

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT 2019

2018 data

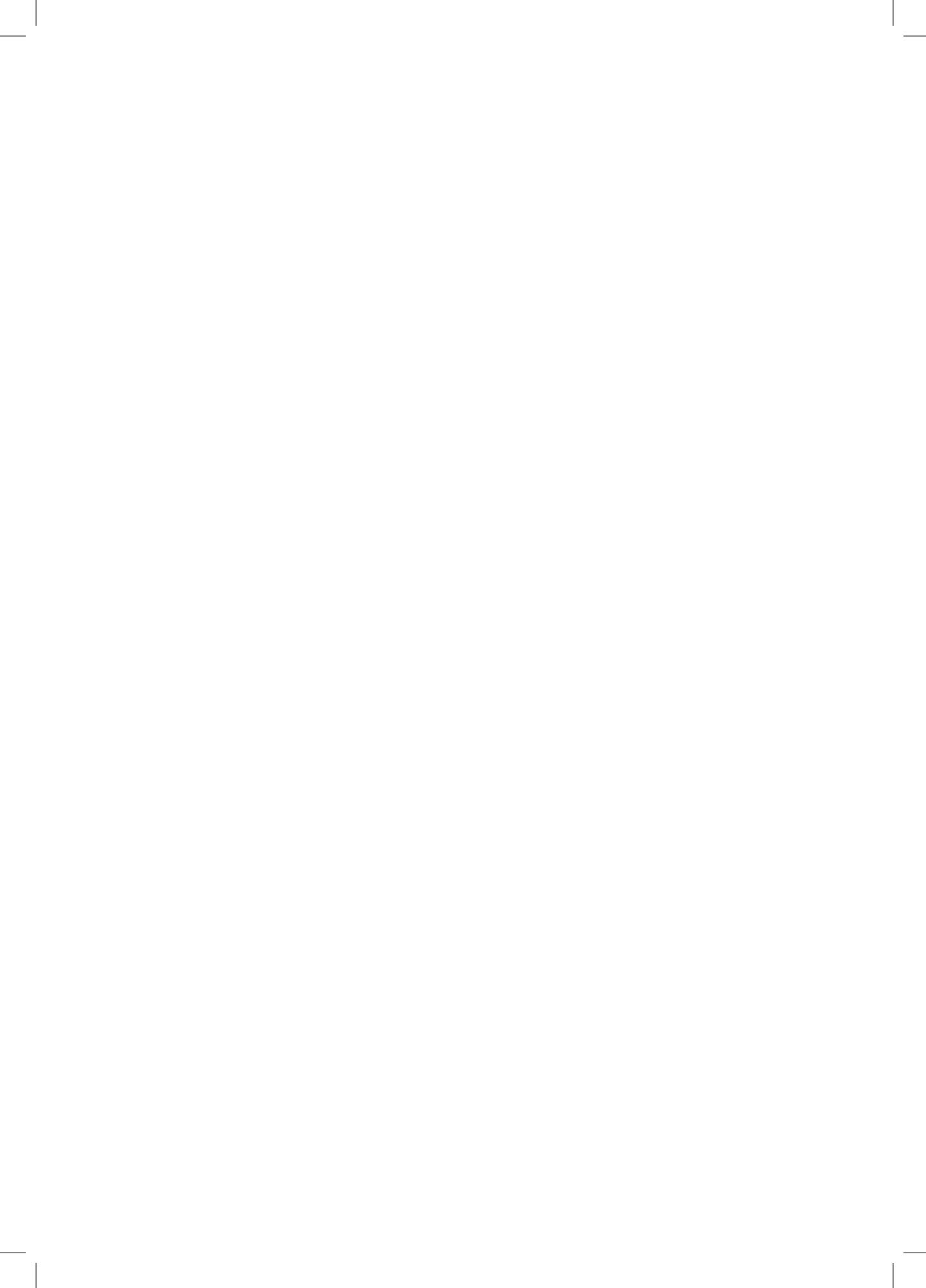


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1. FOREWORD

On 25 January 2016, the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union (GSC) obtained EMAS¹ registration, validating the quality of the environmental management system in place since 2010.

This statement contains an update on the GSC's environmental performance up to 2018. The continued implementation of an effective environmental management system has enabled us to go even further in reducing our energy consumption and to maintain the downward trend in the amount of paper used annually per person. These positive results bolster the credibility of the environmental initiatives which have been in place at the GSC for a number of years, and which have been validated by the EMAS registration. Our environmental management system makes it possible not only to measure and monitor the impact of our activities so that they can be better controlled, but also to continuously improve our performance. One of the main aims of environmental management is to raise awareness among our staff of how to integrate sustainable development principles into their day-to-day work. The GSC has thus been exemplary in its application of the environmental policies adopted by the Council of the European Union.



*The Secretary-General
of the Council of the European Union
Jeppe Tranholm-Mikkelsen*

¹ EMAS: *Eco-Management and Audit Scheme*, means the Union's eco-management and audit scheme as defined by Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amended by Commission Regulations (EU) 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026.



2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The European Council is an institution that defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union (EU). It sets the EU's policy agenda, traditionally by adopting conclusions during European Council meetings, which identify issues of concern and actions to take. However, it is not one of the Union's legislating institutions, so does not negotiate or adopt EU laws.

The members of the European Council are the heads of state or government of the European Union Member States, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy also takes part in European Council meetings.

The European Council meets at least twice every six months. Its meetings, often referred to as 'EU summits', are held in Brussels. Meetings are chaired by the European Council President, who can convene extraordinary European Council meetings when needed.

2.2. THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

The Council of the European Union, commonly referred to as the 'Council of Ministers' or the 'Council', is a key European Union decision-maker. The Council is the institution that represents the governments of the Member States, in which the national ministers of all EU countries meet to:

- negotiate and adopt legislative acts, in most cases together with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, also known as 'codetermination'. In these cases, the Council legislates on the basis of proposals submitted by the European Commission;
- coordinate Member State policies in areas such as economic and budgetary policy, education, culture, youth and sport, and employment policy;
- define and implement the EU's foreign and security policy, which is based on the guidelines set by the European Council. Together with the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the Council ensures the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action;
- conclude international agreements;
- adopt the Union's budget, together with the European Parliament.

2.3. THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL

The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) ensures that the European Council and the Council of the European Union operate smoothly and gives them all the necessary assistance so that they can perform the missions conferred on them by the treaties to further the development of the European Union. The GSC advises and supports the

European Council, the Council and their presidents in all areas of activity, as well as in the context of ministerial meetings and intergovernmental conferences.

The GSC provides logistical support and handles the practical organisation of meetings (including the management of meeting rooms, document production and translation).

In addition, the GSC Legal Service assists the European Council, the Council and its preparatory bodies, the Presidency, and the General Secretariat, in order to ensure the legality and the drafting quality of legal acts. The Legal Service also represents the European Council and the Council in proceedings before the Courts of the European Union.

The GSC is based in Brussels, where the European Council and the Council of the European Union usually meet. GSC staff work in the Justus Lipsius, Lex and Europa buildings. All of these buildings are located on rue de la Loi/Wetstraat. The GSC also manages the Council crèche, situated on avenue de la Brabançonne/Brabançonnelaan, Brussels.

All of these activities have an impact on the environment, which the GSC endeavours to reduce through high-quality environmental management. In January 2016, the EMAS registration and ISO 14001 certification were further official recognition of the GSC's high-quality environmental management.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AT THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE COUNCIL

3.1. THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The environmental management system set up at the GSC complies with the ‘Eco-Management and Audit Scheme’ (EMAS) environmental management system. EMAS aims to improve the environmental performance of organisations by helping them to control the effects of their activities on the environment.

This environmental management system is implemented continuously in the following phases:

- 1) The GSC carries out an environmental review in order to identify the effects of its activities on the environment, and then to evaluate these effects according to their severity, frequency and control, or on the basis of any applicable regulatory requirements. This environmental review is regularly updated and allows significant environmental aspects to be identified.
- 2) The environmental policy of the GSC is then established or confirmed. This involves an undertaking to comply with applicable environmental regulations, and the willingness to continually improve and communicate to interested parties the objectives and results of the environmental management system.
- 3) The environmental policy is transformed into an environmental programme which aims to control significant environmental aspects and to improve environmental performance. This programme includes working instructions and thematic action plans accompanied by objectives to achieve within reasonable time frames. Great importance is placed on raising awareness and active participation by staff.
- 4) Independent internal auditors periodically verify the progress of the implementation of the environmental programme, compliance with regulatory requirements and the environmental management system’s compliance with EMAS requirements. The efficiency of the environmental programme and the conclusions of these audits are analysed at the Environment Steering Committee during periodic management reviews.
- 5) The objectives and results of the environmental programme are set out in the environmental statement, which is published on the Council’s website and made available to interested parties.

3.2. SCOPE

The environmental management system applies to the GSC’s activities in the four buildings it occupies in the Brussels-Capital region (Justus Lipsius, Lex, Europa and the crèche).

As well as office space and meeting rooms, the Justus Lipsius, Lex and Europa buildings house the following services: kitchens, restaurants, archiving, printing, reprographics,

IT rooms, sports rooms, waste disposal areas, loading bays, sick rooms, libraries and technical rooms, amongst others. The Justus Lipsius, Lex, Europa and crèche buildings also have some green areas.

The following buildings and their principal uses are included in the scope of environmental management:

BUILDING	LOCATION	SURFACE AREA (m ²)	HEATED SURFACE AREA (m ²) ^(*)	STATUS	PRIMARY USE
Justus Lipsius	Brussels	206 205	145 134	Owned	Offices, training and conference rooms, catering, archives, storage of materials
Lex	Brussels	75 562	62 775	Owned	Offices, training and conference rooms, catering
Crèche	Brussels	5 363	4 457	Owned	Offices, crèche, catering
Europa	Brussels	66 712	60.229	To be transferred to GSC ownership	Conference rooms, offices, catering

(*) The air-conditioned or heated surface area is taken into account in certain environmental performance indicators.

The transfer of ownership of the Europa building from the Belgian State to the Council of the European Union has not yet taken place. However, since the building has been occupied by the GSC since January 2017, it is included in the scope of the environmental statement from 2019 onwards (with data for 2018).

The activities of the European Council President and of his closest aides, as well as those of the Council of the European Union and the Member States, are excluded from the scope of the environmental management system. These include processes independent of the functioning of the GSC, over which it has no influence.

3.2.1. The Justus Lipsius building

The Justus Lipsius building was the headquarters of the Council of the European Union and its General Secretariat until 2016. Its official address is rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 175, 1048 Brussels. The building stands on a four-hectare plot bordered by rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, rue Froissart/Froissartstraat, Chaussée d'Etterbeek/Etterbeeksesteenweg and the Residence Palace. The building consists of three distinct but closely linked parts: the Conference Centre, the Secretariat and the substructure.

The Conference Centre looks out onto rue de la Loi/Wetstraat and consists of four wings surrounding a large atrium. It can accommodate up to 5 000 people.

The Conference Centre is comprised of rooms intended for meetings of the European Council, the Council and its preparatory bodies, accommodation for the Presidency and delegations from the Member States, and space for related activities.

On the lower floors, it contains accommodation for the press and restaurants; the VIP entrance is below and behind the main entrance.

The Secretariat part is built around four large patios over 11 levels, forming a terraced construction which extends from rue Froissart/Froissartstraat down to chaussée d'Etterbeek/Etterbeeksesteenweg. It houses the offices of various departments of the General Secretariat of the Council, including the workshops and archives.

The substructure consists of six levels below ground, descending from rue de la Loi/Wetstraat to Chaussée d'Etterbeek/Etterbeeksesteenweg. It has a total area of about 83 000 m² and comprises 1 870 parking spaces, general storage areas, various other storage rooms, archive space and an unloading bay.

3.2.2. The Lex building

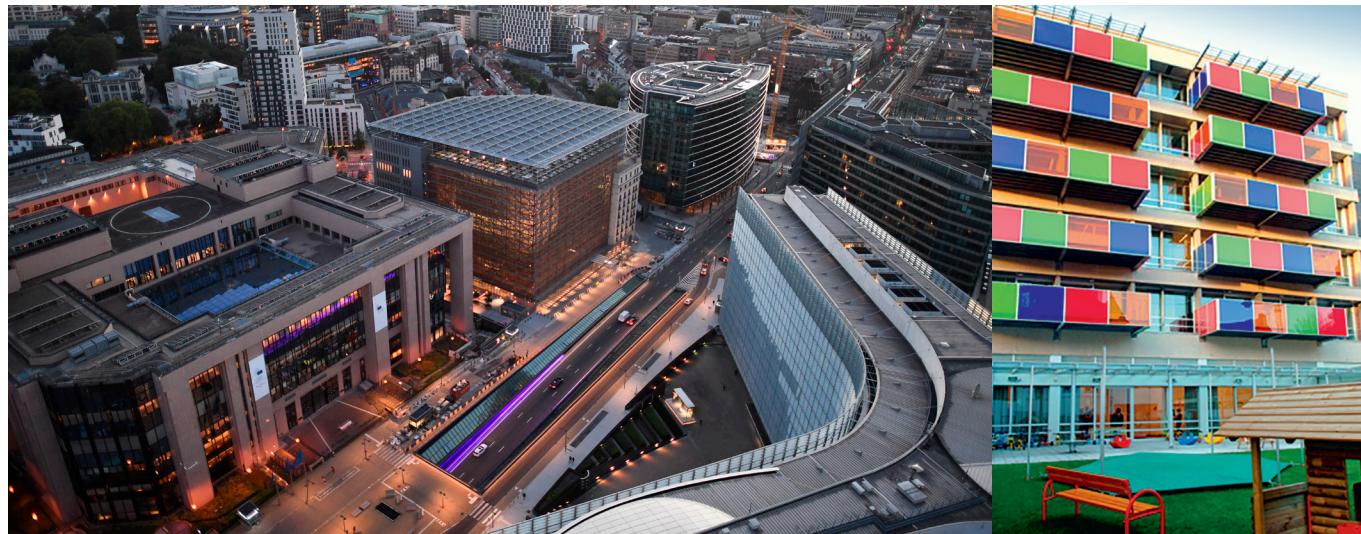
The Lex building is mainly occupied by the GSC's Translation Service. Its official address is rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 145, 1048 Brussels. In total, around 1 200 people work in the building, which comprises offices, conference rooms, multipurpose rooms, a cafeteria, a restaurant, and 199 parking spaces.

