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Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa  
Europoski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament  
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlement Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European  
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

# THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

The European Parliament recognizes its responsibility for making a positive contribution to sustainable development as a long-term goal. Parliament fulfils this responsibility in its political and legislative role, but also in the way it operates and the decisions it takes on a day-to-day basis.

In 2007, the European Parliament therefore decided that its administration would embark on the path of applying the EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) standard, with the aim of continually improving its environmental results with regard to activities, products and services.

The European Parliament's Environmental Policy is implemented through its Environmental Management System (EMS). The Environmental Policy and the EMS cover Parliament's main environmental aspects, both directly and indirectly, as well as their impact on the sites concerned, and make it possible to establish corresponding objectives.

Interest in the environmental performance of organisations has become a mainstream issue, and it continues to increase in importance. A proactive corporate sustainability strategy to tackle environmental challenges is the hallmark of successful organisations. A broad range of benefits arise from EMAS registration, including reduced costs for resources and waste management, risk minimization, regulatory compliance and improved relations with internal and external stakeholders.

## The European Parliament hereby

- reaffirms its commitment to maintaining its EMAS registration and its environmental approach of continuous improvement, with a view towards achieving environmental sustainability in all its administrative activities;
- stresses the already good overall performance of the EMS at the European Parliament as demonstrated by the achievement of the key environmental performance indicator (KPI) objectives for the previous target period, while emphasising the need to further intensify efforts, particularly in the area of greenhouse gas emissions;
- aims to strengthen efforts in order to reach its newly set-up medium- and long-term key environmental performance indicator objectives in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions, electricity consumption, gas, heating oil, and district heating consumption, paper consumption, water consumption, production of waste, waste recycling, renewable energy, food waste, green public procurement, and sustainable mobility;
- undertakes to ensure compliance with objectives and requirements laid down by local, regional, national, as well as EU legislation;
- undertakes to implement preventive measures to further improve its environmental performance and to ensure that environmental considerations and sustainability criteria are integrated in all its administrative activities;
- endeavours to provide sufficient resources for its EMS and activities relating thereto, recognising that development and implementation of specific individual activities should be subject to an assessment in terms of costs, technical feasibility and availability of adequate resources;
- undertakes to include and apply strict environmental and energy efficiency criteria in all of its building policies and building projects;
- endeavours to establish a waste management strategy setting a priority order among waste prevention and management options, including recommendations in terms of prevention, re-use, recycling, energy recovery and disposal;
- aims to examine the feasibility of applying the principles of circular economy in the future planning of Parliament's infrastructure, management of stocks, and in future purchases of goods and services by, inter alia, considering relevant circular economy criteria, such as smart design, reuse of materials and recyclability;
- encourages responsible and appropriate behaviour by training, providing information and increasing the awareness of all its staff, but also its Members and their assistants, about EMAS-relevant aspects of their activities;
- undertakes to introduce best practices with regard to its main environmental impacts, in particular greenhouse gas emissions and waste management, as well as an efficient use of energy, water and paper;
- undertakes to apply best practices in activities associated with its EMS, if appropriate by offsetting carbon emissions, including possible joint offsetting projects with other EU institutions and bodies, greening events organised in and by the European Parliament, and, whenever possible, contributing to expansion and increased quality of green urban areas;
- aims for its EMS activities to contribute to achieving the current Sustainable Development Goals as set by the United Nations General Assembly
- endeavours to further strengthen its sustainable procurement approach as a key tool in environmental management by applying targets for the classification of contracts, combining implementation of established good practices in sustainable procurement with potential innovative sustainable procurement solutions while keeping in mind the specificity of each market;
- aims to promote, encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable transport for daily commutes, missions and other travel related to its administrative and political activities

The European Parliament undertakes to describe in detail, implement and pursue this Environmental Policy, to communicate it to Members, staff, contractors and any other interested parties and to make it accessible to the public.

**David Maria SASSOLI, President**

Brussels, 6 November 2019

**Klaus WELLE, Secretary-General**

Brussels, 6 November 2019