



## **EMAS Environmental Policy**

In 1997, the European Commission started a process of green housekeeping activities and subsequently in 2001, decided to pilot an environmental management system as laid down in Regulation (EC) 761/2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

In 2009, the Commission decided to extend this environmental management system to all its activities and buildings in Brussels and Luxembourg as described in Decision C (2009) 6873). In making this commitment, the European Commission recognises the positive contribution it can make to sustainable development as a long-term goal, through its policy and legislative processes as well as in its day-to-day operations and decisions.

Concretely, the Commission commits to minimise the environmental impact of its everyday work and continuously improve its environmental performance by:

- (1) Taking measures to prevent pollution and to achieve more efficient use of natural resources (mainly energy, water and paper);
- (2) Taking measures to reduce overall CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (mainly from buildings and transport);
- (3) Encouraging waste prevention, maximising waste recycling and reusing and optimising waste disposal;
- (4) Integrating environmental criteria into public procurement procedures and into the rules regarding the organisation of events;
- (5) Complying with relevant environmental legislation and regulations;
- (6) Stimulating the sustainable behaviour of all staff and subcontractors through training, information and awareness-raising actions;
- (7) Progressively extending all the above to all its activities and buildings;

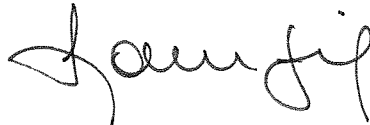
and in relation to the Commission's core business by:

- (8) Systematically assessing the potential economic, social and environmental impacts of major new policy and legislative initiatives and promoting the systematic integration of environmental objectives into Community policies;
- (9) Ensuring the effectiveness of environmental legislation and funding in creating environmental benefits;
- (10) Promoting transparent communication and dialogue with all interested parties, both internally and externally.

By virtue of the powers conferred on the Appointing Authorities, the European Commission's EMAS Steering Committee, hereby approves the Policy Statement and commits to adopt the EMAS objectives, targets and action plan of the Commission, supervise the functioning of the system and monitor the use of the human and financial resources allocated to EMAS for an efficient deployment of the environmental management system.

This document shall take effect on the date of its signature, Brussels

On Behalf of the EMAS Steering Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene Souka', written in a cursive style.

**Irene Souka**  
Chairman