3.2.3. The crèche building

The Council crèche is located at avenue de la Brabançonne/Brabançonnaan 100, 1030 Brussels. The building was inaugurated in 2006 and provides appropriate accommodation for up to 180 children. The crèche offers an open-air play area, a covered play area, multipurpose rooms and rooms for teaching and support staff. It also has indoor and outdoor parking spaces.

3.2.4. The Europa building

The Europa building, which consists of the former Residence Palace block A and an additional structure built inside it, is located at rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 155. It is the new home of the Council of the European Union and the European Council. Since January 2017 a small number of GSC staff, Member States' permanent representations, the President of the Council and the Secretary-General have worked in the building. There are approximately 250 offices and around 10 meeting rooms in the renovated section of the Residence Palace. The modern structure, meanwhile, houses meetings of the European Council and the Council, as well as certain meetings of preparatory bodies. It includes a press room, three large meeting rooms with enhanced interpreting facilities, a number of reception rooms, a restaurant and a cafeteria.



Justus Lipsius, Lex, Europa and Crèche buildings

3.3. SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

An environmental review is a fundamental part of an environmental management system. The review consists of 'an initial comprehensive analysis of environmental aspects, environmental impacts and environmental performance related to an organisation's activities, products and services'. 'Environmental aspect' means 'an element of activities, products or services [...] that has, or can have, an impact on the environment'.

The review takes into account:

- on the one hand, direct environmental aspects associated with the activities, products and services of the organisation itself over which it has direct management control;
- on the other hand, indirect environmental aspects that may result from the interaction of an organisation with third parties, which can to a reasonable degree be influenced by the organisation.

Once all the environmental aspects and impacts have been identified, criteria are established for assessing the scale of the impacts and determining which are significant. The weighting of the aspects is carried out using an approach to determine the severity of the environmental impact, the actual or potential frequency of the aspect and the level of control of it. The weighting based on those criteria provides a quantitative result, making it possible to identify the GSC's main priorities for environmental programming. An environmental aspect is deemed significant if there is an applicable environmental regulation or if the mathematical product of the severity, frequency (or probability) and operational control of the aspect exceeds a set threshold.

This review process, first carried out in October 2012, has been updated regularly. The following table summarises the significant aspects related to the GSC's activities and their origin:

TOPIC	SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
Air	Emissions of pollutants (NO _x , CO, VOCs)	Air pollution	Operation of heating and cogeneration installations Movement of people Transport of goods and merchandise
	CO ₂ and fluorinated greenhouse gas emissions	Climate change	Movement of people Transport of goods and merchandise Gas consumption (heating, cogeneration, etc.) Air-conditioning in buildings and cooling for catering purposes
	HCFC emissions	Ozone layer depletion	Old cooling units
Biodiversity	Choice of food and its origin	Weakening of ecosystems	Production of meals and catering products Construction and renovation works Cleaning of premises; maintenance of equipment and green areas Purchasing policy for goods Pest control measures
	Choice of materials and products		
	Choice of building sites and types	Destruction of natural habitats, topography; visual pollution	Buildings policy
Waste	Waste production, storage and end-of-life treatment	Air, water and soil pollution; threats to biodiversity	Waste management policy Policy on withdrawing equipment from service and reusing withdrawn equipment Equipment maintenance Fitting out/refit of premises, renovation, construction Office activities Catering
Water	Discharge of waste water	Risk of eutrophication	Sanitary installations, cleaning, technical installations Storage of hazardous products and waste Catering
		Water and soil pollution	
Resources	Use of paper and supplies	Depletion of natural resources	Office activities Printing
	Water consumption		Sanitary systems Production of meals Technical equipment
	Energy consumption		Heating, air-conditioning and ventilation of premises Purchasing policy for goods, consumables, materials and IT equipment Operation of electrical and IT equipment Lighting Movement of people and transport of goods Policy on the use of office space Practices in the use of technical kitchen equipment Management of data centres

TOPIC	SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT	ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS OR SERVICES
Public procurement	Environmental performance of contractors	Miscellaneous environmental impacts caused by third parties	Purchase of electricity Leasing of official cars Renovation or construction projects Waste management Catering Maintenance of technical installations Purchase of (IT) equipment, etc.
	Sustainability and impacts of chosen products and services		
Environmental and health risks	Malfunctioning, leaks, spillage of hazardous products, waste, etc.	Air, water and soil pollution	Delivery, storage, use of hazardous products for the maintenance of technical installations Design and management of technical installations containing oil, fuel or other fluids Storage of gas bottles (welding workshop) Waste management and storage Detection gate
		Health risks	
	Dust and noise	Noise and air pollution	Renovation and maintenance of buildings Transport of goods and movement of people
		Health risks	

3.4. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

In 2013 the Secretary-General of the Council of the EU adopted an environmental policy formalising the GSC's commitment to become actively involved in a high-quality environmental management initiative. This policy was updated in 2017. The resulting environmental programming entails improvements as regards, for example, more rational use of energy and natural resources, and waste management, while also covering other environmental topics such as mobility and sustainable public procurement. The GSC's environmental commitment is thus enshrined in the environmental policy set out below:

The General Secretariat of the Council (GSC) is aware of the importance of environmental issues and has been taking steps to improve the environmental performance of its activities for years. Recognising the positive contribution it can make to the sustainable development of society, the GSC aims to enshrine the principles of sound environmental management in its day-to-day work. As a result of the environmental management programme put in place as from 2011, the GSC's environmental management system is registered under the EMAS Regulation on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme. Determined to continuously improve the environmental performance of its activities and to ensure compliance with the applicable European, national and regional/local environmental legislation and rules, as well as other compliance obligations, the GSC undertakes to:

- maintain the EMAS registration of its environmental management system;
- prevent pollution by reducing the environmental impact of its activities and by ensuring efficient use of energy, water, products, consumables and materials;
- reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its operations and activities;
- actively promote sustainable mobility in staff commuting and work-related journeys;
- work on possible options for reducing the environmental impacts of delegates' travels;
- contribute to creating a cleaner and thus more liveable city through reduced car use and enabling a greater uptake of electric vehicle use by its staff;
- set up and monitor key performance indicators and objectives to quantify and measure its continuous improvement in terms of environmental performance; include environmental criteria in the relevant public procurement procedures and in the rules on events organisation;
- avoid producing waste with particular attention to eliminating single-use items, encourage the re-use of written-off material resources and promote the recycling of end-of-life materials;
- ensure appropriate management of hazardous products and waste in line with the applicable legislation;
- encourage environmentally-friendly behaviour in all its staff, contractors and visitors through training, information and awareness-raising;
- promote transparency on matters covered by this decision in communication and dialogue with the public and other interested parties;
- apply the above to all its activities and its buildings.

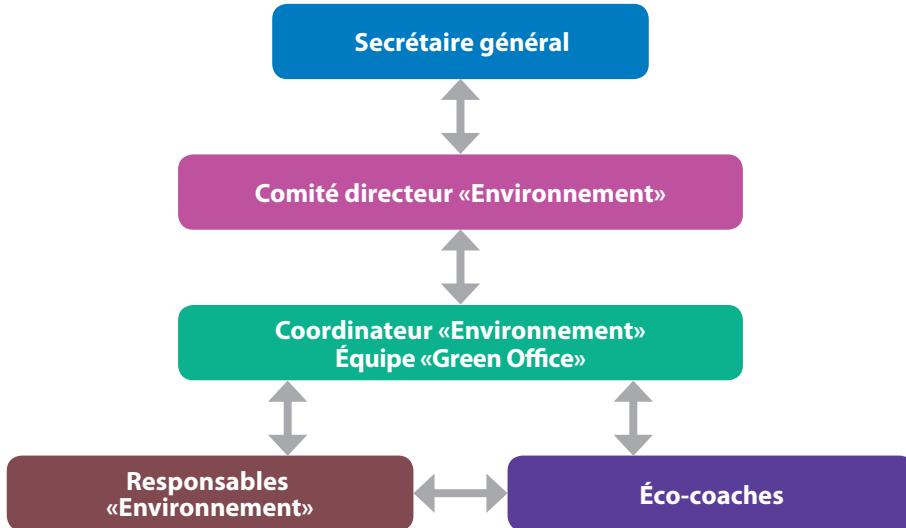
The Environment Steering Committee adopts environmental objectives, targets and action plans, supervises all activities relating to the environmental management system and makes provision for the necessary resources. The Environment Coordinator takes charge of the day-to-day administration of the environmental management system and coordinates the implementation of environmental programme at the GSC. The environmental management team assist the Environment Coordinator in operating the environmental management system. The Environmental Officers ensure that the activities of their respective services comply with the current Environmental Policy. The voluntary network of eco-coaches provide for a grassroots approach in informing and engaging the personnel of the GSC in environmental issues.

Brussels, 19 December 2019.

*The Secretary-General
of the Council of the European Union*

3.5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The various actors involved in environmental management at the GSC are set out below:



The Secretary-General lays down the GSC's environmental policy and determines the organisational structure for the establishment of the environmental management system (EMS).

The Environment Steering Committee adopts environmental objectives, targets and action plans, supervises all activities relating to the EMS and makes provision for the necessary resources. It adopts the environmental statement and the action programme. It is chaired by the Director-General for Organisational Development and Services and consists of the directors and heads of the departments involved in environmental management.

The Environment Coordinator is responsible, with their colleagues, for putting in place the methodology and procedures of the EMS, managing environmental permits and coordinating environmental programming. The Environment Coordinator and their colleagues make up the Green Office environmental management team, and are responsible, among other things, for environmental regulations, energy policy, environmental indicators, green procurement, mobility, awareness raising and communication.

Environmental officers are appointed in the departments most involved in environmental management. They are well acquainted with the workings of their departments. They monitor environmental issues in their own departments, liaise with the Environment Coordinator and support the implementation and operational monitoring of the environmental management system.

Eco-coaches are the key contact persons in the directorates and units of the GSC. Their incorporation in the organisational structure of the environmental management system ensures an approach which is in touch with the grass roots, and aims to get staff involved in implementing the environmental programme.

In all, this cross-departmental approach involves almost 80 people working permanently or regularly on environmental management.

3.6. APPLICABLE REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

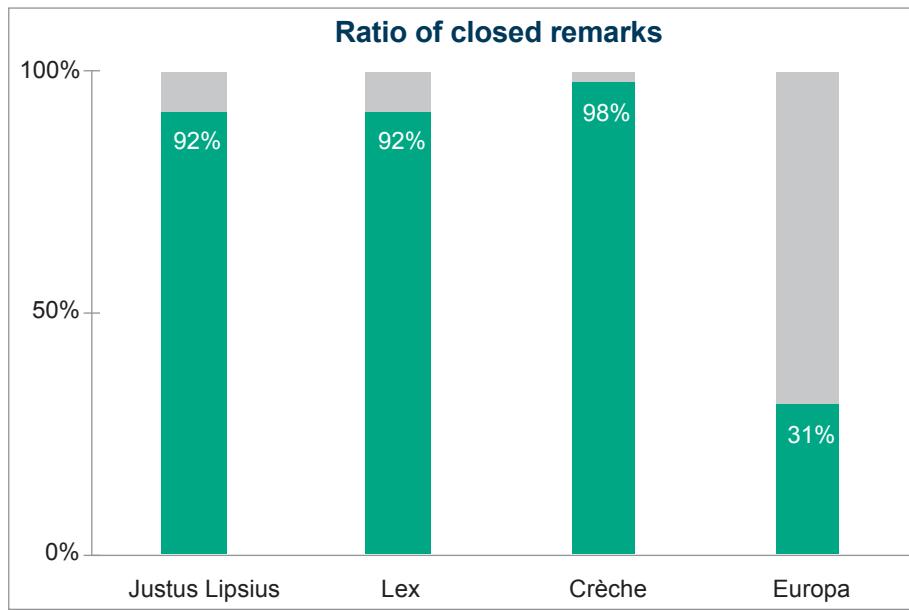
The GSC is committed to ensuring compliance with the environmental legislation and regulations in force in the Brussels-Capital Region.

Every one of the buildings is covered by its own environmental permit issued by Bruxelles Environnement/Leefmilieu Brussel, the region's environmental authority. The monitoring of legislation and regulations is ensured by the establishment and updating of a comprehensive register of applicable regulations and by regular compliance audits. The register is updated on a monthly basis for the various environmental activities concerned.

The GSC monitors environmental permits and compliance and informs the operational departments of regulatory developments so that they can adapt the relevant work processes where necessary.

In the event of an accident or incident entailing environmental or health and safety risks, the GSC will immediately inform Bruxelles Environnement/Leefmilieu Brussel.

The GSC is continually engaged in putting in place measures to reduce the number of outstanding comments on instances of deviation from the legal requirements, as shown in the chart below. Comments can relate to non-compliance identified during a regular check or audit, new requirements brought in by legislation or the environmental permit, the follow-up to an environmental incident, a preventive measure, and so forth. More than 90 % of the comments on the Justus Lipsius, Lex and crèche buildings have been resolved or closed. 31 % of the comments have been closed for Europa, a new building for which the GSC does not yet hold an environmental permit. Only two of the outstanding comments relate to major points, namely the organisation and classification of rooms containing dangerous products and the installation of thermostatic valves on the radiators in the stairwells. Overall, the other outstanding comments are of an administrative nature and largely relate to tailoring the environmental permit to the building's technical installations.



