

EMAS AKTUELL

Information on the European Environmental Management Scheme

Ed.: Secretariat of Environmental Verification Committee (UGA)



EMAS

Leading article

Incentives for EMAS participants all over Europe

At the end of 2004 the EU Commission published a report on national incentives for EMAS-registered organisations to the Council and the European Parliament. The report describes the national measures undertaken and recommends a multilateral exchange of experience. Furthermore the Commission comments on how to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts in the application of environmental law and how to promote the participation in EMAS. The report could also be helpful in the planned revision of the EMAS Regulation.

At present there is a certain scepticism in Europe towards EMAS – despite obvious advantages for companies due to the sustainable use of resources, a better public image, an improved legal compliance, better relations with authorities and an appropriate risk management. Industry, however, quotes a lack of external incentives and an imbalance between costs and benefits, in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Furthermore the majority of registered companies is located in just a few member states (around half of them in Germany) even though the numbers of EMAS participants in Italy and Spain are increasing.

As of May 2004 the EMAS Regulation is also to be applied in the new member states. In these coun-

tries there may be the highest potential for additional registrations.

Which incentives were identified?

The EMAS Regulation asks member states to grant incentives for EMAS participants. As EMAS participants must comply with all regulatory environmental requirements a kind of compensation should be offered to EMAS participants – done in Germany via a Federal Ordinance and decrees passed by the Federal Laender.

Privileges and more flexibility for EMAS participants means substitution and possibly also deregulation. The Commission names as important objectives e.g.:

- Elimination of procedural impediments
- Avoidance of double presentation of documents to the regulator and
- fostering responsible behaviour by operators.

The main tasks are streamlining the application procedure, the reporting duties and the state controls. On the other hand this is also about promoting environmental management by means of public procurement, funds, technological assistance and access to information.

Quo vadis incentives?

The Environmental Verification Committee (Umweltgutachterausschuss – UGA) drew up a ten-point paper in December 2004 that summarized first ideas for the EMAS revision. Incentives exist-

ing so far are evaluated as being insufficient. There must be more efforts towards promotion and marketing and procurement policies as well as awarding contracts in order to increase the competitiveness of EMAS participants.

REMAS identifies important incentives in everyday practice

Under the heading “Testing top incentives” the EU LIFE Project REMAS is gaining more and more attention. An interim report states as essential incentives:

- Reduction of fees for EMAS organisations in case of a better (than required) environmental performance
- A partnership approach to inspection between authorities and verifiers.
- Regulating companies with many sites by the authorities as one organisation.

In the course of the three-years REMAS project, 25 representatives of organisations are to be asked about their evaluation of the incentives and what their ideas with regard to incentive systems are in detail. The final report is scheduled for October 2005. T.K.

COM report, UGA statement and REMAS:
<http://www.uga.de>, <http://www.remas.info>

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Text with only national relevance is not translated and marked with a German Flag.

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News of UGA

Law: New Act on balance sheet

Dates, internetpages, quote of the month, figures and facts, preview No. 6/2005

Portrait

Traditions and the modern age – Pilot project “Agricultural EMAS” completed successfully

Seven family farms in Baden-Wuerttemberg were the first ones in Germany to fulfil the requirements of the EMAS Regulation. The farms of Thomas Karle in Kupferzell, Thomas Pfefferle in Waldenburg, Bernd Pfisterer in Öhringen, Rolf Stirn in Kupferzell, Bernd Seebach in Bretzfeld, Christian Reutter in Tübingen and Edwin Wohlschieß in Rottenburg have been registered under EMAS since late last year. The Ministry of the Environment of Baden-Wuerttemberg supported this pilot project, which assessed whether EMAS, already established in industry, is suited to find acceptance in the agricultural sector. Within the framework of a cooperation project managed by the network of companies „Modell Hohenlohe e. V.“, seven fulltime and part-time farms, specialised in different types of production with some practising conventional, some organic farming, have introduced EMAS. With the support of the consulting firms EOS, Neuenstein, HMS, Schwäbisch Hall and Wolfgang Mener in Tübingen the farms identified their energy consump-

tion, checked whether plant protection agents were stored adequately, recorded the spread of fertilizers and introduced environmental programmes for a continuous improvement process.

