

EMSA's Environmental Policy

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EMSA's Environmental Policy

In view of the EU's commitment to the environment, and EMSA's mandate and leadership in the protection of the marine environment in particular, EMSA has a special responsibility to also continually reduce the environmental impact of its own activities.

EMSA will therefore apply an environmental management system to all its activities, in line with the EU's EMAS Regulation and ISO 14001, under which EMSA is committed to:

- minimise the environmental impact of everyday work,
- continuously improve the individual and collective environmental performance,
- support and stimulate innovation and development in marine-environmental matters,
- establish environmental objectives and tasks, defining clear responsibilities and openly providing information,
- comply with all environmentally relevant legislation and obligations, as well as with voluntarily assumed obligations, namely under the EMAS and ISO14001 frameworks.

More specifically, EMSA is committed to:

- minimise carbon dioxide emissions;
- promote the efficient use of energy and minimise electricity consumption;
- apply environmental criteria in its public procurement procedures;
- minimise use of paper;
- minimise the production of waste and optimally manage its waste;
- encourage, train and involve staff to achieve these goals.

EMSA undertakes to implement and pursue this Environmental Policy, in line with the attached principles. EMSA will regularly and transparently communicate this policy and measures to staff, stakeholders, contractors and any other interested parties.

Environmental commitments must translate into specific measures backed by the requisites of human, material and financial resources. The environmental management system should be designed to be cost-effective.

This policy and the environmental management system shall apply to all EMSA's activities, premises and equipment in Lisbon and elsewhere.



Maja Markovčić Kostelac
Executive Director

EMSA principles on greening

EMSA's environmental policy and performance efforts aim at compliance with the EU's EMAS and ISO 14001 requirements and at positive effects on EMSA's team spirit. The following principles shall drive it:

1. EMSA's greening shall apply to all EMSA areas, activities and influences – whether they affect the environment directly or indirectly. The EMAS registration and ISO 14001 certification shall be obtained for EMSA as a whole. It shall be a standard undertaking for all EMSA staff, entities and areas, that all planning, actions, items or states of EMSA shall be reasonably checked and evaluated vis-a-vis their eco-relevance and potential for eco-optimization.
2. The ecological added value of greening measures must be carefully inquired vis-a-vis its negative impacts on EMSA's efficiency in its core businesses, as well as technical cost-efficiency, in accordance with EMAS requirements. Reasoned decisions on whether to take specific environmental decisions might thus be favourable or unfavourable, might call for action soon or at later stage.
3. EMSA's greening is largely based on the EU's legal framework for EMAS and ISO 14001. EMSA is committed to comply with all legal requirements, including all Portuguese ones concerning its Lisbon-headquarters.
4. Leadership, commitment, clarity in responsibilities, transparency and dialogue are key to successful eco-improvement and EMAS-certification. EMSA's management and entire staff are required and called upon to make preparation, running and openness of EMSA's Greening Management System work, in line with EMAS' requirements.
5. Greening measures with potential impacts on staff should not be undertaken without proper previous research and proper pre-information of potentially affected staff. Discussion and input shall be possible to allow employee involvement, according with EMAS requirements.
6. EMSA's greening shall not be an isolated, formal process. It shall serve and blend with EMSA's core tasks: by providing a clean & green profile, EMSA's own environmental performance shall complement and strengthen its role in assisting, guiding and controlling environmental performance in maritime transport and the protection of marine environments. Regular exchange between all environmentally involved EMSA sections, across all departments, will secure that EMSA can demonstrate its exemplary environmental integrity at all times. It shall cover all EMSA departments/units, which shall all contribute to EMSA's eco-portfolio with their best efforts.
7. EMSA's greening shall also create synergies and positive effects in related areas, such as EMSA's team spirit, work environment, well-being of staff, public and internal profiling and communication, inner and outer visual appearance, procurements. Health and safety at the workplace may gain from greening or may set limits to it. The EU's Green Public Procurement (GPP) will be practised by EMSA to the maximum extent possible.
8. Environmental improvement can often not be achieved without change, impacting on comfort zones, undertaking the new and unusual, setting challenges, touching upon established processes and behaviours. EMSA will take all reasonable efforts to improve environmentally, including eco-measures that might be potentially difficult and unpopular to take.

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