Centralised technical management control centre, Justus Lipsius building

4. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

The GSC has established a multi-faceted and constantly developing environmental programme which adheres to the guidelines laid down in the environmental policy. The measures developed within this programme aim to reduce environmental impacts and are gradually leading to improved control over significant environmental aspects. The environmental programme is organised by topic or by environmental aspect.

The GSC employs some 3 000 officials and, on average, receives 2 000 people from outside the GSC each day, including the members and experts of the national delegations, journalists, staff of outside firms, visitors, etc. Changes in environmental impact are weighted in some cases by the surface area of the buildings or by the average number of people working in them.

For ease of reading, the graphs in the following paragraphs illustrating year-by-year trends in various environmental aspects do not include the years 2011 to 2014. The year 2010, in which several multiannual plans were started, is kept as the reference year.

For the years from 2010 to 2017, all indicators relating to a number of people are calculated in proportion to the occupants of the Justus Lipsius, Lex and crèche buildings, with the exception of data relating to paper use, waste and mobility, which for technical reasons also include those working in Europa.

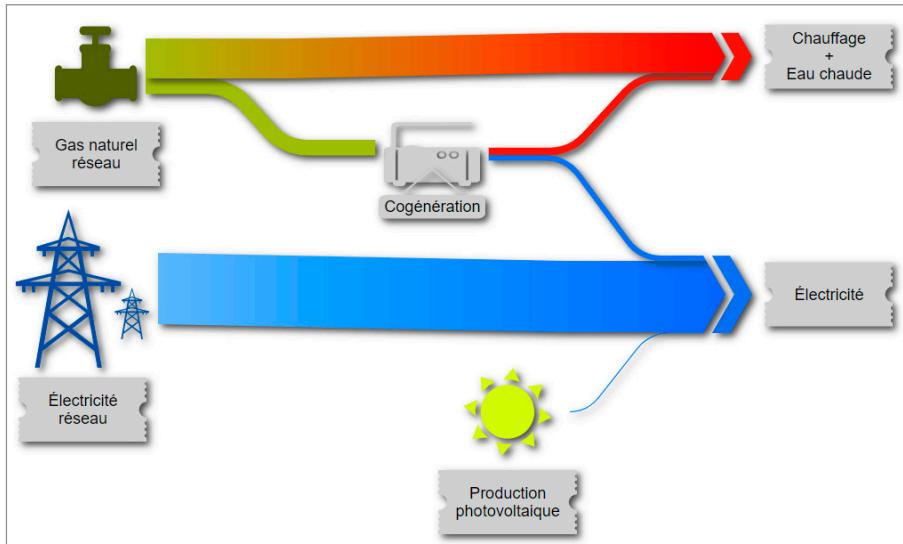
From 2018, the same indicators are calculated on the basis of figures obtained from the reading of access badges in real time. The resultant occupancy rate is around 90 % of that calculated using the method applied in previous years. As a consequence, the indicators expressed relative to numbers of occupants were based on a lower rate, and thus generally had higher values, in 2018 than in 2017.

All data on the Europa building are available for 2018 onwards.

4.1. ENERGY

4.1.1. Background

Energy is used in several forms and entails the consumption of natural resources.



Gas is mainly used for the heating of buildings and domestic hot water production, and for cogenerating electricity and useful heat in the Justus Lipsius, Lex and Europa buildings.

Electricity is mainly used for lighting, the air conditioning and ventilation of buildings, IT infrastructure, active cooling in certain areas (such as the data centre), catering services, activity relating to the press centre and visitors, the operation of lifts, etc.

Annual consumption of gas and electricity in the Justus Lipsius, Lex and Europa buildings is also influenced by the number and type of events which are held there (summits, multilateral conferences, Council meetings, etc.).

4.1.2. Environmental performance indicators

Following the amendment to the EMAS Regulation, two energy indicators are used in this reporting exercise: one called 'direct energy' and the other to measure primary energy.

The 'direct energy' indicator reflects the amount of gas consumed plus the amount of electrical energy both drawn from the grid and generated on site by solar panels. This indicator gives a more comprehensive picture of energy consumption than the separate indicators for gas and electricity. The 'direct energy' indicator is particularly well suited to buildings with cogeneration equipment.

Primary energy consumption is an indicator used to measure the environmental impact of obtaining energy and transporting it from its source to the GSC buildings.

4.1.2.1. Direct energy

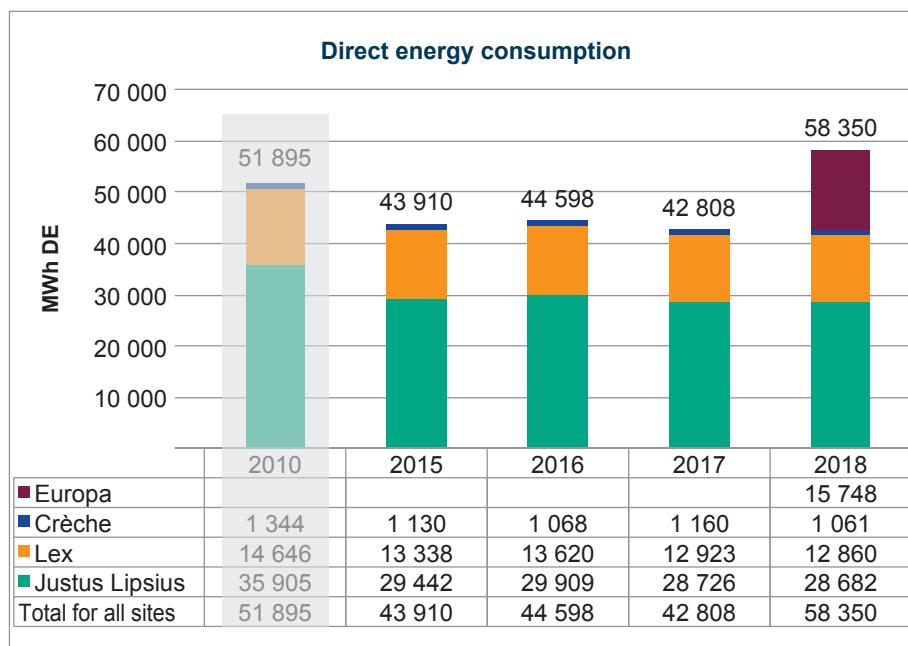


Figure 1: direct energy consumption

The addition of the Europa building in 2018 is clearly reflected in the 2018 figure for total direct energy consumption as compared to that from 2017. Since this indicator is not normalised (see explanation in paragraph 4.1.2.3), variations in outdoor temperature also affect overall consumption.

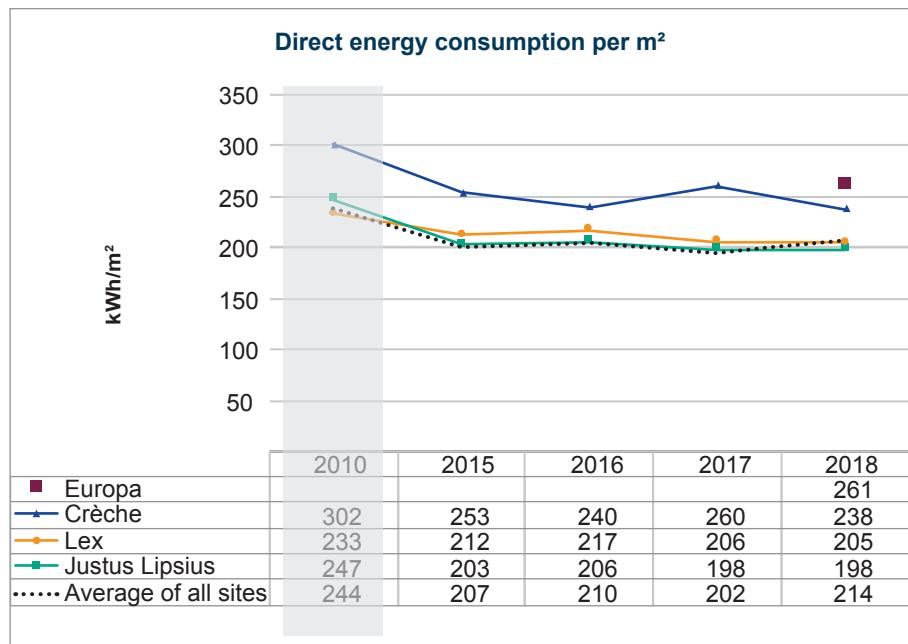


Figure 2: direct energy consumption per m²

Figure 2 clearly shows the ongoing improvement in our buildings' energy performance. Between 2010 and 2018, direct energy consumption per m² decreased by 30 kWh despite the inclusion of a new building. This decrease corresponds to approximately 12 % of consumption in 2010. As regards the energy performance of the Europa building, the technical control functions are still being optimised.

4.1.2.2. Electricity produced by solar panels and cogeneration

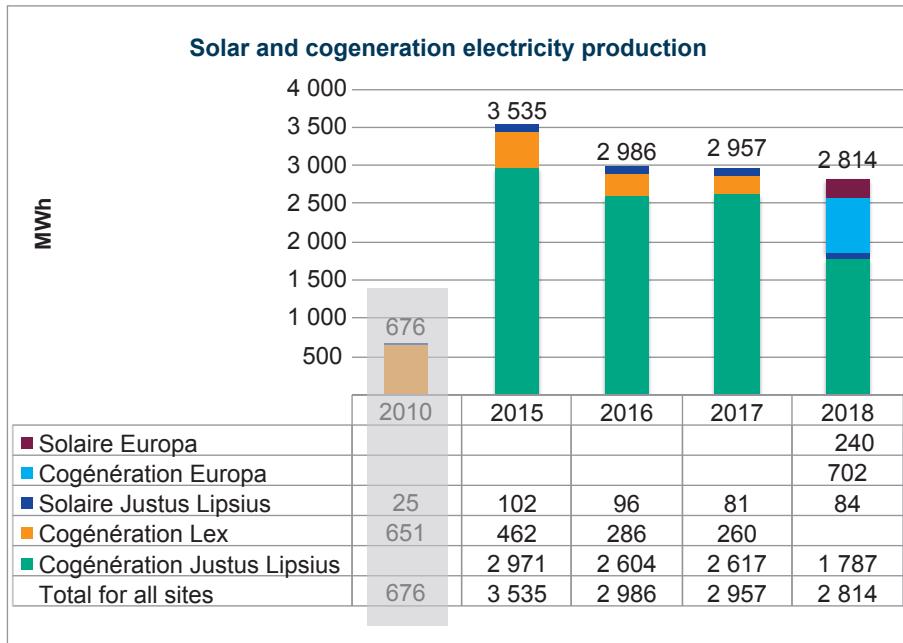


Figure 3: electricity produced by solar panels and cogeneration

Total electricity production in the Justus Lipsius, Lex and Europa buildings corresponds to around 8 % of our total electricity demand, which was 35 474 MWh in 2018.

Even though cogeneration was halted in the Lex in 2018 and the cogeneration system in the Justus Lipsius broke down in January – one of the months that usually sees the highest electricity production – total electricity production decreased by only around 5 % between 2017 and 2018. This was partly due to the addition of the Europa building's photovoltaic panels and cogeneration system to the existing facilities.

4.1.2.3. Primary energy

The energy performance of a building is generally measured in primary energy. This approach makes it possible to include the effect of high-efficiency energy conversion systems such as cogeneration on the consumption of non-renewable natural resources.

Primary energy is the 'raw' form of energy available (for example gas, coal, wood, etc.) before conversion into useful energy (such as electricity, heat, etc.). The consumption of electricity and gas in the Council buildings can thus be expressed in terms of primary

energy. Electricity bought from the grid is converted into primary energy using a conversion factor².

The fluctuation in annual gas consumption is closely linked to heating requirements in a given year. This 'climatic' effect can be evened out by normalising gas consumption linked to the heating requirements of the building, thus making it possible to compare developments from one year to the next. The normalisation of consumption is explained in Section 6.1.

The total normalised primary energy consumption in the Council's buildings was higher in 2018 (+14 055 MWh) than in 2010 (94 439 MWh), as shown in the chart below. This is mainly due to the addition of the Europa building.

The conversion factor applied to obtain the primary energy figure makes the increase in electricity consumption appear disproportionately large. Temperatures were higher in 2018 than in 2017, particularly between April and August, with a peak in July. As a result, the cooling systems required more energy than in previous years. In the crèche, which requires less cooling, consumption remained stable.

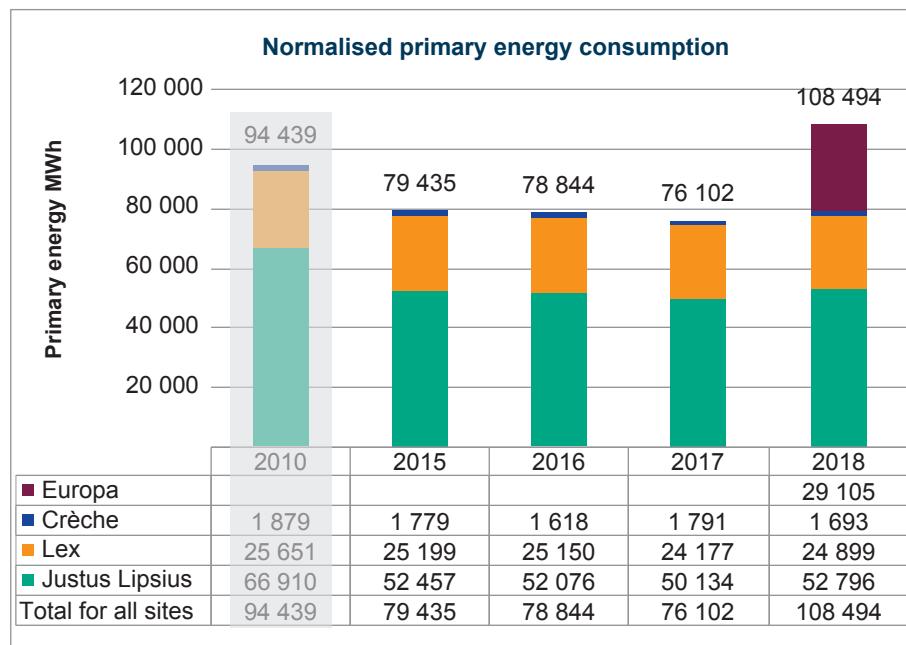


Figure 4: trend in primary energy consumption

The average energy performance for all sites fell from 444 kWh/m² in 2010 to 398 kWh/m² in 2018, as shown in Figure 5, which amounts to a 10 % decrease over that period.

