

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

Decision of the Bureau of the European Parliament on 25 November 2024

The European Parliament is committed to stepping up efforts to protect the environment. It recognises its responsibility to prevent pollution, ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, to tackle climate change and prepare its organisation for the transition to a climate neutral society.

Whilst Parliament fulfils this commitment in exercising its powers under the Treaties, it also strives to do so in its day-to-day operations by actively working to minimise the environmental impact of its activities.

Since 2007, Parliament has been implementing the European EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) standard to continually improve its environmental performance. This has led to a significant reduction in environmental impact, resulting in a strong overall track record across the three places of work (Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg) and the EMAS-registered European Parliament Liaison Offices in the Member States.

The Parliament's environmental management system covers its main direct and indirect environmental impacts. To address those impacts, the Parliament's Bureau adopts environmental targets for each legislative term. Parliament's administration and political groups work towards achieving those targets.

Many benefits arise from maintaining an environmental management system in line with the EMAS Regulation. These include a maximum certainty of legal compliance, optimised use of resources, and improved accountability towards 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 and operational activities;
- undertakes to ensure legal compliance with all local, regional, national and EU environmental legislation and requirements;
- intends to achieve the environmental objectives and targets established by the Bureau for the legislative term;
- aims to strengthen efforts in the areas of greenhouse gas emissions including in particular sustainable mobility, energy consumption, renewable energy, water consumption, generation of waste, paper consumption, sustainable public procurement and biodiversity:
 - aims through its mobility management scheme to promote, encourage and facilitate the use of sustainable transport for daily commutes to Parliament's premises, promoting cycling and walking to work and the use of public transport also in cooperation with local and regional authorities,
 - aims to provide a framework for missions and other travel to be undertaken in a sustainable way,
 - aims to organise and host meetings and events in a sustainable way, including by encouraging visitors to travel sustainably,
 - undertakes to include and apply strict environmental and energy efficiency criteria in all of its building management policies and its building projects, including renovations, and work towards near-zero emissions buildings,
 - shifts towards renewable energy sources by increasing their share in heating and cooling of buildings,
 - prioritises the sustainable management of water resources, minimising freshwater use and improving water infrastructure,
 - aims to apply the principles of circular economy in the planning of building renovations, management of stocks, and in purchases of goods and services,
 - aims to implement a waste management programme that monitors effectively the different waste streams, prioritises waste prevention, and improves re-use and recycling before considering disposal options,
 - undertakes to step up ongoing digitalisation in order to further reduce paper waste,
 - endeavours to further deepen its sustainable procurement,
 - undertakes to protect and promote biodiversity and contribute to the expansion and increased quality of green urban areas,
 - intends to comprehensively evaluate its digital environmental footprint,
- commits to ensure that environmental considerations and sustainability criteria are continuously integrated in its administrative and operational activities;
- encourages the active involvement of staff, political groups, Members, their assistants and other stakeholders for continuous and successful environmental improvements through communication and training programmes;
- undertakes to share and apply best practices related to environmental management in cooperation with other EU institutions and bodies;
- endeavours to provide sufficient resources for activities related to its environmental management system and for implementing the measures identified as necessary to meet the environmental targets and to comply with legal obligations, following an assessment in terms of costs and technical feasibility.

Through these commitments, the European Parliament aims to contribute to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to enhancing its positive impact on the local communities in which it operates and to operating in a socially conscious manner by ensuring a safe and healthy working environment.

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