

---

EBA Regular Use

---

# Decision of the European Banking Authority EBA/DC/2021/420

---

of 13 December 2021

concerning the environmental policy at the European Banking Authority

**The Executive Director**

**Having regard to** Regulation (EU) No 1093/2010 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 establishing a European Supervisory Authority (European Banking Authority)<sup>1</sup>, in particular Article 1(3) and Article 29(1)(f) thereof,

**Having regard to** 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), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC<sup>2</sup>, as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) 2017/1505 of 28 August 2017<sup>3</sup> and by Commission Regulation (EU) 2018/2026 of 19 December 2018<sup>4</sup>,

**Having regard to** the Decision of the European Banking Authority concerning the environmental policy at the European Banking Authority EBA/DC/2020/345 of 17 July 2020,

**Whereas:**

- (1) The European Union is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The goal no. 13 'Climate Action' urges to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact.

---

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 331, 15.12.2010, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 342, 22.12.2009, p. 1–45.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 222, 29.8.2017, p. 1–20.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 325, 20.12.2018, p. 18–24.

---

- (2) The European Commission by setting out a European Green Deal for the European Union and its citizens reset its commitment to tackling climate and environmental-related challenges with the aim of making Europe climate neutral in 2050.<sup>5</sup>
- (3) The European Court of Auditors has recommended the full implementation of the EMAS Regulation and green procurement by all EU Institutions and bodies.<sup>6</sup>
- (4) As part of its commitment, the European Banking Authority (EBA) wishes to lead by example by becoming EMAS registered, reducing the environmental impact and carbon footprint of its activities as well as integrating environmental factors and risks in its core activities.
- (5) The objective of the EMAS is to promote continuous improvements in the environmental performance of organisations by the establishment and implementation of an environmental management system, the evaluation of the performance of such a system, the provision of information on environmental performance, an open dialogue with the public and other interested parties and the active involvement of employees.
- (6) ‘Environmental policy’ means the overall intentions and direction of an organisation relating to its environmental performance as formally expressed by top management including compliance with all applicable legal requirements relating to the environment and also a commitment to continuous improvement of environmental performance. It provides a framework for action and for the setting of environmental objectives and targets.
- (7) An internal audit took place in November 2021 to assess the compliance of the EBA’s environmental management system with the requirements of the EMAS Regulation. The Agency’s Environmental Policy should be updated in view of its findings.

### **Has decided as follows:**

#### **Article 1**

The document entitled “Environmental Policy at the European Banking Authority” annexed to this Decision is hereby adopted.

#### **Article 2**

The Decision of the European Banking Authority concerning the environmental policy at the European Banking Authority EBA/DC/2020/345 is hereby repealed.

---

<sup>5</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - the European Green Deal, COM/2019/640 final.

<sup>6</sup> Special Report No 14/2014 ‘How do the EU institutions and bodies calculate, reduce and offset their greenhouse gas emissions?’

### **Article 3**

This Decision enters into force on the day following its adoption.

Done at Paris, 13 December 2021

François-Louis Michaud  
Executive Director

## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AT THE EUROPEAN BANKING AUTHORITY

The European Banking Authority (EBA) recognises its responsibility for making a positive contribution to sustainable development as a long-term goal. Therefore, we have decided to structure this approach by focusing on the environment and by implementing the European standard for environmental management: the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS).

**This environmental policy is applicable to all the EBA's activities and products.** The scope of EMAS covers operational activities in Paris as well as core business activities and products, carried out with a view to maintain financial stability in the EU and to safeguard the integrity, efficiency and orderly functioning of the European banking sector. The policy is intended to serve as a guide to setting annual or multi-annual objectives in this area.

The EBA has a clear mandate regarding the integration of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into its regulatory and supervisory activities. This is in line with its missions to establish a single set of harmonised rules for financial institutions throughout the EU, and to promote convergence of supervisory practices. We therefore consider it our responsibility to take account of environmental impacts in all our activities.

We hereby:

- Affirm our commitment to obtaining and maintaining EMAS registration, taking responsibility for the prevention of environmental damage and continuous improvement of our environmental performance
- Undertake to ensure compliance with all applicable local and European Union environmental regulations
- Commit to developing knowledge, finding technical solutions and adjusting our organisation and behaviours, focusing on the following:
  - Minimising our impact on **greenhouse gas emissions**, with a special focus on **travel**
  - Building a strong relation with our landlord to improve our **energy consumption performance**
  - Improving our **waste production, segregation** and recycling as expected by our staff
  - Maximising the use of electronic solutions and **green public procurement** to limit our material impact
  - Implementing environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations in our policy making, risk assessment and supervisory convergence work in line with the EBA's tasks, the EBA's 2019 action plan on **sustainable finance** and additional mandates received from the European Commission since that time
- Commit to setting up key environmental indicators with concrete objectives to demonstrate the efficiency of our environmental management system
- Stress that our improvement efforts are underpinned by our team spirit and management's engagement.

Our annual public environmental statement transparently reflects on our progress on these commitments.

The Executive Director hereby approves this policy and ensures that adequate resources are made available to implement it. The Executive Director, with the support of all managers, actively communicates on the importance of good environmental management in contributing to our overall performance.