² In accordance with the energy performance certification protocol for public buildings in the Brussels-Capital Region, a theoretical yield of 40 % is used to convert electricity bought from the grid into primary energy.

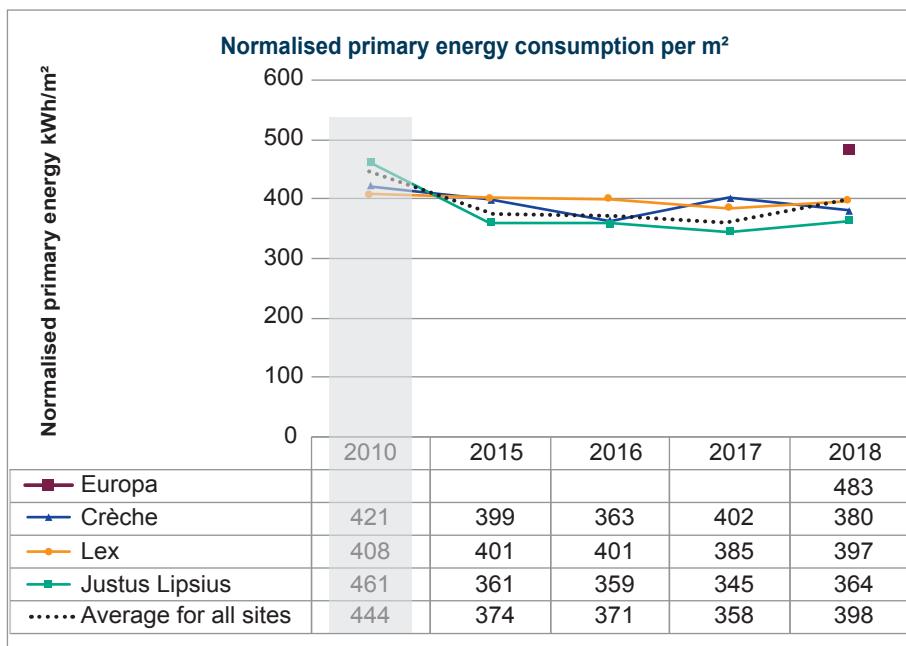


Figure 5: trend in specific primary energy consumption

Figure 6 shows the trend, by year, in normalised primary energy consumption per occupant of the Justus Lipsius, Lex, Europa and crèche buildings. Consumption has thus been corrected by an occupancy factor which allows the intensity of the Council's activities to be taken into account. The slight increase between 2017 and 2018 should be assessed in the light of the application of the new calculation method set out in the introductory paragraphs of Chapter 4.

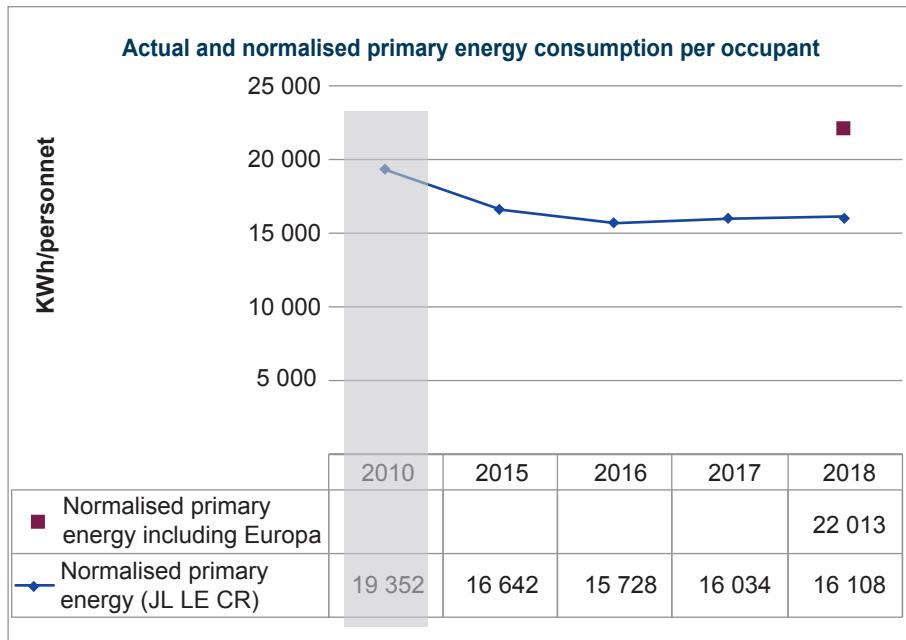


Figure 6: trend in normalised primary energy consumption per occupant

4.1.3. Objectives and action

4.1.3.1. Objectives

Directive 2012/27/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on energy efficiency came into force on 4 December 2012. The directive establishes a common framework of measures to promote energy efficiency in the Union in order to achieve the Union's major objective of a 20 % increase in energy efficiency by 2020 and to pave the way for further energy efficiency improvements beyond that date.

The Council of the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission jointly stated on 2 October 2012 that, due to the high profile of their buildings and the leading role they should play in the field of energy performance, they would, without prejudice to applicable rules on budgeting and public procurement, subject the buildings they own and occupy to the same requirements as are applicable to the buildings of Member States' central governments under Articles 5 and 6 of the directive.

The GSC is thus committed to ensuring that energy is used efficiently in all Council buildings. The target increase in efficiency for the Justus Lipsius, Lex and crèche buildings together for the 2010-2020 period is shown in table 1:

YEAR	NORMALISED CONSUMPTION	ENERGY SAVING COMPARED TO 2010	RELATIVE DECREASE COMPARED TO 2010
	in MWh	in MWh	in %
Reference: 2010	94 439	n. a.	n. a.
Outcome: 2018	79 389	15 050	-16 %
Objective: 2020	77 025	17 414	- 18 %

Note: n. a. = not applicable.

Table 1: 2020 energy efficiency objective for the Justus Lipsius, Lex and crèche buildings

The GSC undertook to cut its normalised primary energy consumption by 15 % between 2010 and 2020 in the Justus Lipsius, Lex and crèche buildings. That objective was achieved and surpassed, with an energy saving of 16 % in 2018 compared to 2010. The GSC also undertook to improve its energy performance by an average of 1.5 % per year between 2010 and 2020. This objective equates to a reduction of 66.7 kWh_{primary energy} per m² in the average energy consumption of all buildings in 2020 compared to 2010.

The overall objectives for reducing energy consumption from 2020 onwards will be reviewed in line with the Brussels-Capital Region's legislation, particularly the 'PLAGE' local action plan for energy management, and with the results of the energy audits already carried out and in progress, as will be shown in the next two points.

4.1.3.2. Action taken

The GSC has put in place concrete measures which have resulted in a structural improvement in energy performance since 2010. The action taken includes the following policies and measures (non-exhaustive list):

- the settings for heating during the winter and air-conditioning during the summer are monitored continuously in order to optimise consumption;

- lighting control by motion detection has been introduced in communal areas;
- LED technology is now used for lighting when fitting out areas;
- the server park in the data centre has been optimised by means of virtualisation (approximately 60 % of servers have already been virtualised);
- energy performance criteria are systematically incorporated in procurement procedures for IT equipment;
- the Europa building's technical installations are being optimised to meet its specific needs;
- there are regular awareness-raising campaigns targeted at the occupants of the buildings to encourage them to use energy more rationally, and energy performance certificates are displayed every year at the entrances to the buildings;
- the energy audits of the Justus Lipsius building in 2015 and the Lex building in 2016 have helped to identify the cost-effective energy performance potential and to devise an energy action plan for each of the two buildings;
- the energy audit of the crèche was completed in 2018, enabling an energy action plan to be drawn up for the building.

4.1.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC undertakes, for the 2019-2020 period, to:

- ensure the continued implementation of the existing measures described in point 4.1.3.2;
- implement and periodically evaluate the energy action plans for all the buildings audited;
- put in place a system to regulate the operating hours of the cold rooms in the Justus Lipsius building;
- continue to optimise the technical installations in the Europa building.

4.2. WATER

4.2.1. Background

In the Council buildings, water is used primarily in the kitchens, toilets and showers, as well as to clean the premises and to humidify the air in the offices and conference rooms. The GSC uses mains water in the Justus Lipsius, Lex, crèche and Europa buildings, but also rainwater in the Lex and Europa buildings.

4.2.2. Environmental performance indicators

Figure 8 shows the trend in mains water consumption between 2010 and 2018 for the Justus Lipsius, Lex, crèche and Europa buildings.

For the Justus Lipsius building, a leak of approximately 800 m³, which occurred in 2018, is reflected in the overall figure. Evaporation in the cooling towers during the summer of 2018, which was particularly hot, partially accounts for the increase in consumption in that building in 2018.

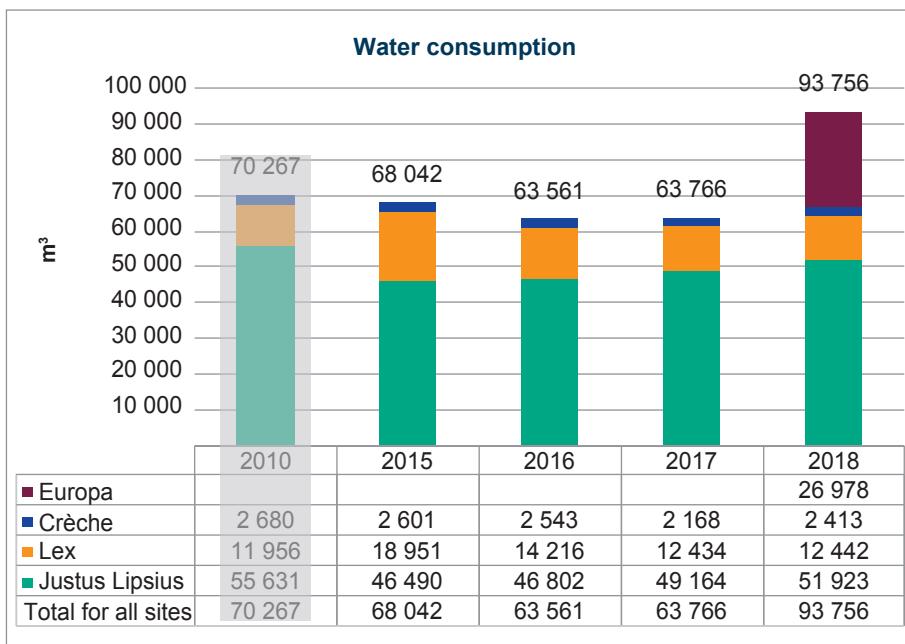


Figure 7: trend in mains water consumption

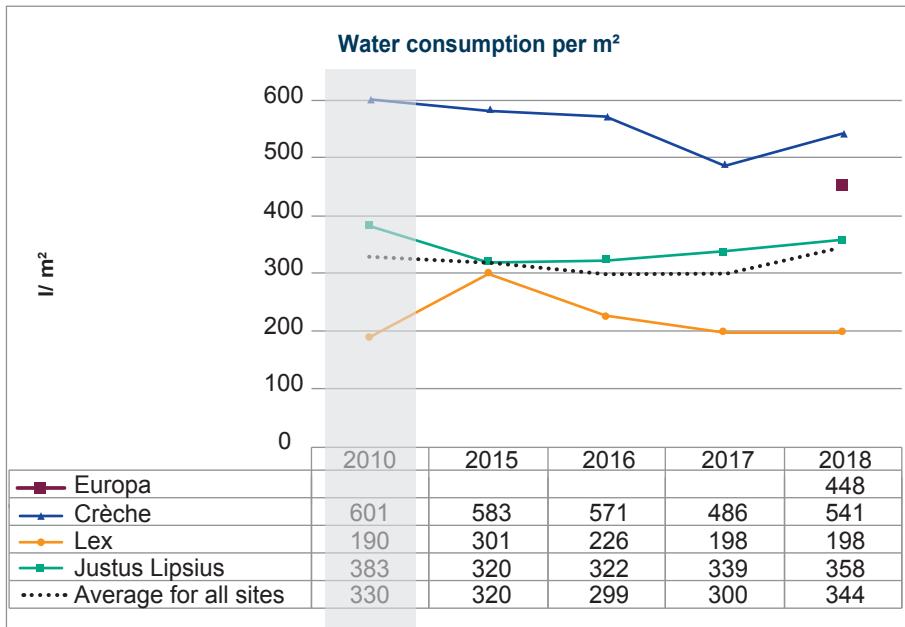


Figure 8: trend in mains water consumption by m²

Figure 8 shows the mains water consumption per m² for each of the buildings. Water consumption in the crèche is relatively high due to its activity of providing childcare.

Figure 9 shows the trend in mains water consumption per day and per occupant. Consumption has thus been corrected by an occupancy factor which reflects the intensity of the Council's activities. Water consumption per occupant per day was essentially identical for each year between 2010 and 2018, with a general downward trend, not taking consumption in the Europa building into account.

