

Voluntary tools and regulations in Europe, such as the European Eco-management and Audit scheme (EMAS) can be implemented by organisations on a voluntary basis. Implementation of voluntary tools can result in the reduction of negative impacts on the environment and, at the same time, strengthen the position of an organisation in the market, bolster competitiveness, reputation and increase profit. However, despite the great potential of these tools, the uptake has so far remained below the actual potential.

A number of external barriers to EMAS registration have been identified, prior to the current revision of the EU's EMAS regulation.

Besides a lack of demand and incentives, the most significant barriers to EMAS registration are costs linked to consulting, administration and verification.

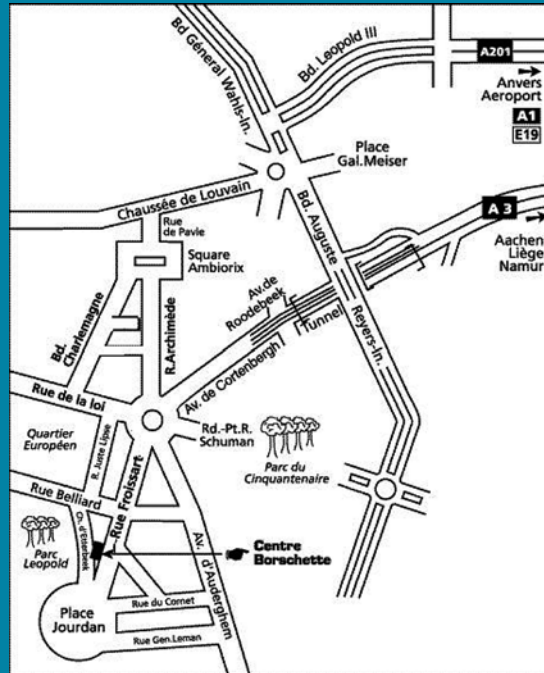
Recent practical developments have, however, led to lean, cost-effective application models for EMAS in Europe, which should lead to lower transaction costs. However consulting, verification and validation costs relating to EMAS registration have not followed this trend.

A number of consultants and environmental verifiers have adapted their way of auditing, working and pricing to accommodate lean, more informal systems. However, the majority of the consulting and verification sector is still maintaining the price bar for their activities so high that they cannot accommodate the lesser resources of the SME's, nor correspond to the reduced workload of assisting small organisations.

These issues will be presented and discussed during a European Commission conference that will take place on the 15th December in Brussels, organised by the EMAS Helpdesk of the European Commission's Environment Directorate General.

The conference will present experiences from consultants and environmental verifiers, as well as the point of view of the SMEs.

CONTEXT OF THE CONFERENCE



Albert Borschette Conference Centre (CCAB)
Rue Froissart 36, 1040 Bruxelles, Belgium

Metro Line 1AB: Schuman station

Conference facilitated by the Brussel's Office
of the European EMAS Helpdesk
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/emas/index_en.htm
C/O Eco-Conseil Entreprise
35 rue van Elewyck • 1050 Brussels – Belgium
Tel : +32 2 644 96 69 • Fax : +32 2 644 94 20

The venue is limited to 150 participants.
Participation is free but only upon invitation.

Please register to
conferences@emaseasy.eu
www.emaseasy.eu

European Commission Conference on EMAS

**EMAS registration
and verification –
barriers to access by SME's**

15 December 2008, 09:00-17:00
Centre Borschette, Brussels - Belgium

Options, solutions and challenges
A european debate with the external
auditors and verifiers

The conference will be in English



Early Announcement

By invitation only.

The conference is organised by the
EMAS Helpdesk of Directorate General
for the Environment



EMAS registration and verification – barriers to access for SME's

Options, solutions and challenges

Borschette Conference Centre, Brussels, 15th December 2008

8:30 – 9:00	Arrival of participants and registration
Setting the stage: EU policy, EMAS and barriers to access	
9:00 – 9:15	EMAS in the new EU policy package: Sustainable consumption and production and other initiatives PAVEL MISIGA , Head of Unit Industry and Environment, DG Environment
9:15 – 9:30	The headlines of the revision of the EMAS Regulation MARIANNE MULLER , DG Environment, Brussels
9:30 – 9:45	Representing SMEs' interests in order to make the EMAS regulation more SME friendly ROSA SOLANES , Environmental Adviser, UEAPME, Brussels
9:45 – 10:00	Working with small Business – EMAS and challenges for the verification process; accreditation criteria, rules and international practise ANDREW MARLOW , UKAS, London
10:00 – 10:15	'Fighting the paper tiger' in EMS implementation with EMASEasy Feedback from 50 certifications in Europe HEINZ WERNER ENGEL , Managing Director, Eco-counselling Enterprise Brussels
10:15 – 10:30	Discussion
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee break
Verification? : the missing link in simplification	
11:00 – 11:15	Verifier's perspective: lean management systems – are they solid, compliant and delivering results? Evaluation on behalf of the German regional Environmental Agency, Baden Württemberg GÜNTHER JUNGBLUT – Individual Verifier, Germany
11:15 – 11:30	Lowering the barriers of access: Experience of EMASEasy in Hungarian certification. CSABA BODROGHELYI – Organisational Verifier, Hungary
11:30 – 11:45	EMAS going global – challenges of validating EMAS in the Mediterranean area – case studies from Cyprus and Jordan DR. BURKHARD KÜHNEMANN – Hannover, Hungary
11:45 – 12:00	EMAS verification in small companies from the social economy sector JEAN-CHARLES DE VIRON – Lloyd's, Belgium
12:00 – 12:20	Discussion

12:20 – 13:45	Lunch – buffet
Is EMAS affordable for small business?	
EMAS - innovative and cost-effective for business	
13:45 – 14:00	Experience : EMAS in the regional industry cost-cutting with cluster approaches, shared consultants and verifiers KURT GÖGBEN – Kölle GMBH, Germany
14:00 – 14:15	Experience : Micro companies in the cement mixing and distribution sector. Collaborative implementation of simplified EMS in multiple sites and reductions in auditing costs. NICOLAS VUILLIER – Italcementi Group, France
14:15 - 14:30	EMAS for beginners and informal implementation of procedures. Experience from implantation and auditing. THIBAUT JACQUET – Resources Social Economy Network, Belgium
14:30 – 14:45	Discussion
Consultants: Selling bureaucracy or smart environmental coaching?	
14:45 - 15:00	EMASEasy : the elegant toolbox for integration into other management systems in medium sized companies DR STEFAN MUESSIG – WUQM, Germany
15:00 – 15:15	The bottom up and vertical integration with EMASEasy. How to build environmental management systems which are easy to handle, robust on delivery and cost effective AURÉLIE BOIS – Eco-Conseil Méditerranée, Marseille, France
15:15 – 15:45	Discussion
Conclusion of the day	
15:45 – 16:15	Conclusions and outlook on the certification and validation services NIGEL CARTER , European EMAS Helpdesk
16:15	Drink

PROGRAMME