



European Economic and Social Committee



European Committee  
of the Regions

# ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS

SYNTHESIS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

# 2017



# An environmental policy- 10 commitments



This document summarises the **2017 environmental statement (2016 data)** available on the EMAS intranet and the EESC and CoR internet pages

# Message from the secretaries-general

Climate and environmental protection issues are more important than ever for EU policies.

At global level, the EU took part in the discussions which produced the Paris Agreement on Climate (COP21) and the 17 objectives of the sustainable development agenda, to be achieved by 2030.

The EU's Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) is a tool for reducing an organisation's environmental impact and

boosting its sustainability, and so can contribute directly to meeting some of these objectives.

The European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions are fully committed to managing the impact of their activities and buildings. Alongside other social stakeholders, they aim to break new ground and hope to encourage other administrations in Europe and beyond to take their environmental action further.

On 30 September 2016, the presidents and secretaries-general of the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Committee of the Regions adopted an ambitious joint environmental policy. EESC and CoR staff also play a key role: we welcome their commitment, which has made these changes possible. Every year, new challenges are taken up and the results continue to improve!

**Jiří Buriánek**  
CoR Secretary General

**Luis Planas**  
EESC Secretary General



# The Committees and environmental management



## THE COMMITTEES

110.000	m <sup>2</sup> of buildings (total surface including grounds and basement)
700	Committee members (350 at the EESC and 350 at the CoR)
1.300	Members of the administrative staff
20.000	Visitors per year

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

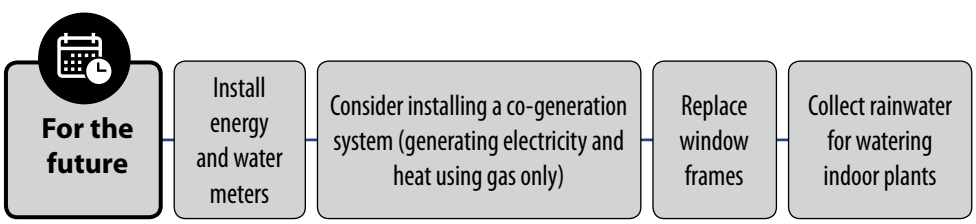
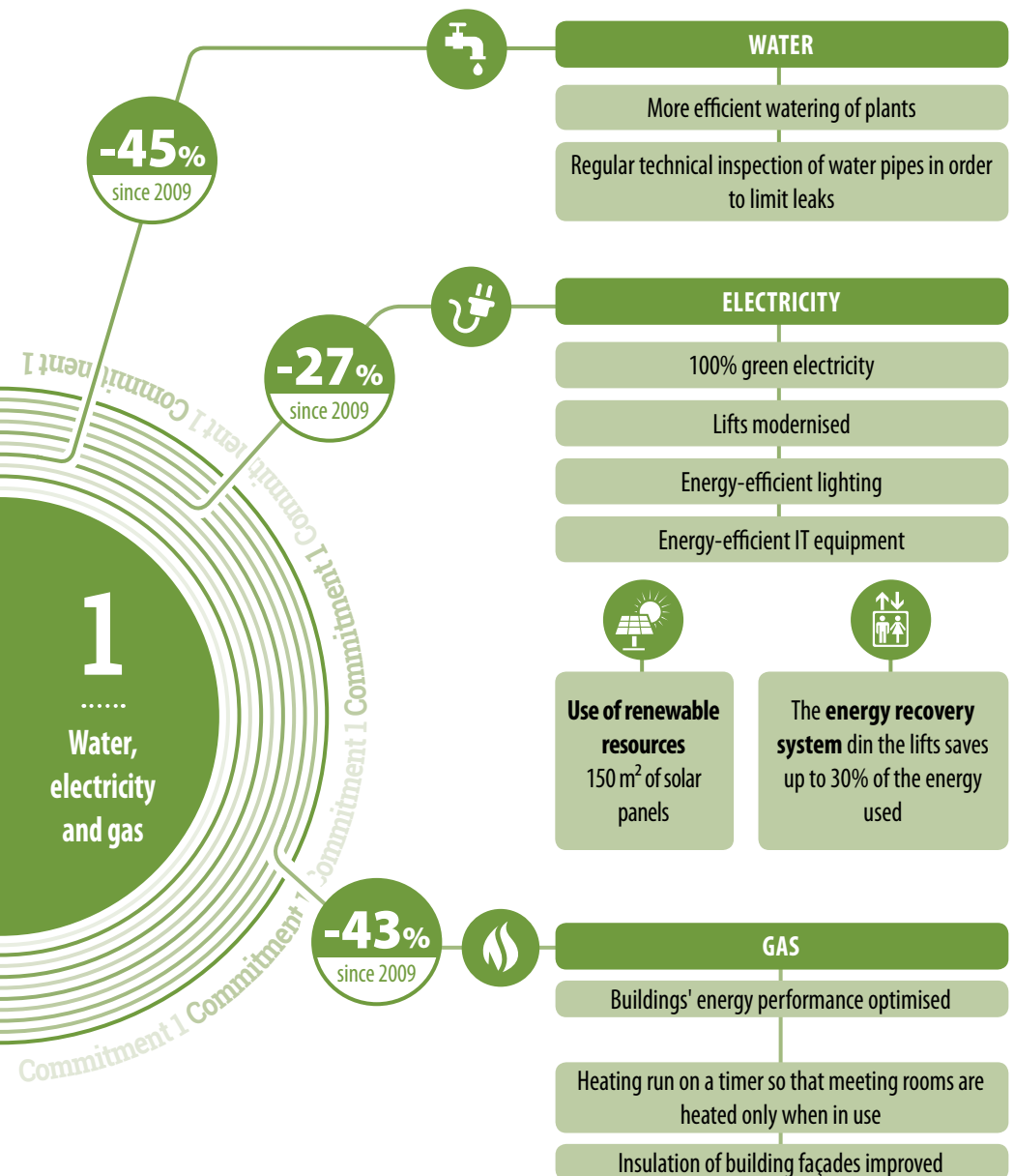
1	EMAS service in the Infrastructure unit – Directorate for Logistics
12	Members of the EMAS Steering Committee (secretaries-general, directors, staff representatives)
80	EMAS contacts in every directorate and unit
1	Annual environmental audit (Vincotte)
2	Environmental certifications