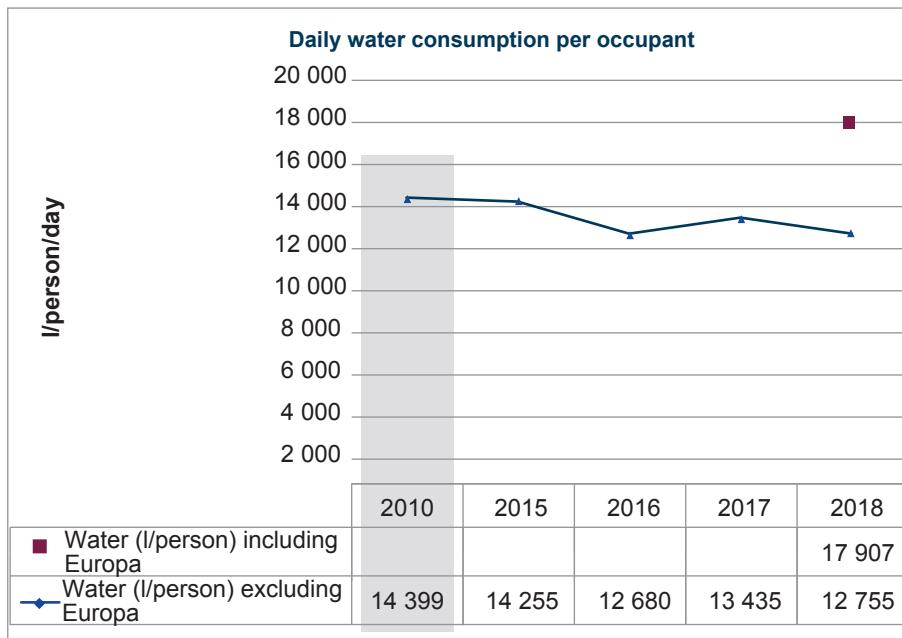


Figure 9: trend in mains water consumption per person per day

4.2.3. Objectives and action

4.2.3.1. Objectives

The GSC is committed, in line with its environmental policy, to an approach of preventing pollution while ensuring the efficient use of water.

4.2.3.2. Action taken

The GSC has implemented the following measures:

- a rainwater collection system with a total capacity of around 1 100 000 litres has been installed in the Lex and Europa buildings to supply water to flush the toilets;
- in the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings, toilets have been fitted with a dual flush button and urinals with a proximity sensor;
- awareness-raising campaigns encourage users to report any water leaks to the Buildings Unit, which is also responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the facilities;
- awareness-raising campaigns encourage the occupants of the buildings to use water rationally;
- regular checks are carried out on the valve in the rainwater collection system in the Lex building.



Poster to raise awareness of water saving in WCs/shower rooms

4.2.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC will implement the following measures:

- renovation of the toilet facilities, including recovery of some rainwater in the Justus Lipsius building;
- installation of spray taps with water brake in the Lex toilets to limit the flow rate to 50 %.

4.3. WASTE

4.3.1. Background

Given the very great diversity of its activities, the GSC produces many different types of waste, some of which are classified as hazardous. The GSC's waste mainly comes from the fitting-out and maintenance of its premises and technical installations, from catering and from the daily activities of its staff. The types of waste collected within the GSC buildings are:

- hazardous waste (neon tubes, cans which contained hazardous products, waste oils, electronic waste, waste from the medical service, printer ink cartridges, etc.);
- PMC (plastic bottles and containers for liquids, cans and foil packaging, and drinks cartons);
- glass;
- metal;
- paper and cardboard;

- organic waste (from the catering service);
- general waste (from offices and meetings, packaging, etc.);
- refurbishment and renovation waste, building waste;
- equipment withdrawn from service (IT, furniture, etc.).

4.3.2. Environmental performance indicators

Figure 10 illustrates the changes in combined waste generation for all buildings between 2010 and 2018. Improving the quality of sorting has made it possible to collect a larger proportion of PMC and glass, the collection of which has been organised more systematically since 2012.

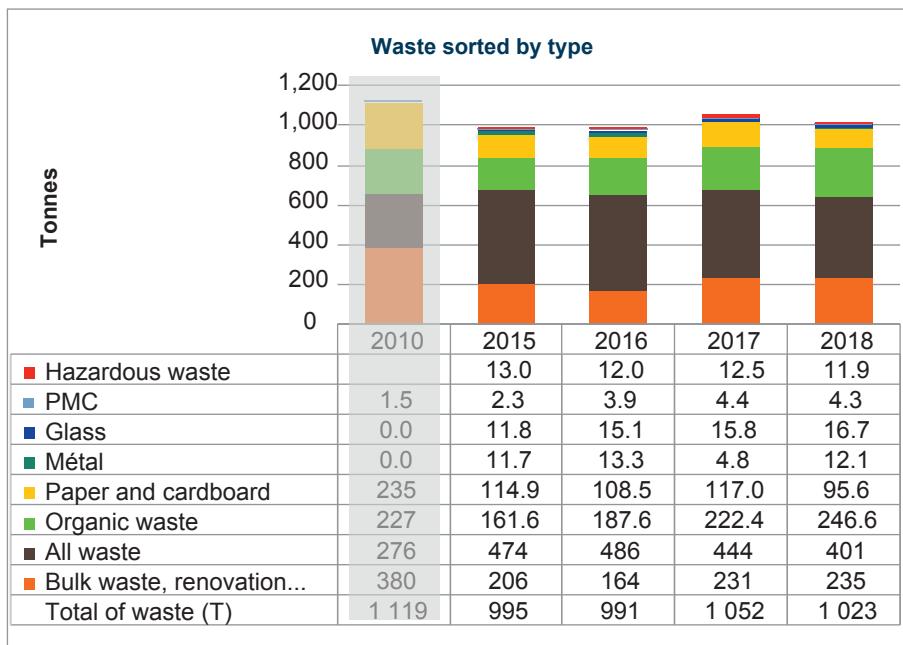


Figure 10: waste generation by type

The total amount of waste decreased by 8.61 % between 2010 (1 119 tonnes) and 2018 (1 023 tonnes).

The total amount of non-recycled waste – namely dangerous, general and bulk waste – decreased 6 % between 2017 and 2018. The total amount of recycled waste, meanwhile, increased by 3 % between 2017 and 2018 (364 tonnes in 2017 and 375.3 tonnes in 2018).

Figure 11 shows the trend in the amount of waste produced annually per person. Between 2010 and 2018, the annual quantity of waste per person fell, overall, from 229 kilogrammes (kg) to 208 kg, a reduction of 9.51 %. The slight increase between 2017 and 2018 should be assessed in the light of the application of the new calculation method set out in the introductory paragraphs of Chapter 4.

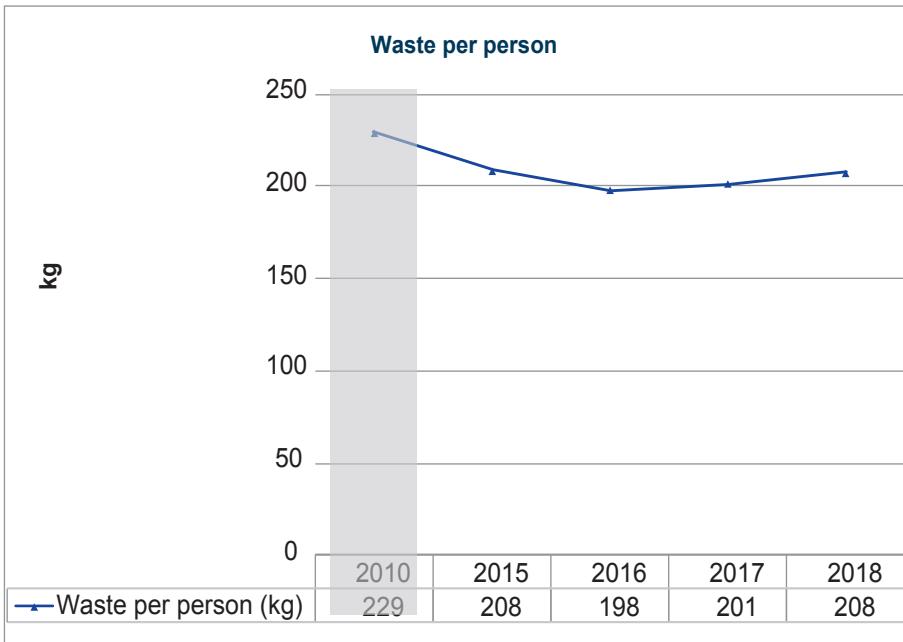


Figure 11: total waste generation per person

4.3.3. Objectives and action

4.3.3.1. Objectives

The waste action plan was updated for the period 2016-2020. Its objectives are to continue to improve the waste management system and, between 2012 and 2020, to stabilise and if possible reduce the quantity of waste, and particularly non-recyclable waste, generated per person.

The GSC also continues to ensure that hazardous products and waste are managed appropriately.

4.3.3.2. Action taken

To improve the sorting and, therefore, the recycling of waste, the following steps have been taken:

- providing waste-paper baskets in the conference rooms, interpreting booths and offices;
- setting up the collection of glass at certain points in the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings;
- standardising waste collection points in the buildings by identifying each bin by means of a sticker;
- putting up bilingual explanatory posters (in English and French) illustrating how to sort waste correctly;
- drawing up a waste sorting guide;
- installing signs giving better information on sorting at the loading bay, for contractors and external providers;
- periodically measuring the quality of sorting and awareness-raising among staff (in 2013 and 2015);
- reusing some of the furniture withdrawn from service;

- biomethanising organic waste: food unfit for consumption and kitchen waste from the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings are collected and processed in specialised processing centres which produce biogas or use such waste for animal feed or compost;
- recycling packaging and recovering IT equipment through reuse and recycling;
- introducing waste sorting in the Lex building's catering areas;
- reviewing the technical specifications in the new waste management contract, including audits on the quality of waste sorting;
- installing an organic waste outlet near the vegetable area in the Justus Lipsius building;
- implementing the practice of waste sorting in the crèche on a daily basis (general waste, paper, cardboard and PMC) with the children's involvement and craft activities using recycled and recovered materials: yoghurt cartons, newspaper, scraps of fabric and wool or wallpaper etc.
- introducing waste sorting at the secure access points to the car parks;
- introducing a pilot project to reduce the number of – or even remove – individual general waste bins in offices and to replace them with separate waste collection bins.



Waste sorting in the Europa building

4.3.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC undertakes, for the period 2019-2020, to:

- ensure the continued implementation of the measures taken under the previous action plan;
- draw up a new action plan;
- continue to raise awareness among staff;
- introduce separate waste collection bins for staff in the catering areas of the Justus Lipsius and Europa buildings;
- following the pilot project to reduce the number of individual general waste bins in offices, introduce new separate waste collection bins in, initially, the Secretariat part of the Justus Lipsius building;
- increase the use of recyclable or reusable office supplies as far as possible;
- continue and extend (if applicable) those contracts involving the reuse of some of the equipment withdrawn from service;
- make contractors and subcontractors aware of the need to reduce wrapping and packaging, or compel them to do so by means of special clauses.

4.4. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND OTHER AIR POLLUTANTS

4.4.1. Background

All the following activities conducted by the GSC generate greenhouse gas emissions (non-exhaustive list):

- holding of meetings, conferences and summits;
- staff transport, travel and missions;
- public procurement contracts;
- operation of buildings and buildings policy;
- technical, construction and renovation projects;
- use of natural resources, incoming and outgoing materials;
- catering;
- freight.

It is not appropriate to monitor the annual emissions of air pollutants such as sulphur oxides (SO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) or particulate matter (PM), given the tertiary activities carried out in the buildings. Direct emissions of these pollutants are not significant (PM and SO_x) or are controlled by means of adequate monitoring of technical installations (CO and NO_x).

4.4.2. Environmental performance indicators

The greenhouse gases taken into account in environmental programming are carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N_2O), methane (CH_4), sulphur hexafluoride (SF_6), hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs). The GSC is currently measuring the direct emissions of greenhouse gases resulting from the operation of its buildings. These direct emissions are among the performance indicators of the environmental management system. They are mainly related to the use of gas for heating and cogeneration, fuel for service vehicles and accidental emissions of refrigerants, the warming effect of which is measured in carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e)³. The GSC purchases green electricity, in respect of which greenhouse gas emissions are not taken into account as such electricity comes from renewable energy sources and high-efficiency cogeneration.

Direct emissions of greenhouse gases are shown in figure 12 and include emissions from the boilers, the cogeneration systems, the service fleet and refrigerant leakages. These direct emissions fluctuate considerably from one year to another, owing mainly to variations in the demand for heating in winter but also to accidental leaks in refrigeration systems. For 2018, the figure shows an increase in total losses since the addition of the Europa building's new installations, but a decrease in refrigerant leakages and emissions from boilers and cogeneration systems between 2017 and 2018 in the other buildings.

An annex setting out the overall results of a comprehensive study on the carbon footprint of all Council activities, including emissions from on-site gas combustion and other activities such as travel and the use of goods and services, etc., is attached at the end of this statement.

³ The global warming potential (GWP) represents the combined effect of the differing times these gases remain in the atmosphere and their relative power of absorption of outgoing infra-red heat radiation, and is generally based on a 100-year time horizon. The GWP is used to translate the overall emissions of greenhouse gases into emissions of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e).

