



# **EMAS – KEY BENEFITS FOR ORGANISATIONS AND AUTHORITIES**

**BETRIBER&EMWELT CONFERENCE  
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# Agenda

- What is EMAS
- EMAS and ISO 14001
- EMAS benefits for organisations and authorities

# What is EMAS?

Voluntary environmental management instrument designed by the European Union

## Aim

Continuous improvements in the environmental performance of companies and other organisations

## Means

Management system allowing organisations to measure, evaluate, transparently report and improve environmental performance

## Outcomes

Efficiency improvements and better management of environmental issues and credible information on these issues

# What are the core elements of EMAS?

## EMAS

Premium benchmark for environmental management

### **Performance**

Carrying out actions to achieve environmental policy targets

### **Credibility**

Third party verification by independent environmental verifiers guarantees the value disclosed information

### **Transparency**

Environmental statements provide public information about the environmental performance of the organisation

## How Does it work?

EMAS follows a systematic  
**‘Plan-Do-Check-Act’**  
approach



## Who can participate?

I Organisations operating in **all economic sectors**

II Organisations with sites **worldwide\***

**Today about 4000 organisations and more than 9000 sites are EMAS registered**

\* Organisations located outside EU, EEA and Accession Countries can register through EMAS global:  
<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/pdf/factsheet/EMASGlobal.pdf>

## 6 steps to EMAS registration

- (1) **Conduct an environmental review**
- (2) **Adopt an environmental policy, set objectives, establish action plan and implement it through the management system**
- (3) **Carry out an internal audit of the system**
- (4) **Prepare an environmental statement**
- (5) **Independent verification and validation by an environmental verifier**
- (6) **Registration with the Competent Body and use of EMAS logo**

# EMAS and ISO 14001

**EMAS includes ISO 14001 but goes beyond by establishing a broader eco-system**

EMAS

SECTORAL  
GUIDANCE  
AND  
BENCHMARK

- Sectoral reference documents

MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM  
BASED ON  
ISO 14001

- Included in the annexes of the EMAS Regulation

REPORTING  
AND  
COMPLIANCE  
PLATFORM

- Public reporting incl. core indicators
- Yearly validation by verifier
- Legal compliance signed-off by public authorities

PUBLIC  
AUTHORITY  
BASED  
GOVERNANCE

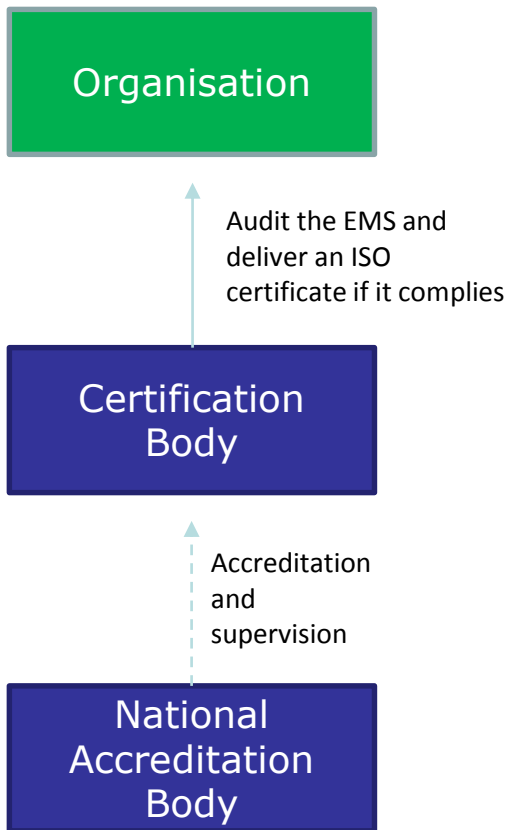
- National and EU transparent register
- Competent Body appointed by authorities