The results will be of special importance since European Agricultural policy is asking for „cross-compliance“ and the introduction of management systems approved for farms is to be promoted nationwide by means of a special funding as laid down in the 2005-2008 framework plan of the Joint Task for the Improvement of Agricultural Structures and Coastal Protection. One of these systems to be applied will be EMAS. The final report is available at the „Modell Hohenlohe e. V.“ website.

Nicole Meier, Modell Hohenlohe
<http://www.modell-hohenlohe.de> (Link: „Projekte“)

Practical experiences with EMAS

Crafts in the Trier region are consistent in their commitment to environmental protection

Since EMAS was introduced, the members of the Trier Chamber of Crafts and Trades have been at the forefront of promoting EMAS. Small trades companies contradict the waning interest in participating in EMAS that can be observed nationwide, and are determinedly pursuing their environmentally conscious course. The examples of three such companies show that successful EMAS validation is rewarding. In Michael Steinmetz butcher's shop in Brauneberg at the Moselle, environmental awareness always goes hand in hand with the high health quality of the products. Preservatives and colouring agents are avoided as far as possible – also practised for products that are not produced by the company itself but purchased. These issues are attractive to allergy sufferers as well as nutrition-conscious customers. For example, 90 % of the products are gluten-free. Phosphate is only used in small amounts. The employees consider it their job to share their environmental ideas with their customers. The positive reactions they get from them are proofing that they are on a successful track.

In the little bakery Crames-Jakoby in Dudeldorf every dough is made from scratch. Baking mixes are out of the question. After its revalidation in 2000, the company set itself the environmental objective to develop bakery products with a sig-

nificantly higher content of vitamins and mineral nutrients. The tasty result is the „Eifelkeimling“ (Eifel Seedling) and its products. EMAS revealed possibilities to optimise the work process, so that by making better use of the ovens' capacities and a more conscious workflow, the energy consumption per tonne of bakery goods was reduced by 26 % and the consumption of heating oil by 43 %. Waste was reduced by 16 %.

In 1997, Rudi Müller's joiner's workshop in Gusterath was the first company to receive an EMAS certification in the region. Several times already the company has received awards for its high level social and environmental practises.

Sandra König, Saar-Lor-Lux Umweltzentrum des Handwerks Trier



<http://www.hwk-trier.de>, <http://www.baeckerlaedchen.de>, <http://www.schreiner-mueller.de>

Background information

EMAS integrates new ISO 14001:2004

The revised ISO 14001:2004 for environmental management systems was published in November 2004. As of 1 February 2005 it has also been available in German language as a DIN standard. Changes and modifications had been limited to new wordings for the benefit of clarification towards certain requirements and an improved compatibility with ISO 9001. The revised ISO 14001 does not contain any additional requirements. Organisations can choose up to mid May whether they want to be certified according to the old or

new ISO 14001.

As the requirements of section 4 of ISO 14001:1996 were integrated into the EMAS Regulation, the corresponding Annex I A. has to be adapted quickly. This is scheduled to be concluded by mid 2005. The European Commission has already expressed its view that organisations using the new standard as a basis also meet the specific requirements within EMAS. T.K.

<http://www.iso14001news.de>

In depth

WWF and one of Germanys leading businessmagazine Capital choose entrepreneurs committed to EMAS as "Eco-Managers of the Year 2004"

In 2004 the award „Eco-Manager of the Year“ was granted to Jan Aström, President and CEO of Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget SCA, Stockholm, Sweden. The paper manufacturer employs 5,750 people at more than 20 sites in Germany, achieving a turnover of 1.4 billion euro. Being an EMAS registered company SCA focuses on the reduction of air pollutants. Almost a third of the electricity needed for the paper production is derived from combined heat and power generation. With regard to the collection and recycling of waste paper SCA ranks first in Europe. Pulp fibers are used again and again until they are too short for paper production and can only serve one more time as fuel. Alumina and chalk, added to the pulp in order to brighten the paper, are washed out again and sold to building block manufacturers. Two thirds of SCA plants comply with ISO 14001 or the rigid requirements of EMAS.

The award „SME Eco-manager“ was granted to managing directors Dr. Kurt and Wolfgang Schmalz of J. Schmalz GmbH, manufacturers of vacuum handling and clamping systems. The company is EMAS registered since 1997. In their efforts the Schmalz brothers concentrate in particular on renewable energies. There are regular seminars on occupational health and environmental topics for the staff. Within the EU competition „Best employer“ the J. Schmalz GmbH ranked No. 7 in Germany. D.T.