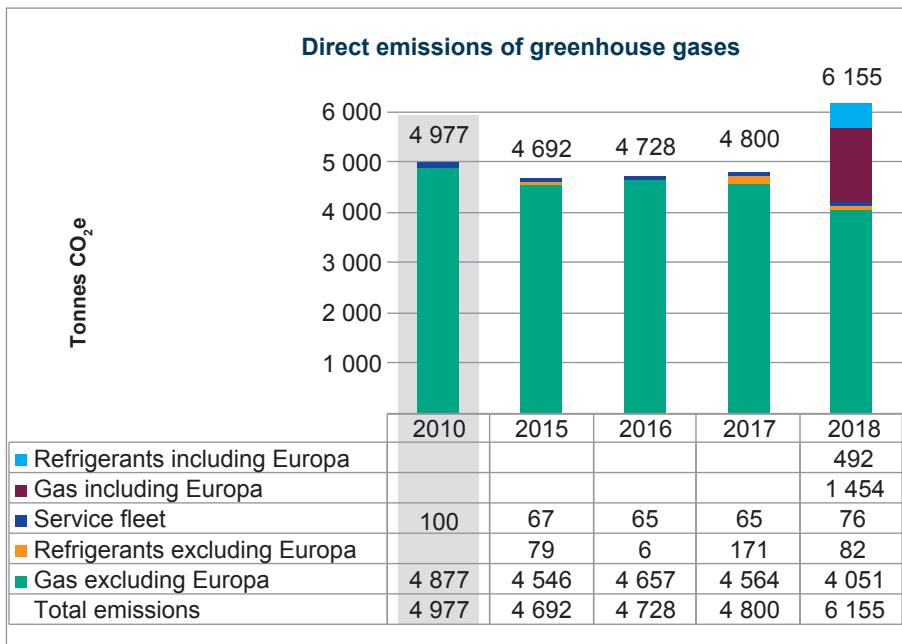


Figure 12: direct greenhouse gas emissions

Figure 13 shows the indirect greenhouse gas emissions avoided thanks to the photovoltaic and cogeneration installations. In 2010 these made it possible to avoid releasing 69 tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere⁴.

In 2018 cogeneration was halted in the Lex and broke down in the Justus Lipsius in January – one of the months in which cogeneration normally makes it possible to avoid most greenhouse gases. However, the introduction of photovoltaic panels and cogeneration in the Europa building in 2018 explains why the total volume of emissions avoided in 2018 is comparable to that of 2017.

⁴ The CO₂ emissions avoided thanks to the solar panels were calculated in accordance with the Ministerial Decree of 24 July 2008 setting out the energy assumptions to be taken into consideration when carrying out technical and economic feasibility studies in the Brussels-Capital Region. The CO₂ emissions avoided thanks to the cogeneration systems were calculated by comparing the CO₂ emissions with those of equivalent heat production from a high-efficiency boiler (efficiency = 90 %) and with those of equivalent net electricity production from a gas/steam power plant (efficiency = 55 %).

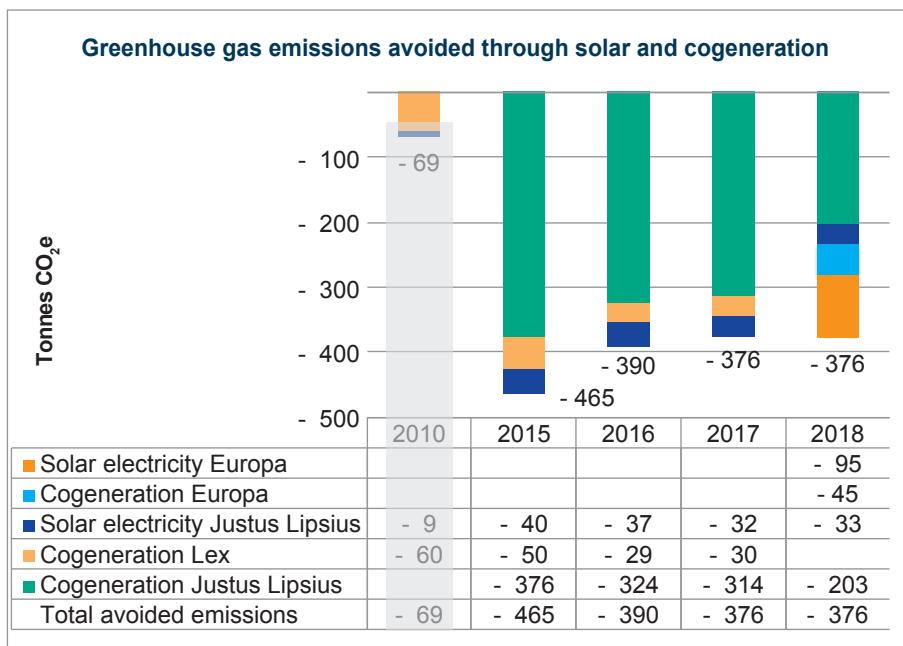


Figure 13: greenhouse gas emissions avoided

Figure 14 shows the trend in direct greenhouse gas emissions, which fell from 1 019 kg of CO₂e per person in 2010 to 854 kg of CO₂e per person in 2018, not including emissions from the Europa building.

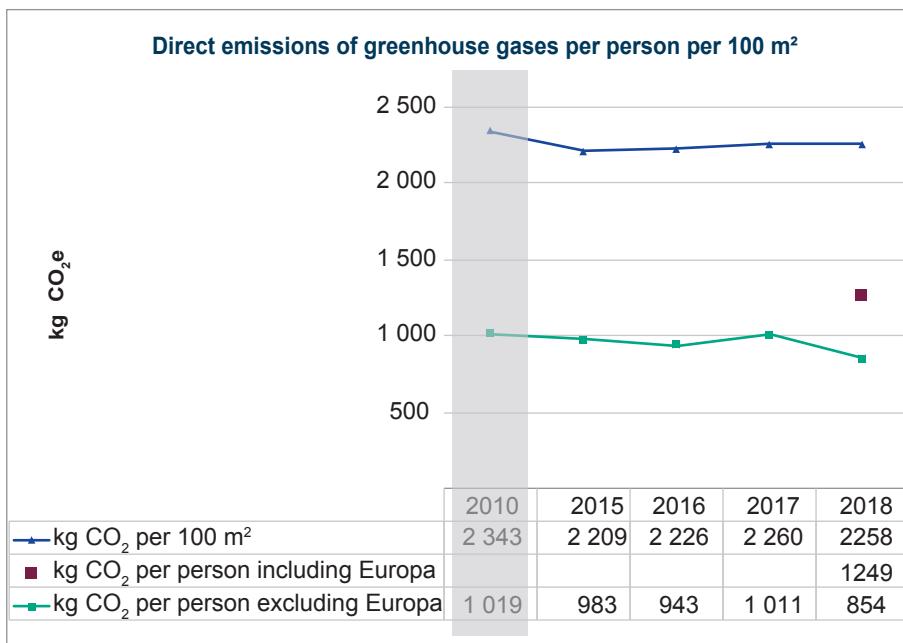


Figure 14: direct greenhouse gas emissions per person and per 100 m²

4.4.3. Objectives and action

4.4.3.1. Objectives

In accordance with its environmental policy, the GSC is taking steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its operations and activities. To that end, the GSC will implement the recommendations set out in the conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 11 May 2015 on Special Report No 14/2014 by the European Court of Auditors: 'How do the EU institutions and bodies calculate, reduce and offset their greenhouse gas emissions?' This will mainly involve cooperating with the other EU institutions and bodies to establish a common approach to voluntary offsetting of residual greenhouse gas emissions of the EU institutions and bodies.

The GSC has set itself the target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions resulting from its operations and activities by 25 % between 2017 and 2030, in accordance with the corresponding objectives of the European Union (–40 % between 1990 and 2030).

4.4.3.2. Action taken

The GSC has taken the following steps to reduce the carbon footprint of its activities, extending the scope beyond that defined by gas consumption, fuel for service vehicles and refrigerants:

- optimising energy management (see section 4.1 on Energy);
- promoting alternatives to car use (see section 4.6 on Mobility);
- installing electric vehicle charging stations and making them available to staff free of charge;
- purchasing green electricity;
- offsetting emissions from the production of paper delivered to the General Secretariat of the Council;
- setting up a more sustainable canteen which offers vegetarian dishes, with special emphasis on promoting seasonal vegetables and limiting food waste, and managing the footprint of disposable products (e.g. recyclable packaging);
- making video conference rooms available to reduce the amount of travel required and raising awareness among staff of the availability of videoconferencing;
- investing in hybrid vehicles and downsizing, which reduced the climate impact of the entire service fleet from 256 g of CO₂ on average per km in 2013 to 162 g of CO₂ per km in 2016⁵;
- carrying out a comprehensive study on the carbon footprint of all Council activities, including emissions from on-site gas combustion and other activities such as travel and the use of goods and services, etc., and updating that study;
- having the catering services obtain the 'Good Food' label for the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings, emphasising local, seasonal and, if possible, organic products;
- planting vegetable patches with aromatic herbs in one of the patios of the Justus Lipsius building, initially for the GSC's kitchen preparing official meals.

⁵ Manufacturer's data, except for armoured vehicles.



Recharging points for staff members' electric vehicles

4.4.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

Between 2019 and 2020, the GSC undertakes to:

- regularly update the carbon footprint study on its activities, based on a standardised approach to calculating, reporting and reducing its direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions;
- obtain the 'Good Food' label for the catering service in the Europa building;
- draw up a climate action plan to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reduction target of 25 % between 2017 and 2030, and assess progress in 2023;
- define a common approach with the EU institutions and bodies to the voluntary offsetting of greenhouse gas emissions;
- conclude a contract for the purchase of 100 % renewable electricity;
- completely remove single-use plastic from the Europa canteen.

4.5. PAPER-BASED RESOURCES

4.5.1. Background

The volumes of paper consumed primarily include the standard A4 office paper used by staff in printers and photocopiers, but also the publications and brochures produced internally and externally.

4.5.2. Environmental performance indicators

Total paper consumption fell from 355 tonnes in 2010 to 14 tonnes in 2017, as shown in figure 15. Paper consumption per person fell from 73 kg in 2010 to 31 kg in 2017, as shown in figure 16. As an indication, if the occupancy rate is calculated using the abovementioned method (see introductory paragraphs of Chapter 4) the ratio is 27 kg per person.

Overall, total paper consumption decreased fairly steadily between 2012 and 2018, reaching an exceptionally low level in 2015. Given that the GSC's paper consumption is closely linked to the work of the European Commission, the decrease in the volume of documents produced in 2015 by the new Commission led to a fall in the GSC's paper consumption. The increase in consumption between 2017 and 2018 was due to an increase in the volume of external publications from 17 to 24 tonnes; internal consumption, meanwhile, decreased by six tonnes between 2017 and 2018.

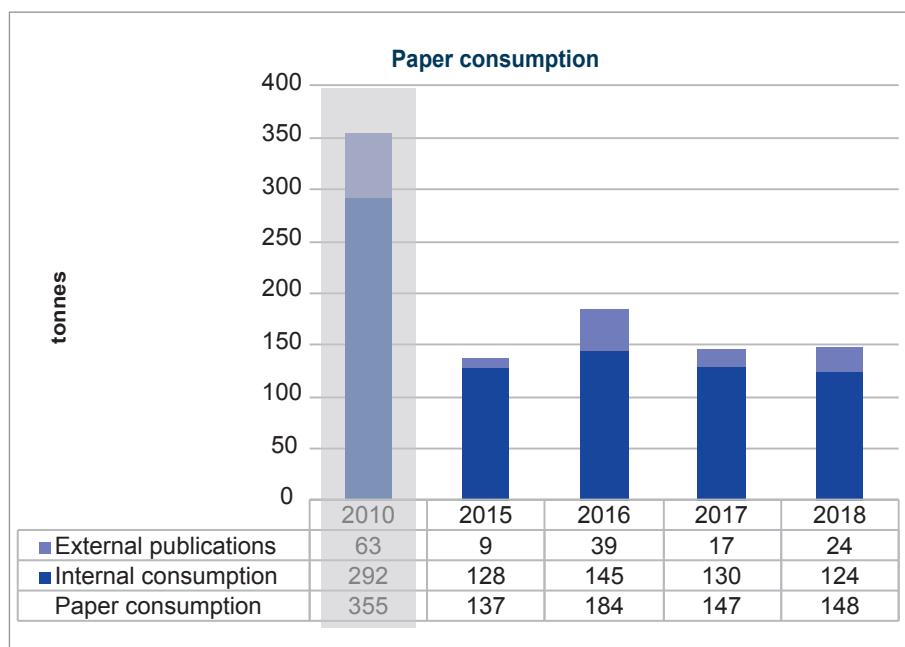


Figure 15: total paper consumption

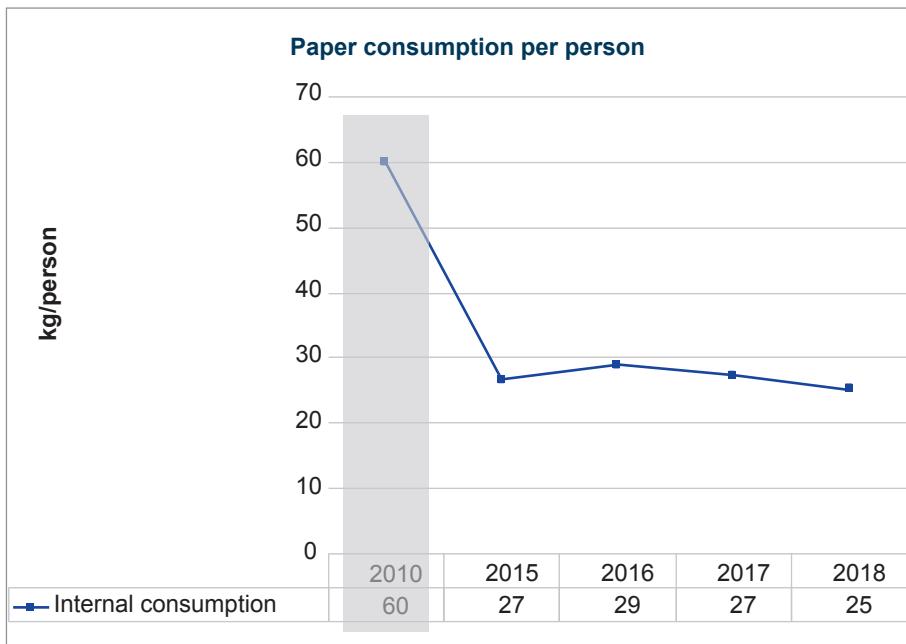


Figure 16: paper consumption per person

Figure 16 shows internal paper consumption per person, which continued to fall between 2017 and 2018. Over the entire period from 2010 to 2018, internal paper consumption per person fell by 58 %.

