environmental statement?

Under Global Corporate Registration (and EU Corporate Registration) an organisation needs to report at site level (e.g. when using the six environmental core indicators) in light of the importance of local accountability.

The first steps to EMAS Global registration...

- Identify a **European Country** which provides for EMAS Global registration
- Get in touch with the **Competent Body** to prepare application
- Choose **environmental verifier(s)** eligible to carry out verification & validation exercises in non-European country.

Additional Information:

- To receive a list of European countries providing for EMAS Global registration, contact the Helpdesk at emas@biois.com
- **Official EMAS Global guide** of the European Commission including in-depth information on the EMAS Global registration modes
- Further information on the differences and similarities between EMAS and ISO 14001 is available in this [fact sheet](#).
- Further information on EMAS and relevant public authorities is available on the [official European EMAS website](#)