<http://www.wwf.de/presse/pressearchiv/artikel/02214/>

HINTS

EMASeasy - small enterprises in Belgium have been validated under EMAS in less than one year and with ten sides of documentation. Some others in France are on their way. The environmental consultant Heinz Werner Engel, new managing director of INEM (International network of environmental management), developed a method named „EMASeasy“, which takes into consideration the more informal style of management. A network consisting of INEM, the environmental center of the chamber of trade of the Saarland, and some private consultants will start to offer this approach in the next months in Germany. EMAS easy - shall be cost-saving, user oriented and less bureaucratic. Contact: Dr. Stephan Hirsch, <http://www.saar-lor-lux-umweltzentrum.de>



„Unternehmen mit Zukunft –

Der Wegweiser zum betrieblichen Umweltschutz“ heißt die aktuelle 32-seitige Broschüre des Ministeriums für Umwelt und Verkehr Baden-Württemberg im Themengebiet „Nachhaltiges Wirtschaften“. Die Autoren erläutern verschiedene Bausteine des betrieblichen Umweltschutzes von „Einsteigerlösungen“ (Öko-Check, Energie- und Stoffstrommanagement) über Umweltmanagement bis hin zu integrierten Managementsystemen. Zahlreiche Praxisbeispiele beleben die Ausführungen. Der Anhang liefert außerdem nützliche Verweise zu weiterführenden Informationen, Internetadressen und Ansprechpartnern bei Behörden, Verbänden und Kammern. Die Broschüre kann kostenlos über das Internet bestellt oder als Online-Publikation heruntergeladen werden: <http://www.uvm.baden-wuerttemberg.de> (Rubrik Publikationen, Industrie und Gewerbe)



An EMAS Cities CD-ROM Online is the outcome of the „EMAS Peer Review for Cities“ project. The published guidebooks aim at helping local authorities to start and expand the implementation of an environmental management system. It shall further prepare on how to carry out a peer review by colleagues of other cities after finishing EMAS. The project which was coordinated by the Union of Baltic Cities (UBC) based on a community initiative of UBC, EURO CITIES, the University of the West of England and the Town of Newcastle. 17 European partner cities have been participating, to test and evaluate the guidance. Information on the project and on the results of the evaluation as well as a newsletter is published under:

<http://www.emascities.org/cdrom/start.html>



HINTS

Die Internet-Datenbank „**MIMONA** – Mitarbeiter-Motivation zu Nachhaltigkeit“ ist eine Sammlung von Praxisbeispielen. Sie soll insbesondere kleine und mittelständische Unternehmen ermutigen, den Weg einer zukunftsfähigen und umweltorientierten Unternehmensführung zu gehen. Die Datenbank umfasst derzeit ca. 170 Beispiele und soll bis 2006 auf 500 Beispiele anwachsen. Über die Website steht die Datenbank kostenfrei zur Recherche zur Verfügung. Infos: <http://www.mimona.de>



Since beginning of 2005 the European Commission presents an online library of EMAS environmental statements which are accessible in order of NACE Codes. Till now there are ca. 200 Statements available for download. Enterprises and organisations are invited to send their statements to the EMAS-helpdesk as PDF-files. More useful information on the aims and form of the EMAS environmental statement and some minimum requirements covered by the environmental statement top the homepage off. E-Mail Helpdesk: emas@cec.eu.int, http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/es_library/index_en.htm

The German associations for industry (BDI and BDA) have introduced a new **Internet portal on „Corporate Social Responsibility“** in order to provide a network for CSR actors in industry. Different activities on environmental protection, employee support, further education and training or consumer protection are presented in German. SMEs get proposals for own CSR activities by means of practical example: <http://www.csrgermany.de>

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FLAG

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VERY BRIEFLY

EMAS companies among the TOP 50 companies submitting sustainability reports

Volkswagen (22nd), KarstadtQuelle (25th) and Adidas-Salomon (29th) are among the highest-ranking German companies of a worldwide TOP 50 list of a ranking of environmental and sustainability reports.

For the sixth consecutive time the ranking was undertaken by SustainAbility in co-operation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The seven criteria for evaluation include: statement of social, economic and ecological aspects, presentation of a comprehensible vision as regards to sustainability issues and the priority given to associated challenges, existence of a reasonable sustainability strategy, balance of economic, social and ecological indicators, concept of innovation performance as well as an description of the risk management practised (evaluation of data and management, review of stakeholder participation).