4.5.3. Objectives and action

4.5.3.1. Objectives

The action plan for paper, which was first adopted in 2012, has been updated for the period 2016-2020 with the following objectives:

- to reduce paper consumption per person by 10 % by the end of 2020 as compared with 2015;
- to sustain the environmental performance of the paper used, i.e. in 2020, 90 % of the paper should bear a European eco-label such as Nordic Swan, Blue Angel or equivalent.

4.5.3.2. Action taken

Paper consumption per person per year decreased by 60 % between 2010 and 2018 thanks to the numerous measures taken, the most significant of which are as follows:

- introducing a system enabling copying/printing to be activated by personal badges, thus reducing the number of printing errors and/or duplicate printing;
- monitoring the implementation of the policy to reduce the number of individual printers in favour of shared and network printers;
- gradually replacing a large proportion of desktop computers with laptops and hybrid computers (laptop/tablets), and installing Wi-Fi in the GSC's meeting rooms, which helps reduce the use of paper during meetings;
- adding new functionalities to the delegates' portal: a computerised meetings file, intended to replace the paper files prepared for meetings of the Council, is

accessible on the delegates' portal, on which users can consult and/or save a PDF file containing the agenda for meetings of Coreper and the Council. All documents relating to the computerised meetings file are synchronised with the respective delegates' diaries and marked for ease of navigation.

4.5.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The action plan for paper updated for the period 2016-2020 aims to reduce paper consumption per person by 10 % in 2020 as compared with 2015. To achieve that target, a number of measures have been identified, including:

- reducing the weight of A4 paper used by staff from 80gsm to 75gsm;
- introducing a system which generates automatic reports showing paper consumption by department;
- continuing the gradual replacement of a large proportion of desktop computers with laptop computers and installing Wi-Fi in all the GSC's meeting rooms;
- developing the Agora and Delegates Portal applications to optimise document management for the delegates with a view to increased digitisation of documents.

Other measures under consideration are designed to maintain the environmental performance of the paper used and increasingly recycle it.

4.6. MOBILITY

4.6.1. Background

The GSC employs around 3 000 people who commute daily between their homes and workplaces (primarily the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings). In addition, work-related journeys are undertaken every day, mainly in the Brussels-Capital Region.

4.6.2. Environmental performance indicators

4.6.2.1. Commuting between home and work

The employee transport plan (*plan de déplacements d'entreprise/bedrijfsvervoerplan - PDE/BVP*)⁶ is updated every three years. In this context, several mobility surveys have been carried out at the GSC, most recently in 2011, 2014 and 2017. The latest mobility survey had a high response rate of 53.3 % (1 729 respondents), giving a representative picture of how staff travel to work. Most members of staff live in the Brussels-Capital Region (66 %). Staff who live outside Brussels are mainly concentrated in Flemish Brabant (18 %) and Walloon Brabant (6 %).

Figure 17 shows how GSC staff commuted between home and work between 2003 and 2017. The proportion of staff travelling exclusively by car fell from 46.6 % in 2003 to 32.4 % in 2017, with a shift towards walking, cycling and public transport.

⁶ The employee transport plan involves examining, implementing, evaluating and updating measures to promote the sustainable management of work-related journeys (decree of the Brussels-Capital regional government on employee transport plans; *Moniteur Belge/Belgisch Staatsblad* of June 2017).

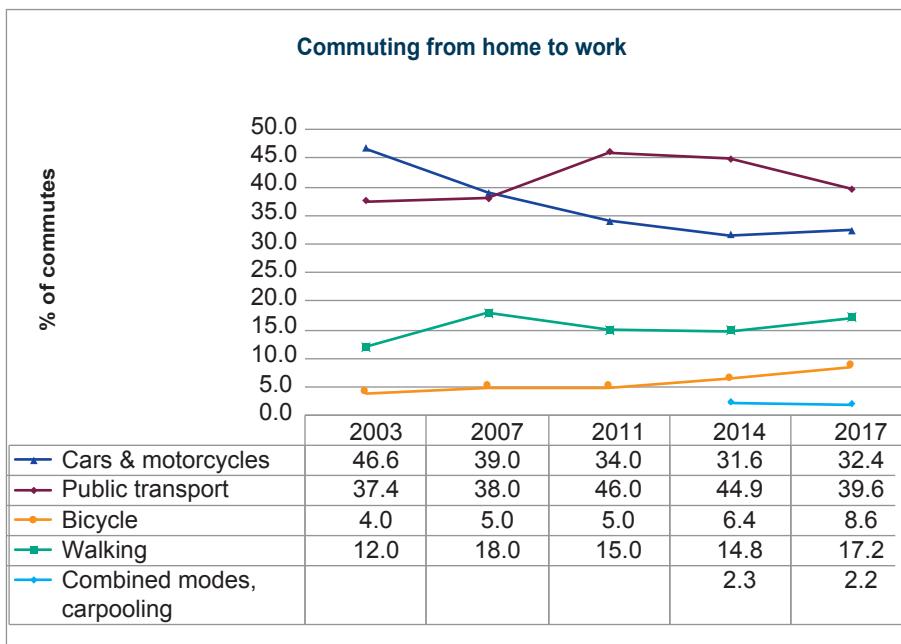


Figure 17: commuting patterns

4.6.2.2. Work-related journeys

The 2017 mobility survey showed that the GSC generates approximately 1 397 work-related journeys within Belgium per month, which is below the regional average, given the size of the institution. The 1 397 journeys in question involve only 16 % of staff, and nearly three-quarters of those journeys take place within Brussels.

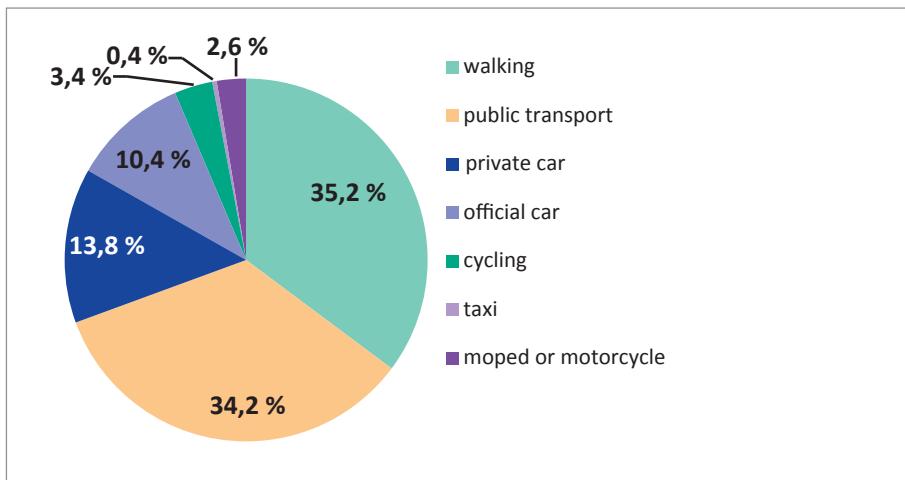


Figure 18: modal split for work-related journeys (source: 2017 mobility survey)

4.6.3. Objectives and action

4.6.3.1. Objectives

The IRIS II regional mobility plan⁷, approved in 2010, aims to reduce the number of cars on the road in Brussels by 20 % in 2018 compared with 2001. More people are expected to take public transport, cycle and walk over the same period. The main objectives of the GSC's employee transport plan are as follows:

- by 2020, have 75 % of staff use a form of transport other than driving to get to the GSC;
- ensure ease of access to GSC buildings;
- provide information to, and raise awareness among, staff about soft mobility;
- contribute to reducing CO₂ emissions related to GSC activities.

The changes in the modal split for journeys, based on the results of the 2017 mobility survey, are set out in Table 2 below and are compared with the intermediate objectives set for 2017. Table 2 shows that:

- the intermediate objectives for 2017 have been achieved and even exceeded for the active modes of transport - walking (17.2 %) and cycling (8.6 %). The intermediate objectives for the use of cars and public transport have not been achieved. Car use is more than 4 % above the objective set for 2017, and use of public transport is 7.4 % below the 2017 objective, mainly because of the share accounted for by metro, tram and bus.
- The objectives set for 2020 imply focusing on action to promote the use of public transport (+10.4 %) and cycling (+1.4 %), while seeking to reduce car use (-7.4 %) and are also dependent on improved public transport provision.

⁷ IRIS II mobility plan, Brussels-Capital Region, November 2010.

Main mode of transport	Survey of GSC staff		Intermediate objective		Modal shift objective
	2014	2017	2014	2017	
Car	31,6 %	32,4 %	32 %	28 %	25 %
Public transport	44,9 %	39,62 %	47 %	49 %	50 %
Walking	14,8 %	17,2 %	15 %	15 %	15 %
Cycling	6,4 %	8,6 %	6 %	8 %	10 %
Combined modes, car sharing, etc.	2,3%	2,2 %	n. a.	n. a.	n. a.
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %

Note: n. a. = not applicable.

Table 2: Changes in transport habits, compared with the modal shift objectives

4.6.3.2. Action taken

The GSC's mobility policy complies effectively with the Brussels-Capital Region's requirements for each of the following compulsory measures:

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	GSC ACTION
Mobility coordinator	Have a contact person within the institution for the employee transport plan	Mobility coordinator post filled
Provision of information	Inform employees about travel and mobility policy	The GSC's intranet site contains a section on travelling between home and work
Awareness-raising	Make employees and visitors aware of sustainable modes of transport	Annual participation in European Mobility Week (since 2011) and the Bike Experience in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015
Multimodal access plan	Provide employees and visitors with a multimodal access plan (giving details of all available forms of transport for getting to the site)	Access plan updated in 2016 available at the entrances to the buildings, on the mobility page of the Green Office intranet site and in the Delegates' Handbook
Public transport	Encourage the use of public transport Maintain and improve the contribution system so as to make it more effective	An incentive is in place in the form of an annual contribution to the cost of season tickets for public transport and for the Villo! bicycle rental scheme. In 2015, the contribution system was renewed and improved to make it more effective, demonstrating that the GSC encourages the use of public transport (a regional obligation) and modal shift.
Bicycle parking	Install a secure, covered parking area for bicycles providing the legal minimum number of spaces	Parking areas for bicycles and facilities for cyclists are available
Ecoscore	Take account of the Ecoscore when purchasing or leasing vehicles (company cars and service vehicles)	The service fleet leasing policy takes account of criteria that are equivalent to the Ecoscore

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	GSC ACTION
Pollution peak	Devise and implement a communication plan and a specific action plan in the event of a pollution peak	The procedure to be followed has been drafted and included in the EMAS Environmental Management System handbook
Electric vehicles	Draw up an internal policy on the recharging of electric vehicles	The policy has been drawn up and was signed by the Secretary-General on 2 June 2017.

An impact study on the use of the Justus Lipsius car parks was also carried out by a specialised consultancy under the Brussels Air, Climate and Energy Management Code in 2015.

In response to requests from cyclists, an audit of the bicycle facilities at the Justus Lipsius building was carried out in 2015. The planned construction work at the Etterbeek exit was put on hold and details were circulated to cyclists in 2016. Bicycle pumps have also been provided for cyclists in the bicycle parking areas at the Lex, Justus Lipsius and Europa buildings, as well as repair kits at the reception desks in the three buildings. Lastly, access to a bicycle parking area alongside the Lex building has been improved and new bicycle parking spaces have been installed in a inner courtyard of the Justus Lipsius.

4.6.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

To improve its mobility policy the GSC undertakes to implement the action listed in the table below as part of its mobility plan for the period 2017-2020:

MEASURE	DESCRIPTION	EXPECTED RESULT
Car parking management	Draw up a policy, for employees of external firms and visitors, on parking in the car parks	Parking spaces will be freed up in the Justus Lipsius and Lex buildings
Accessibility for bicycles	Carry out the construction work at the Etterbeek exit for cyclists. Provide new bicycle parking areas and improve the existing ones, changing rooms and charging points for electric bicycles	Maintain/increase the number of staff using bicycles
Accessibility for pedestrians	Ensure that the GSC's buildings are easily accessible for pedestrians (when works are being carried out)	The percentage of staff walking to work will be maintained (15 %)
Communication/awareness-raising	Hold annual awareness-raising events (Mobility Week, Vélo Mai), inform newcomers and existing staff about the mobility policy	The number of staff taking public transport, walking and cycling will increase and there will be greater awareness of mobility measures
Car sharing	Implement measures to encourage car sharing, especially personalised access to the Carpool platform	Car sharing will be used for journeys between home and work, and there will be a reduction in the number of cars

In accordance with the timetable for the Brussels-Capital Region, the GSC employee transport plan will be evaluated and updated in January 2021.

4.7. SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

4.7.1. Background

By opting for environmentally friendly goods, services and works, the GSC is making an effective contribution to supporting sustainable consumption and production. Public procurement is sustainable when a public authority seeks to obtain goods, services or works which have less impact on the environment over their lifetime.

4.7.2. Objectives and action

4.7.2.1. Objectives

The GSC aims to ensure that environmental criteria are increasingly included in public procurement procedures wherever relevant.