The ISO 14001 standard aims to manage the Committees' impact on the environment and is based on the principle of constant improvement.



EMAS is the environmental management system development by the European Union.



## PAPER

Procedures and forms digitised

Individual printers replaced by more efficient network printers

100% recycled and eco-labelled paper purchased for standard usage

Brochures and publications available on stands or in electronic format and no longer distributed to every member of staff

Agreement on the quantities ordered from the printshop: copies for plenary sessions, publication of brochures, etc



**-41%**

since 2009

2

Paper



**Cover pages  
collected  
from  
network  
printers**

The printshop produces notebooks using the cover pages of network printers and offcuts of paper used for publications





## GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

100% of our tenders are green

Eco-labelled cleaning products

100% recycled, eco-labelled A4 paper purchased

Eco-labelled indoor paint used

Sustainable food served in the canteens

Energy-efficient IT equipment purchased

100% green electricity purchased

Green areas maintained without chemical pesticides or fertilisers

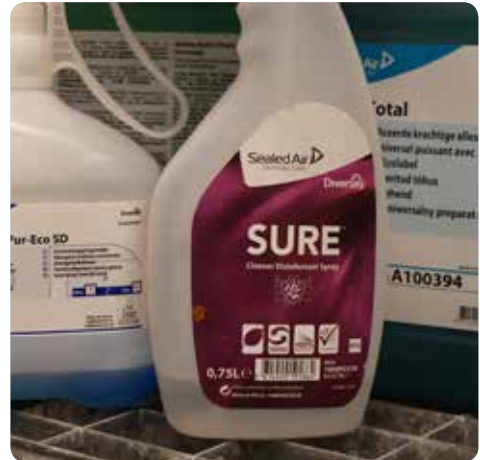
Environmentally-friendly office supplies purchased

100%

since 2009

3

Green public procurement



Why buy green?

Direct advantages for the environment

Impact on colleagues' health and well-being

Encourage environmental innovation

Financial savings



## SUSTAINABLE FOOD

- 75% of seasonal produce on the menu
- 11% of food sold is organic
- 23% of the main dishes and sandwiches sold are vegetarian
- 26% of fish on the menu is certified MSC (sustainable fisheries)
- 5% of food is from fair trade

Strand  
1

## COMBATTING FOOD WASTE

- Purchasing and stock management made more efficient
- Waste monitored in order to assess developments more effectively
- Buffets organised at the Committees (the main source of waste) monitored and new measures to limit waste implemented
- A "green buffet" guide prepared to inform organisers about specific waste prevention measures

Strand  
2

4

Sustainable  
food



These results have earned the Committees the "Good Food" label, awarded by the Brussels-Capital region





## COMMUTING

Day-long events organised to encourage staff to come to work on foot/by bike (Friday Bike /Walk Day)

