

**ADMIN(2023)68**

**EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE**



**Decision of the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service**

**of 22/12/2023**

**on the adoption of the Environmental Policy  
for the European External Action Service**

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## **Decision of the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service**

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### **on the adoption of the Environmental Policy for the European External Action Service**

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE,

Having regard to Council Decision 2010/427/EU of 26 July 2010 establishing the organisation and functioning of the European External Action Service<sup>1</sup> in particular Article 4(1) thereof,

Having regard to decision ADMIN(2020)11 of the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service of 18/06/2020 on the establishment of an Environmental Management System for the European External Action Service, in particular Article 2 thereof;

Having regard to decision ADMIN(2023)1 of the Secretary-General of the European External Action Service of 07/03/2023 on the on the adoption of the organisational structure of the Environmental Management System for the European External Action Service, in particular Article 1 point 2 thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union provides that the Union must work for the sustainable development of Europe based notably on a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment,
- (2) Article 11 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union calls for the integration of environmental protection requirements into the implementation of the Union's activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
- (3) Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS)<sup>2</sup>, repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC, makes provision for an eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) for the Union and allows voluntary participation by organisations located in the Union,
- (4) The Communication from the Commission to the Institutions<sup>3</sup> setting out a European Green Deal for the EU presents a clear roadmap of the key policies and measures needed to achieve sustainable and inclusive growth for Europe,
- (5) The implementation of an environmental policy within the EEAS will enshrine the principle of sound environmental management in its day-to-day work and will improve the environmental performance of its activities,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 201, 3.8.2010, p. 30.

<sup>2</sup> And subsequent amendments by Commission Regulations (EU) 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026.

<sup>3</sup> COM(2019) 640, 11.12.2019.

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HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

### *Article 1 – Adoption of the Environmental Policy*

The Environmental Policy for the European External Action Service (Annex I) is hereby adopted.

### *Article 2 – Entry into force*

The Decision shall enter into force on the day following its signature.

Done at Brussels, 22 December 2023.



Stefano SANNINO  
Secretary-General

## ANNEX I

### Environmental Policy of the European External Action Service (EEAS)

As the institution responsible for the external policies of the European Union (EU), the European External Action Service (EEAS) participates in the EU efforts to combat climate change and actively contributes to sustainable development.

Through our vast network of European Union Delegations and missions and operations, we engage with partners across the world and with international organisations. We do so by embracing the European Green Deal and its policies, supporting the green transition through our Green Diplomacy, and ensuring the integration of environmental practices and actions into our daily operations.

Our representation of the European Union is a global endeavour. In this role, we bear a responsibility not just to represent but also to lead by example. We are committed to act, to limit the environmental impact of our own activities through the comprehensive implementation of EMAS<sup>4</sup> in the Headquarters and integrating environmental improvement measures into our daily operations in the Delegations<sup>5</sup>, civilian and military missions.

We recognise the active engagement of all EEAS staff as the driving force that will enable us to address this collective responsibility. We commit to continuously improve our impact, contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ensure legal compliance and prevent pollution, through:

1. **Reducing Carbon Emissions:** Our primary focus is to reduce carbon emissions. We will strive to contribute to the objectives of the European Union.<sup>6</sup> We will achieve this by setting ambitious targets aligned with what we expect to be feasible from missions, buildings and digital solutions fit-for-purposes. As the EEAS is a more recent organisation, the baseline used for EMAS is 2019 and our objectives will be defined towards 2030 and 2050. This commitment entails a comprehensive approach, collaborating with fellow European Union institutions.
2. **Making Buildings Sustainable:** We are dedicated to a new era of sustainable infrastructure. This commitment is visible through the integration of stringent environmental and energy efficiency criteria into our building policies and projects. Our buildings will not only serve their functional purpose but also stand as beacons of environmental responsibility.
3. **Contributing to Circular Economy, Efficient Use of Resources and Waste Management:** We proactively prioritise waste prevention, efficient use of resources such as paper and water and explore the feasibility of circular economy principles in our infrastructure planning, stock, asset management, and procurement processes. This journey encompasses smart design, reparability, material reuse, recyclability, energy recovery, and responsible disposal. Our vision is a future where waste is minimised, and resources are maximally utilised.
4. **Promoting Sustainable Transport:** Our diplomatic activities are inherently intertwined with transportation. We aim to lead by example and show that diplomatic activity is possible while reducing the impact on the environment. That is why we will champion sustainable transport

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<sup>4</sup> Eco-Management and Audit Scheme.

<sup>5</sup> EEAS pursues EMAS certification for its Headquarters. The Delegations will implement best practices from the EMAS principles according to a “light” EMAS system, based on voluntary participation.

<sup>6</sup> 55% between 1990 and 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

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solutions for daily commutes, missions, and all administrative and political activities, wherever possible.

5. **Strengthening Sustainable Procurement:** We aim to strengthen our sustainable procurement practices by setting clear targets for contract classification. We will fuse established best practices with innovative solutions tailored to the unique specifics of each market. Sustainability will be at the heart of every procurement decision.

Through a proactive communication and the active engagement of all EEAS staff and management, we commit to comprehensively describe, implement, and pursue this Environmental Policy. Our dedication to environmental stewardship remains at the very core of our mission—a mission where diplomacy converges harmoniously with sustainability.

This document is effective from the day following its signature.

On behalf of the EMAS Steering Committee,

Secretary-General