EMAS specific  
features

ISO 14001 based  
features



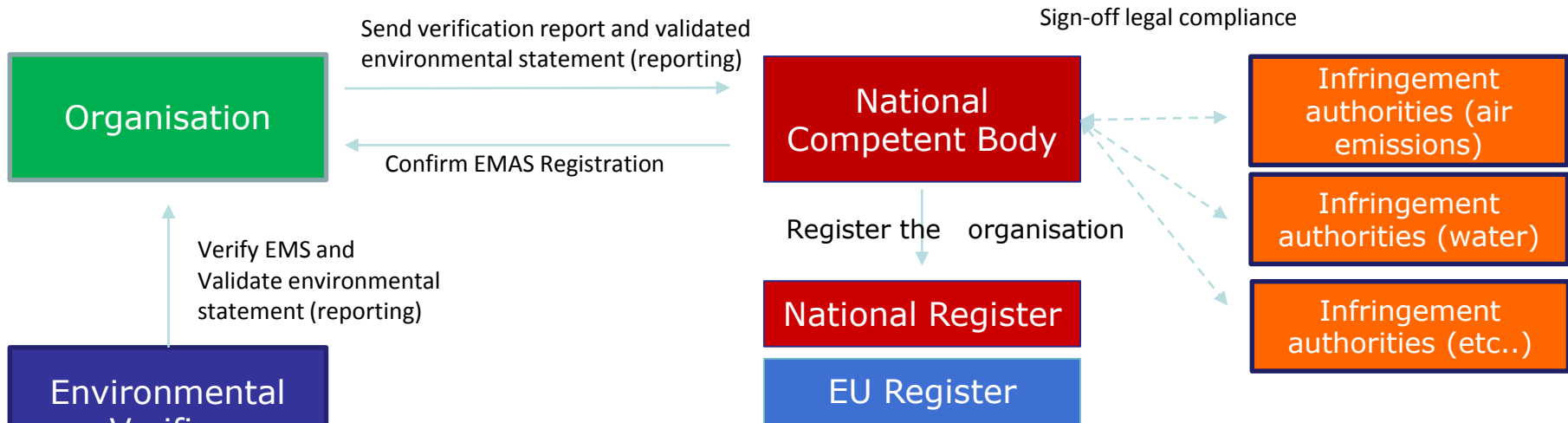
# The ISO 14001 governance



## Outcomes of the process:

- 1) An Environmental Management System certified as complying with the ISO standard.
- 2) Legal compliance checked by the certifier as part of the EMS certification. If non-compliance detected the organisation shall commit to correct it.

# The EMAS specific governance



- Outcomes of the process:**
- 1) A verified Environmental Management System (the EMS responds to the EMAS Regulation which includes the ISO Standard).
  - 2) A validated environmental statement including specific indicators.
  - 3) A legal compliance checked by verifier and signed off by competent body in collaboration with infringement authorities if deemed relevant.
  - 4) A registration of the organisation in the transparent EMAS register at national and EU level.

# EMAS Specificities: transparent reporting – The EMAS environmental statement -

Publication of an third party validated reporting that includes among other:

- Description of significant environmental aspects
- Performance against legal provision
- Performance against the following indicators:
  1. Energy efficiency
  2. Material efficiency
  3. Water
  4. Waste
  5. GHG and air Emissions
  6. Biodiversity

This reporting reinforces the transparency and credibility of organisations' performances.

# EMAS Intrinsic Benefits for organisations

- (1) **Improved environmental performance**
- (2) **Cost reductions:** more efficient resource use (e.g. energy, water)
- (3) **Regulatory compliance and risk minimisation** by assessing operational procedures & legal compliance
- (4) **Image improvement** through EMAS logo use and publication on EMAS Environmental Statement
- (5) **Improved relations with internal stakeholders** – motivation increase
- (6) **Improved relations with external stakeholders:** EMAS registration of a site (private or public) can enhance credibility and transparency
- (7) **Sectoral Reference Documents** to guide best practices implementation

## Additional benefits driven by authorities

### Authorities can use EMAS to

- **Identify best performers**
- **Reward performance via additional benefits such as:**

(1) **Deliver regulatory relief** (longer permits, less controls, tax breaks) based on demonstration of legal compliance.

(2) **Deliver additional benefits to organisation that performs in priority policies** such as air pollution, waste, energy efficiency, etc.

(3) **Allow organisations to use EMAS as a reporting channel** toward authorities to cover their reporting obligations

(4) **Recognise EMAS in GPP criteria** based on higher level of legal compliance and transparency on performance

**This is a key driver of EMAS success**

## EMAS Benefits for the authorities

(1)

**Ensure reliable improvement of environmental performance and lower risk of environmental accident.**

(2)

**Save resources of enforcement agencies** by streamlining environmental controls in collaboration with EMAS verifiers and CB's

(3)

**Provide reliable data on organisation environmental performance.**  
Can be used to support the achievement of national environmental goals (e.g. GHG Emissions, renewable energy use, waste)

(4)

**Encourage transparent reporting on environmental performance,** in particular in area or sectors where population is looking for reassurance

(5)

**Sectoral Reference Documents available as guidance to best practice implementation**

## Measure currently envisaged by the EC:

- *Strategic reflection ongoing to strengthen the scheme*
  - Evaluation (Fitness Check) adopted on the 30 June
  - On-going study to identify further sources of administrative benefits
- *Maintain integration of ISO 14001:2015 requirements*
  - Adaptation of Annexes I-III => adopted on 28/08/2017
- *Operational improvement*
  - Facilitate registration of multisite organisation => Revision User Guide
  - More meaningful Environmental Statement => Revision Annex IV
  - Make the system more attractive => New website and further digitalisation, communication, SME toolkit.
- *Further development of SRD's and other guidance*

## How to take the best out of EMAS?

To use the full potential of EMAS Authorities could consider the following measures:

### **Ensure scheme awareness and user friendliness:**

- Make sure that the steps to register and the benefits of the scheme are communicated and can be easily found.
- Facilitate networks (EMAS Club) and clusters of organisations taking the registration steps together (co-learning, cost decrease).



# How to take the best out of EMAS?

## Boost scheme efficiency:

- Ensure an efficient communication between the EMAS Competent Body and the control authorities to validate legal compliance.
- Ensure quality of third party verification through effective supervision by accreditation body.
- Digitalise collection of data's to facilitate data analysis.

## How to take the best out of EMAS?

### **Boost regulatory relief / administrative benefits :**

- Identify policies where compliance could be proven through EMAS.
- In accordance with control authorities deliver regulatory relief to organisations demonstrating their compliance through EMAS.
- Some EU legislation such as Industrial Emission Directive make explicit reference to such relief opportunity.
- Deliver additional benefits (economic, fiscal administrative) to EMAS registered organisations demonstrating on a level of performance.



European  
Commission



**Thank you for your attention**