

Environment: Eco-management and audit scheme EMAS, voluntary participation by organisations (amend. regul. 1836/93/EEC)

1998/0303(COD) - 31/07/2000 - Commission opinion on Parliament's position at 2nd reading

The Commission can accept 2 amendments in full and 7 in part or principle. The remaining amendments proposed by the Parliament cannot be accepted. The amendments accepted in full or in part relate to: - the training of verifiers. This is part of ensuring the credibility of EMAS; - incentives for organisations to participate in the EMAS; - the application of reasonable registration fees. In relation to the amendments accepted in principle, these concern in particular: - providing support in the field of EMAS to candidate countries for accession in the EU; - the exchange of data between local competent bodies; - administrative simplification for businesses; - the insertion of the full text of Section 4 of EN ISO 14001:1996); - information on continuing improvement in the environmental statement (terminology to be used in a formal reference when reporting on environmental improvements; - the use of environmental indicators by organisations; - the guarantee of access to the environmental statement for all interested parties. The amendments rejected by the Commission concern: - the definition of the organisation; - the scope of reporting in the environmental statement; - compliance with environmental legislation; - the frequency of validation of the environmental statement; - verification by 'visiting' verifiers; - the report to the European Parliament; - preferential access to public facilities; - channels for informing on EMAS; - the protocol of intent on penalties; - comitology; - the involvement of workers; - the printed form of the environmental statement; - the availability of environmental statement; - competence criteria for environmental verifiers; - verification frequency; - criteria for assessing significance of impact; - validation frequency of the environmental statement; - the introduction of environmental policy.