



Brussels, 3.11.2023
C(2023) 7207 final

COMMISSION DECISION

of 3.11.2023

**on the publication of the user's guide setting out the steps needed to participate in the
EU eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) pursuant to Regulation (EC) No
1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council**

(Text with EEA relevance)

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(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

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 EU eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), repealing Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 and Commission Decisions 2001/681/EC and 2006/193/EC, and in particular Article 46(5) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) The user's guide was adopted by Commission Decision 2013/131/EU¹ and was subsequently amended by Commission Decisions (EU) 2017/2285² and (EU) 2020/1802³. Since further amendments are to be made, Decision 2013/131/EU should be replaced in the interest of clarity.
- (2) The objective of the Union eco-management and audit scheme (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.
- (3) Interested organisations should receive additional information and guidance about the steps needed to participate in EMAS. That information and guidance shall be kept up to date based on the experience gained in the operation of EMAS and in response to additional needs for guidance identified.

¹ Commission Decision 2013/131/EU of 4 March 2013 establishing the user's guide setting out the steps needed to participate in EMAS, under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (notified under document C(2013) 1114) (OJ L 76, 19.3.2013, p. 1).

² Commission Decision (EU) 2017/2285 of 6 December 2017 amending the user's guide setting out the steps needed to participate in EMAS, under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (notified under document C(2017) 8072) (OJ L 328, 12.12.2017, p. 38)

³ Commission Decision (EU) 2020/1802 of 27 November 2020 amending the user's guide setting out the steps needed to participate in EMAS, under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) (notified under document C(2020) 8151) (OJ L 402, 1.12.2020, p. 51).

- (4) Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 has recently been amended as regards the reference value of the core indicators and the structured context analysis of the organisation. Those changes should be reflected in the users' guide. In addition, the guidance on the sampling method for verification of multisite organisations should be simplified and the structure the user guide improved. Finally, additional examples should be provided in order to make the users' guide more user-friendly and potentially increase the number of EMAS registrations,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The user's guide setting out the steps needed to participate in Union eco-management and audit scheme as set out in the Annex is hereby published.

Article 2

Decision 2013/131/EU is repealed.

Article 3

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 3.11.2023

For the Commission
Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS
Member of the Commission