One conclusion that can be drawn is that an increasing number of companies are becoming aware of the significance of reports on environmental and social aspects.

The research results are published under the title "Risk & Opportunity: Best Practice in Non-Financial Reporting". I.M.-S.

<http://www.sustainability.com/publications/engaging/Risk-Opportunity2004.pdf>

EMAS - a management tool for event organisers

TOROC – the organisation committee for the XXth Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Italy, in 2006 is the first organiser of mega events in Europe to be verified. For some years now the interests of stakeholders in environmental and social issues towards the planning and realisation of big events have become more and more important. Since its foundation in 1999, TOROC has been pro active towards climate protection issues, for example via annual sustainability reports in the context of the Olympic Winter Games. In 2004 TOROC submitted itself to EMAS in order to prove that the planning of this mega event also includes all necessary environmental considerations.

EMAS is increasingly being taken as a basis for ensuring the environmentally sound management of mega events also in Germany for example at the Catholic World Youth Day (WJT) in Cologne, which will take place in August 2005 with around one million participants. The organisers have developed environmentally friendly guidelines in order to shape planning and realisation of the event in the sense of the Christian obligation to act as stewards of the creation. Setting up an environmental management system in accordance with EMAS is part of this effort.

Furthermore two stadiums in Munich and Nuernberg which will host the Football World Cup in 2006 have achieved the EMAS registration. D.T.

Umwelterklärung Turin: http://ftp.torino2006.it/uploads/pdf/dichiarazione_amb_en.pdf
Leitsätze Köln: <http://www.wjt2005.de> (Hintergrundinfos, Umwelt)

Ranking of German Corporate Sustainability Reports

The Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IÖW) and future e. V. have been ranking voluntary corporate environmental reporting since 1994. Henkel won the first ranking of sustainability reports of the 150 biggest German companies, closely followed by KarstadtQuelle and Otto. Of the 35 highest-ranking companies, 15 were completely or in parts of their companies validated under EMAS and five of the TOP 10: KarstadtQuelle (2nd place), Axel-Springer-Verlag (4th), Adidas-Salomon (5th), Volkswagen (7th) and BMW (9th) are full EMAS sites.

The ranking evaluation is not based on the actual performance of the companies, but "only" on the companies written report of the performance. According to Winfried Eismann, chairman of future e. V., large companies in particular are expected to take on a responsibility within society which goes beyond legal compliance but includes environmental and social issues. Volker Hauff, under whose auspices the ranking took place, underlined: "Sustainability needs voluntary, responsible reporting which satisfies the interest of the public and, sometimes, also sheds light on inconvenient facts." I.M.-S.

<http://www.ranking-nachhaltigkeitsberichte.de>



Foto: IÖW

EMAS registration of Berlin International Airport in Tegel

In December of last year, the Berlin Airport Authority (BFG) received the EMAS certificate for its Tegel site. It is the fourth German airport operator participating in EMAS. Dr. Manfred Bobke von Camen, Managing Director of Berlin airport, highlighted "the fantastic performance of Tegel achieved by the airport employees. Our EMAS validation plus the certification ISO 14001 proves internationally that we are a competent service partner who cares seriously about environmental issues."

The Tegel airport EMAS project was financially supported by the Land Berlin and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). D.T.

http://www.berlin-airport.de/PubDeutsch/PubUnternehmen/PubUmwelt/pubUmweltmanagement/docOeko_Audit_Tegel.html



Foto: Berliner Flughafen

ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Environmental Verification Committee (UGA) advises the German Ministry of Environment on all issues relating to the environmental management system EMAS. The tasks and structure of the UGA are described in the German Environmental Audit Act which regulates the effective application of EMAS in Germany.

UGA consists of **25 members**. Each member has a personal deputy member. They represent the following interest groups: Trade/Industry, Environmental verifiers, Public Authorities (Environmental and economy administration), Trade Unions and Environmental associations.

Federal associations nominate persons for membership. They are appointed by the environmental ministry for a period of three years, they act in an honorary capacity and are not subject to any outside authority. UGA is responsible for maintaining the quality of EMAS in Germany. In accordance with the Environmental Audit Act (UAG), the committee ordains guidelines for the accreditation, examination and supervision of the environmental verifiers, maintains the list of examiners responsible for administering the accreditation exam of EMAS verifiers, recommends experts for legal appeals, advises the Ministry of Environment on issues of EMAS, promotes the dissemination of EMAS in Germany.

