



# EMAS



For Eco-management in the  
European Parliament

## Leading the battle against climate change



The climate is changing.  
Shouldn't we change too?

**Title:**

EMAS - Leading the battle against climate change

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## Putting commitment into practice!

The European Union is a major player on the world scene in fighting climate change and reducing carbon emissions. Within this framework, the European Parliament has embarked on the path of applying the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme standard (EMAS), with the aim of continually improving its environmental performance with regard to activities, products and services. These efforts are already starting to produce concrete results.



President Pöttering with Mrs Mia de Vits, Quaestor, unveiling the EMAS plaque on 23 April 2009 (Photo European Parliament)

This brochure aims at informing all the users of Parliament's premises - Members, their assistants, staff and visiting guests - of steps already taken. Below you will find some of the achievements of our Institution and its services in the fields of carbon emissions, energy consumption, mobility, water and waste management, paper consumption, and public procurement, amongst others.

## Carbon emissions

In line with Parliament's commitment to **reduce its own carbon emissions by 30% before 2020**, our Institution commissioned a study to estimate its carbon footprint and based on this the Bureau approved on 18 February 2009 a series of measures to reach this goal. These measures have been integrated into the EMAS Action Plan and will be closely followed up within the framework of the EP's Environmental Management System.

Some of these actions include studies in all the EP's buildings in **Brussels and Strasbourg** to **improve energy efficiency** and to implement **eco-friendly technologies**.

In **Luxembourg** as for the rest of our future buildings, Parliament is committed to follow the strictest international environmental standards, such as the BREEAM standard (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). The future extension of the KAD building will house some of the following clean technologies: **geothermic energy, solar thermal panels, photovoltaic panels, bio fuels, co-generation, free-cooling systems, etc.**

Other actions include a study on the **general IT strategy**, including individual IT equipments and **videoconferencing**, or several initiatives in the field of mobility, like promoting more environmentally friendly means of transport for EP's business travels and low emission cars for EP's fleet.



But some emissions are unavoidable; that is why the Parliament is developing a system to offset emissions in the areas where no reduction measures can be implemented

European Parliament's footprint is calculated every year and is presented to the Environmental Management Steering Committee in the framework of the Annual Management Review. Since 2006 the Parliament has already **reduced its footprint** per person by almost **13%**.

## Energy

### Electricity:

- Since January 2008, the Parliament uses **100% green electricity** in the three main working places, **saving more than 25 000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>** per year (= amount absorbed by **2.5 millions of trees**, which would cover a surface of around **125 km<sup>2</sup>**).
- We now have **95% flat screens** installed in the EP. These are much more energy efficient than the older CRT screens. Thanks to this measure alone, **more than 1.000 MWh** per year are being saved (more than **1000 oil barrels**).

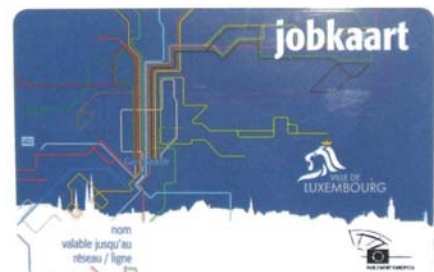


- Many computer support units now automatically shut down computers in the evening, preventing unnecessary waste of electricity. Other units are sure to follow this example.

## Mobility

### Promoting public transport:

- Organisation of regular mobility questionnaires in the three working places and elaboration of mobility plans for Brussels and Luxembourg.
- Encouragement to travel by train through negotiating reduced prices for staff travelling (on official business) on trains between Brussels and Luxembourg.
- Installation of an SNCB information screen in the ASP hall in Brussels in order to facilitate the use of public transport.
- In **Luxembourg**, Parliament is providing free of cost the "**Jobkaart**" bus pass to its staff for travel on all bus lines within the city limits. It is hoped that this measure will be expanded further in the future.
- In **Brussels**, **Bus** lines 21 and 22 (Eurobus) are **free** for Members, assistants and members of staff during the working week. At the weekend these two bus lines are replaced by line 11.
- In **Strasbourg** **free shuttle buses** are provided during the plenary session weeks for Members, their assistants and members of staff.