Financial contribution to the cost of public transport passes

More parking spaces for car-pooling and motorbikes

375 colleagues took part in the Step Challenge 2016

Flexible hours with a wide window of working hours, which helps reduce traffic congestion at peak times

Regular and occasional teleworking

10 service bikes with cloakrooms, showers and lockers for cyclists



70%

since 2010

6

Sustainable mobility

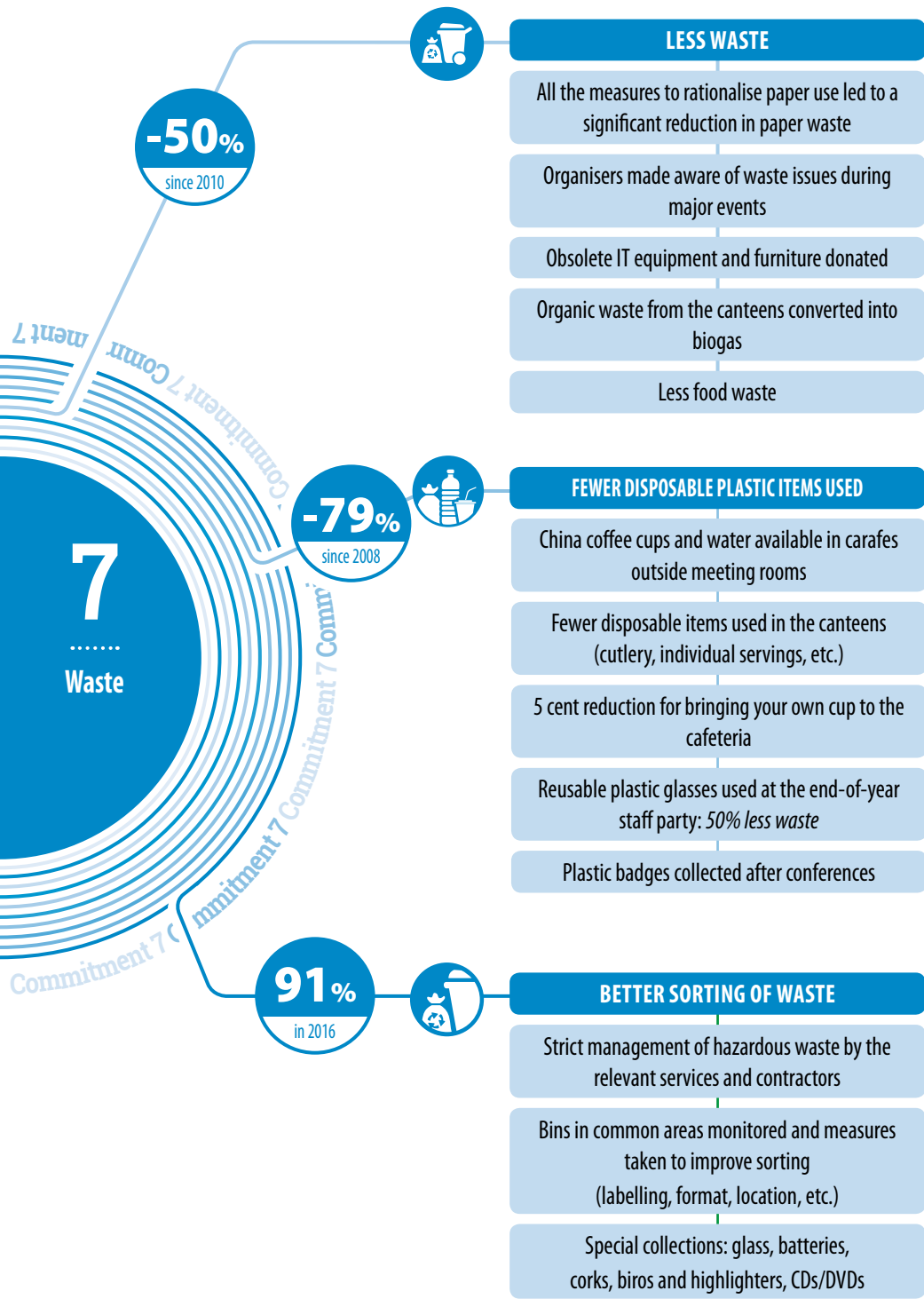
## VIDEOCONFERENCING

218% increase in use of videoconferencing rooms in 2016

New videoconferencing rooms available to staff and members. A promotion campaign made more people aware of these rooms and the advantages and services they offer



218%



## MEASURES DURING THE YEAR

Network of EMAS contacts in each unit

Waste Reduction Week: glass bottles distributed to limit the use of plastic

Lunchtime conferences on water and food eco-labels

Staff party with staff committees: reusable plastic glasses used

Interinstitutional Green Week

EMAS newsletter brought out each quarter





## BIODIVERSITY

The Committees occupy a surface area of 13 500 m<sup>2</sup> of which nearly 4 000 m<sup>2</sup> is made up of green areas (grounds and roofs).

