

**DIRECTOR DECISION 2026-32**

**of 28 September 2026**

**on Environmental Policy**

THE DIRECTOR OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR THE COOPERATION OF ENERGY REGULATORS,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2019/942 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 establishing a European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (recast)<sup>1</sup>, and, in particular, Article 24(1)(e) thereof,

Having regard to Decision No 14/2025 of the Administrative Board of the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators of 12 September 2025 appointing the undersigned as Director *ad interim* who is acting within the scope of the mandate conferred by the Administrative Board to ensure business continuity in the operation and the day-to-day management of ACER during the interim period until the newly appointed Director takes up his/her duties,

Whereas:

- (1) Pursuant to Article 24(1)(e) of Regulation (EU) 2019/942, the Director of the Agency is to take the necessary measures, as regards adopting internal administrative instructions and publishing notices, to ensure the functioning of the Agency in accordance with this Regulation.
- (2) The Agency supports the functioning of an integrated, transparent, and sustainable internal EU energy market. In carrying out its mandate, the Agency recognizes its responsibility to minimize the environmental impact of its operations and to contribute to the Union's broader sustainability objectives.
- (3) The Agency acknowledges the importance of complying with applicable environmental legislation and environmental commitments relevant to its activities. To this end, the Agency seeks to implement an environmental management system in accordance with Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 (EMAS)<sup>2</sup> and to integrate environmental considerations into its governance, operational planning, and organisational culture, to the extent feasible.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 158, 16.06.2019, p.22.

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

- (4) The Agency considers that the adoption of an Environmental Policy will provide a framework for establishing environmental objectives and targets relevant for activities carried out under the Agency's operational control.
- (5) This Decision is considered necessary to provide organisational clarity and legal certainty as well as to ensure business continuity in the operation and the day-to-day management of the Agency,

**HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:**

**Article 1**

- (1) The Environmental Policy of the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators, set out in Annex I to this Decision, is hereby adopted.
- (2) This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Ljubljana, on 28 September 2026.



Volker Zuleger  
Director *ad interim*

## **Annex I: Environmental Policy of the European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators**

### **Policy Statement:**

The Agency is committed to promoting a high level of environmental performance and continual development of its environmental management practices, in accordance with the requirements of the EMAS Regulation. The Agency will therefore aim to:

#### **Compliance and governance**

- Comply with relevant environmental legislation, while monitoring regulatory developments relevant to the Agency's activities.
- Seek to maintain and further develop, implement, and continually improve an environmental management system consistent with EMAS requirements.
- Implement an appropriate governance framework for the Agency's environmental management.

#### **Continuous improvement**

- Continually enhance environmental performance by setting measurable objectives and regularly reviewing progress.
- Seek to integrate environmental considerations into strategic decision-making and risk management processes.

#### **Resource efficiency and emissions**

- Promote the efficient use of energy, water, materials, and office resources.
- Identify opportunities for environmental performance improvements where feasible.
- Support the transition towards low-carbon operational practices.

#### **Sustainable procurement and lifecycle thinking**

- Progressively undertake to incorporate environmental criteria into procurement procedures in line with Green Public Procurement principles.
- Undertake to encourage lifecycle approaches that prioritise durability, reuse, refurbishment, and responsible end-of-life treatment of equipment.

## **Waste and circularity**

- Seek to prevent waste generation where possible and promote reuse, recycling, and responsible disposal practices.

## **Staff engagement and environmental culture**

- Foster an organisational culture that supports environmental responsibility through awareness initiatives, communication, and staff engagement.
- Encourage environmentally responsible behaviour among staff, contractors, and service providers.

## **Data, transparency, and reporting**

- Aim to strengthen environmental data collection and monitoring to support evidence-based decision-making.
- Communicate environmental performance transparently through the publication of an Environmental Statement following EMAS registration.

## **Stakeholder cooperation**

- Consider the expectations of stakeholders and cooperate with institutional partners, including participation in inter-agency initiatives (for example the EU Agencies Greening Network).

## **Organisational Responsibility**

Management provides strategic direction for the Environmental Management System and ensures its implementation within the Agency.

Managers contribute and take environmental considerations into account, where relevant, within their areas of responsibility.

Agency staff, including Seconded National Experts and trainees, contribute, within the scope of their functions, to the achievements of ACER's environmental objectives.

## **Operational Context**

The Agency acknowledges that:

- it may not exercise full control over certain building-related environmental aspects. The Agency will nevertheless aim to actively engage with property managers and service providers to influence environmental performance, as appropriate;
- the planned relocation to new premises represents a strategic opportunity to further strengthen environmental performance and monitoring capabilities. Sustainability considerations will be integrated into this transition to the extent feasible.

## **Review and Communication**

The Environmental Policy of the Agency will be:

- documented, implemented, and maintained as part of the Agency's environmental management system;
- communicated to all staff and relevant external stakeholders;
- made publicly available;
- periodically reviewed to ensure its continued suitability and effectiveness.