Facilitating access to public transport **will save more than 400 kg CO<sub>2</sub> each year per employee** who chooses public transport instead of his or her private car.

Reducing the number of missions:

- Parliament has **reduced by almost 25% the number of missions** between the three working places in the last three years. This is mainly due to improvements in technology. This measure alone is **saving more than 1.000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year** (the same amount as absorbed by a **2 x 3 km surface of forest**).

Improving facilities for cyclists:

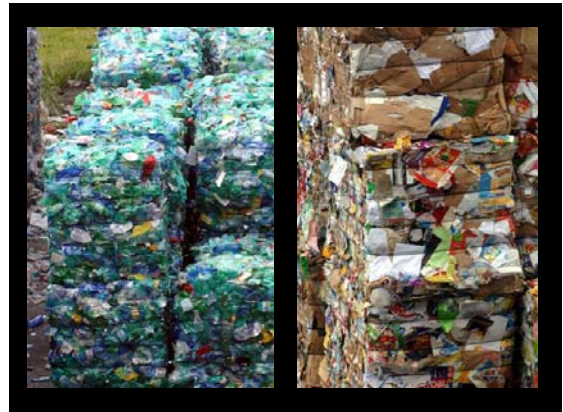
- Bicycles are available for staff use in Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg. Showers and changing rooms are available in the Atrium 1 building in Brussels for cyclists. **Each cyclist** can save the amount absorbed by **60 trees** each year if he takes his bike instead of his private car.



## Waste - Paper - Water management

Waste management:

- More than 55% of Parliament's waste is either **recycled, composted, or reused**, helping to avoid the release of **more than 700 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> per year** in the EMAS buildings alone (amount absorbed by **70.000 trees**).
- Plastic bags in the staff shop in Luxembourg have been replaced with **biodegradable** ones, preventing the disposal of more than **1.25 tonnes of plastic waste** per year.



Paper:

- Paper consumed by the Printshop and the different services and political groups of the Parliament has been **reduced by more than 16%** in the last three years, saving more than 28 million pages.
- Most network printers have now been set to **print recto verso by default**. Some services go even further and encourage their staff to print **several pages per side**.

Water:

- To avoid unnecessary waste, Parliament's restaurants are now serving smaller bottles of water in meeting rooms. This **saves** an estimated **50 000 litres per year** and some **2.3 tonnes of plastic** and associated other costs. The Restaurant service is also recovering water left in opened bottles after meetings to be used for cleaning purposes.

## Green Procurement

- **Subcontractors** are from now on informed about the EMAS system in the EP and the environmental conditions they have to respect when they sign a contract with the EP.

### Paper:

- All the paper used in Parliament's office printers and photocopiers is **recycled** and **chlorine free**, saving more than **8.000 trees**, **27.000 m<sup>3</sup> of water**, and nearly **800 tonnes** of **CO<sub>2</sub>** per year (if compared to non-recycled paper).

### IT equipment:

- The Directorate-General for Innovation and Technological Support only buys hardware that follows strict regulations on **waste management** and use of **hazardous substances**.

### Cleaning:

- Parliament buys **Eco-labelled cleaning products** for its restaurants, avoiding the release of a considerable amount of dangerous chemicals to the environment.
- The calls for tenders for Parliament's Information Offices include environmental clauses to use **green cleaning services**.

### Vehicles:

- Parliament has bought two **electric vans** for mail delivery in Brussels and Luxembourg.

### Office supplies:

- The Directorate General for Infrastructure and Logistics requires that suppliers of office materials respect all relevant environmental regulations and encourages them **to follow** environmental management systems such as **EMAS** or **ISO 14001:2004**.



## Greening the Parliament - EMAS in the future

The environmental commitment of the European Parliament is already providing many positive results. But since there is still a lot of work to be done, more and more environmental projects are ongoing and many more positive results are awaited in the future, in fields like energy, paper, waste management, water, training and awareness, etc.

- For further information, please consult the EMAS action plan as well as all the other important EMAS related documentation online at:

[http://www.europarl.ep.ec/inside/mandates/EMAS/home\\_en.htm](http://www.europarl.ep.ec/inside/mandates/EMAS/home_en.htm)



# European Parliament accredited



## EMAS

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# ISO 14001:2004



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