The EESC was the first European body in Brussels to join the urban beekeeping movement by installing two hives on the roofs.

Green areas maintained without chemical pesticides or fertilisers

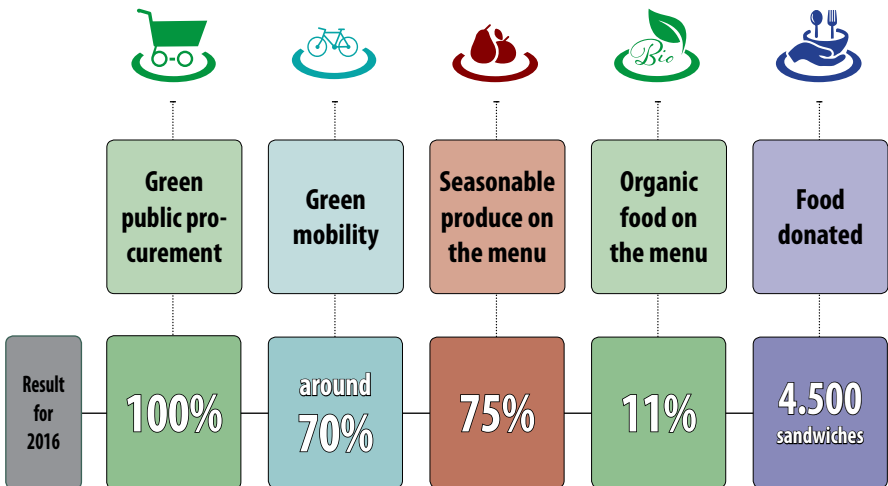
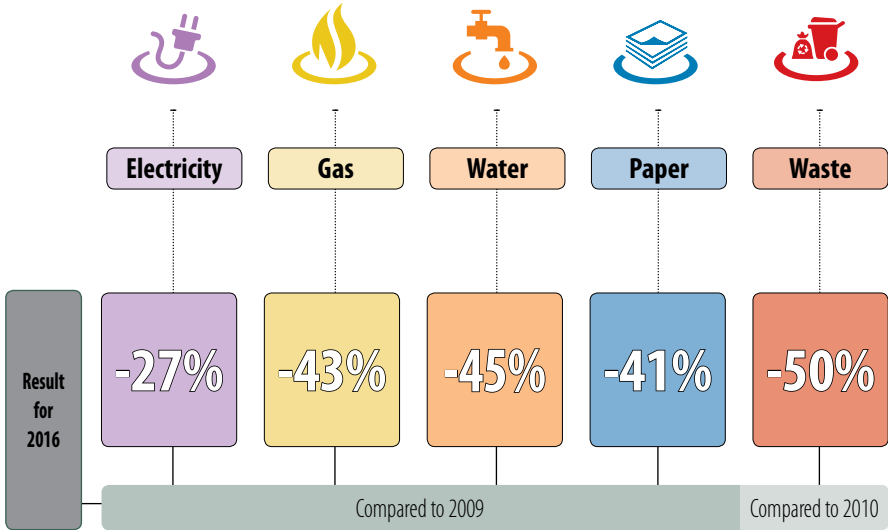
Honey-yielding plants planted on green roofs

Organic food available in the canteens





# Results for 2016





# Highlights of 2016

<b>January</b>	Food donation project – operational phase following test phase
<b>February</b>	Promotion of new videoconferencing rooms
	Renovation of lighting in JDE car park and bathrooms
<b>March</b>	Conference on the quality of tap and bottled water
	Renovation of bamboo containers to reduce leaks and make watering more efficient
<b>May</b>	EMAS annual management review
	Interinstitutional Green Week
<b>June</b>	Verification audit by Vinçotte
	Lunchtime conference on food eco-labels
	Organic Week
<b>July</b>	Launch of carbon inventory
<b>August</b>	Tests on a shorter window for air conditioning successful
<b>September</b>	Publication of the environmental statement 2016
	Pulses Week
	Mobility Week
	Updated environmental policy signed by the presidents and secretaries-general
<b>October</b>	Fair Trade @ Work Week
	Internal environmental audits
	The EESC's Sustainable Development Observatory took part in the conference on "local climate initiatives"
<b>November</b>	Zero Packaging Festival & promotion of tap water in conjunction with European Waste Reduction Week
<b>December</b>	Staff party – reusable plastic glasses used for first time



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