LAW

On 1.1.2005 a new German act on balance sheets entered into force. According to this BilRefG the annual reports of groups of companies (GP) shall contain „non-financial performance indicators, as information on environmental and employees concerns if these are necessary to understand the business development or situation. GP with EMAS-sites are perfectly prepared for that issue. The environmental indicators established in their management system give reliably information over all relevant impact on the environment of the enterprise.

FIGURES AND FACTS

The graphic cumulates all participants of the last 10 years not taking into account, whether they are still in the EMAS register. Between 1995 and 2004 in Germany more than 3.968 sites participated in the European scheme. From 1995 till 2001 reference was only made to sites. EMAS II has changed this practise of registration and focusses on organisations. Because of this change of procedure in registering the graphic may give just an approximative total number of all registrations since 1995.

UGA-News

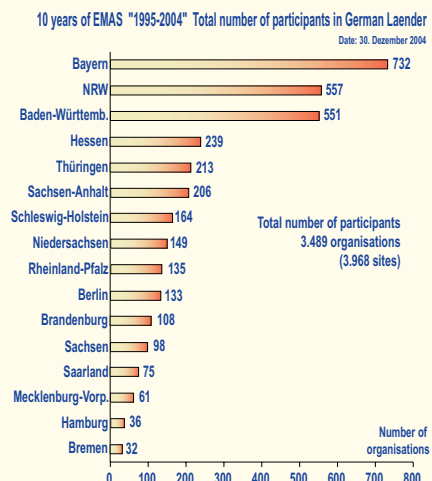
Dr. Michael Schemmer was elected in February this year as new chairperson of UGA. Since 1991 Dr. Schemmer works within the leading environmental management and is today heading the environment and operational safety department of train car producing sector in the Bomardier Group - an enterprise which uses EMAS since 1995.

His "deputies" in chairing the UGA are the environmental verifier Dr. Werner Wohlfarth, Dr.

Frank Beck from Ministry for environment of Brandenburg, Dr. Werner Schneider (trade unions) and Wolfgang Guhle (environmental associations).



Please find a pdf-version of our information on structure and functions of the committee here: http://www.uga.de/downloads/archiv/Flyer_engl.pdf



DATES

Brussels, 20/21 June 2005, Art. 14 Committee
End of June the 11th meeting of the Committee responsible for EMAS will take place at the EU Commission in Brussels. On the agenda is an interim report on EMAS evaluation, the discussion on draft scenarios for EMAS revision and the adaption of Annex I A of EMAS Regulation to new ISO 14001. Some interested parties may on invitation take part. Contact: dina.van-mulders@cec.eu.int

Berlin, 26 July 2005, EnergieForum
Workshop on EMAS and products issues. UGA likes to discuss with experts, representants of enterprises, verifiers and interested parties first drafts on a Commission guidance how to enhance the product dimension within EMAS and exchange views on actual experiences (date to be confirmed).
Look for actual information on: www.uga.de

Brussels, Autumn 2005
To discuss first results from emas evaluation the contractor of the Commission will invite interest groups to an EMAS conference. This might take place in autumn 2005 in Brussels. Watch actual information on the EMAS helpdesk: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environmental/emas/index_en.htm

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

On 22 February 2004 the parliamentary state secretary in the Federal Ministry of Environment Margareta Wolf visited UGA to speak on the value of EMAS in the environmental policy. She named EMAS a future instrument of strategic environmental planning and stressed that the voluntary environmental audit connects the ecologically necessary with the economically viable. „EMAS is further a very important environmental instrument for the policy of the Federal Government“



INTERNETSEITEN DES MONATS

„EU-Nachrichten“, Thema der Woche „10 Jahre EMAS“, Interview Trittin: http://www.eu-kommission.de/pdf/eunachrichten/10-05_INTERNET.pdf
BMU - Schritt für Schritt ins Umweltmanagement, Beispiele Grüner Gockel, Ecocamping, Umweltsiegel des Handwerks, Ecomapping: http://www.bmu.de/wirtschaft_und_umwelt/emas/nationale_umsetzung/doc/35096.php
EMAS Environmental Statements' Library: http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/emas/es_library/index_en.htm

PREVIEW ON THE NEXT ISSUE 6/2005

The next issue will be in German and portrait this year's winners of German environmental reporting award (**DURA**) - the EMAS participants Neumarkter Lammsbräu, Stadtwerke Karlsruhe and Berufliche Schulen Kehl.