4.7.2.2. Action taken

The GSC is actively involved in an interinstitutional working group which develops and shares best practice in the field of sustainable public procurement. The GSC has implemented the following measures:

- inclusion of environmental criteria in a number of public contracts: purchase of recycled, eco-friendly paper; disposal and recycling of waste paper, card and polystyrene; purchase of green electricity; building-cleaning services; purchase of highly energy-efficient IT equipment (computers, printers, servers, etc.); maintenance of technical installations; catering contract; leasing of service vehicles; running of the Council's crèche; finishing services;
- awareness raising as regards eco-friendly purchasing: the Green Office team is regularly involved in the formulation of environmental criteria for procurement procedures, where relevant;
- availability, on the Green Office's intranet site, of a webpage on 'green public procurement' for authorising departments.

4.7.2.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC is committed to taking the following action:

- ensure the continued implementation of the measures in place and the inclusion of environmental requirements and criteria in procurement procedures, where relevant;
- develop the expertise of the departments concerned in the field of sustainable public procurement;
- define and implement a key performance indicator for the field of sustainable public procurement, making use of the interinstitutional helpdesk;
- disseminate within the GSC the content of presentations and training courses run by the European Parliament, via the dedicated interinstitutional helpdesk for sustainable public procurement;
- carry out a general review on eliminating single-use plastic and gradually reducing packaging;
- gradually implement the recommendations of the new financial regulation as regards the inclusion of environmental criteria.

4.8. BIODIVERSITY

4.8.1. Background

The GSC's direct impact on biodiversity may be judged from the way in which the land is occupied by the premises of the Council of the European Union, in particular the built area. Since a built area is sealed, it cannot in theory host any plant species and therefore will not contribute to biodiversity.

The use and management of hazardous products and paper resources and the organisation of catering services needed for the smooth functioning of the GSC may have a significant indirect impact on biodiversity.

4.8.2. Environmental performance indicators

The GSC has developed a number of internal spaces (patios) in such a way as to contribute to biodiversity. The table below shows, for each building, the total size of the plot, the built area, the surface area of the patios and the other areas (including the ground floor).

BUILDING	PLOT SIZE	BUILT AREA	GREEN AREAS	OTHER AREAS
Justus Lipsius	39 375 m ²	19 356 m ²	4 753 m ²	15 266 m ²
Lex	6 879 m ²	4 454 m ²	568 m ²	1 857 m ²
Europa	8 027 m ²	6 740 m ²	n.a.	1 287 m ²
Crèche	2 067 m ²	1 010 m ²	n. a.	1 057 m ²

Note: n. a. = not applicable.

4.8.3. Objectives and action

4.8.3.1. Objectives

The GSC undertakes to pay particular attention to preserving biodiversity in all activities which may have an impact on it.

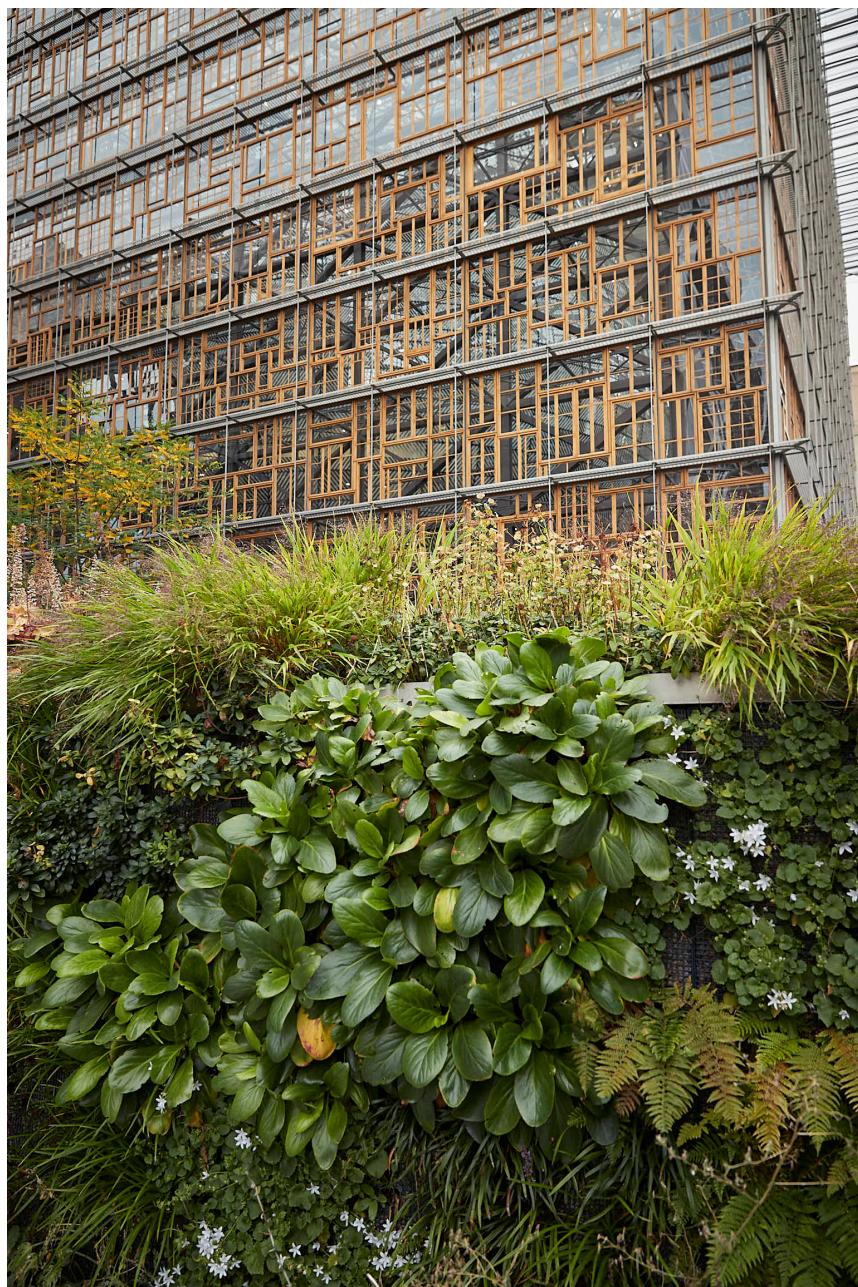
4.8.3.2. Action taken

The GSC has taken the following measures to improve biodiversity:

- greening of the patios in the Justus Lipsius building;
- purchasing of eco-friendly paper bearing an EU eco-label and an FSC certificate⁸;
- use, wherever possible, of eco-friendly cleaning products;
- holding of a seminar for staff entitled 'Urbanisation's impact on biodiversity: lessons and challenges' to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity, even in cities;
- establishment of sustainability criteria for the catering services, with a focus on local and seasonal products and fish from sustainable fisheries;
- installation of an insect hotel, mainly for solitary bees, and of nesting boxes for urban birds in the trees in the Justus Lipsius patios;

⁸ Forest Stewardship Council certification.

- redevelopment of one of the patios in the Justus Lipsius building into a wild flower garden;
- incorporating a green wall into the Europa building;
- organising a workshop as part of the interinstitutional EMAS week on 'Biodiversity in the city' (8 June 2017).
- plant tubs of aromatic herbs in one of the patios of the Justus Lipsius building, for the GSC's kitchen.



Green wall in the Europa building

4.8.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC undertakes to incorporate biodiversity protection criteria in relevant public procurement contracts.

4.9. HEALTH RISKS

Some activities that entail environmental risks may also constitute risks to human health. This includes the consequences of handling hazardous products and waste. The GSC has taken appropriate measures to minimise any repercussions, and has established response measures in the event of accidents. This has resulted in close cooperation between the Safety and Security Directorate and the Green Office. Preparation and response exercises for dealing with emergency situations are organised periodically. For example, a prevention exercise was carried out in 2015 simulating an accidental discharge of a large quantity of a hazardous product. The next prevention exercise is planned for 2019.

4.10. COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS-RAISING

4.10.1. Background

The GSC employs approximately 3 000 officials and has an average of 2 000 visitors per day. The behaviour of GSC staff and visitors has an environmental impact, in terms of consumption of resources (such as water, energy and paper), waste management, and air pollution arising from transport choices.

4.10.2. Environmental performance indicators

The results of communication measures – focusing on awareness of the EMS and a quality assessment of it – were measured in the mobility survey conducted in 2017. The survey showed that 60 % of the staff are aware of the environmental management programme and have either good or very good knowledge of the measures which comprise it. Among the measures, those relating to waste sorting are very well known (more than 70 % of staff have a good or very good knowledge of them), with a more mixed picture as regards the Green Office website: only 46 % consider that they have good or very good knowledge of it, whereas 42.4 % of respondents feel that their knowledge of it is insufficient and 11 % had no knowledge of it.

Since 2015, the number of visits per year to pages related to environmental management on the GSC's intranet and the read rate for articles published by the Green Office team for the attention of staff have also been monitored. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of visits to intranet pages related to environmental management increased by almost a quarter. Between 2017 and 2018, the number of pages visited increased again, by 18 %.

4.10.3. Objectives and action

4.10.3.1. Objectives

An annual programme entitled 'Communication and environmental awareness-raising' is being set up. It comprises both one-off and structural internal communication activities scheduled for the year in question. The communication programme's targets consist of planning, informing, raising awareness, and promoting stakeholder participation, in particular:

- informing staff about environmental management targets and achievements;
- raising awareness of good practice and disseminating notable examples adopted in various departments and units;
- promoting staff involvement in, and commitment to, environmental management;
- consulting staff (on particular activities and themes);
- creating a sense of ownership;
- maintaining and encouraging mobilisation and motivation;
- planning awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives.

Environmental management at the GSC

Validation declaration
Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

VINCOTTE nv
Jan Olieslaegerlaan 35, 1800 Vilvoorde, Belgium
Reg. no.: BE 0471 000 00037
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels (Belgium)

Some measures

Cogeneration
Highly efficient production of heat and electricity

Photovoltaic
Own renewable electricity production

Procurement
Green public procurement criteria

Biodiversity
In the patio: insect hotel and 'duck paradise'

Certification
The first award to the environmental management.

Mobility
Charging stations for electric cars

how can you contribute

MONenergie
Votre référence dans le marché de l'énergie

Choose a green energy supplier
<https://www.monenergie.be>

Calculate and offset your personal carbon emissions
<https://offset.climateneutralnow.org>

Take climate action by supporting green projects
<https://climate.un.org>

Two pages from the EMAS presentation for newcomers

4.10.3.2. Action taken

The action can be divided into four main types:

- measures to promote ongoing awareness of the project using the GSC's intranet (Green Office website): articles, awareness-raising campaigns on European or local events such as Mobility Week, the European Week for Waste Reduction, etc.;
- campaigns for all staff on good practices to be adopted (energy, sorting waste, reducing paper consumption, etc.);
- mobilisation campaigns led by the environmental network, and awareness-raising campaigns for newcomers and all staff;
- external communication initiatives, through the Green Office team's involvement in the 2012, 2015 and 2016 open days, in the Brussels-Capital Region's 'Eco-dynamic Enterprise' certification for the Lex and crèche buildings, and in the interinstitutional EMAS week organised in May 2016 and the interinstitutional EMAS day on 8 June 2017 with the EMAS teams from other EU institutions.

Training has also been prepared for specific target groups, based on their involvement in a particular environmental area, e. g. for people using hazardous products or for members of the environmental network.

Finally, awareness is being raised among staff and parents at the crèche by means of posters explaining the environmental management approach and encouraging everyone to get involved by taking practical, everyday steps (saving energy, sorting waste, etc.).



Poster for presentation on "Buying an electric cycle", 19 April 2018

4.10.3.3. Action to be taken between 2019 and 2020

The GSC will continue to assess progress achieved on communication and awareness-raising. The following action is also planned:

- ensuring that environmental management remains in the spotlight by producing articles, participating in regional environmental campaigns and raising staff awareness of various environmental issues;
- organising training activities and conferences on relevant environmental issues;
- publishing and periodically updating the environmental statement;
- continuous updating of the Green Office intranet site;
- participating in the Vélo Mai campaign to encourage staff to cycle between home and work;
- participating in the interinstitutional network of EMAS-registered European institutions in order to develop common communication campaigns.
- ensuring that external contractors are aware of environmental management.



Award of prizes for cycling campaign, 19 June 2018

5. VERIFICATION DATA

ENVIRONMENTAL VERIFIER'S DECLARATION ON VERIFICATION AND VALIDATION ACTIVITIES

Validation declaration

Community Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS)

VINÇOTTE nv

Jan Olielagerslaan 35, 1800 Vilvoorde, Belgium

Based on an audit of the organisation, visits of its site, interviews with its staff, and the examination of the documentation, the data and the information, documented in the verification report N° **60709084**, VINÇOTTE nv declares, in its capacity as environmental EMAS verifier with registration number BE-V-0016, accredited for the scope 1, 10, 11, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20 (excl. 20,51), 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,2, 30,9, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 79, 80, 81, 82, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 90, 93, 94, 95, 96, 99 (NACE-code), to have verified whether the sites as indicated in the environmental statement 2019 data 2018 of the organisation

Council of the European Union – General Secretariat with registration number **BE-BXL-000037**

located at

**Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium**

and used for:

Activities of the General Secretariat of the Council in the four buildings it occupies in the Brussels Capital region (Europa, Justus Lipsius, Lex and the crèche).

Meet all requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS), as amended by Regulations (EU) 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026.

By signing this declaration, I declare that:

- The verification and validation has been carried out in full compliance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 amended by Regulations (EU) No 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026;
- The outcome of the verification and validation confirms that there is no evidence of non-compliance with applicable legal requirements relating to the environment
- The data and information of the environmental statement 2019 data 2018 of the sites reflect a reliable, credible and correct image of the sites activities, within the scope mentioned in the environmental statement.

This document is not equivalent to EMAS registration. EMAS registration can only be granted by a Competent Body under Regulation (EC) No 1221/2009 amended by Regulations (EU) No 2017/1505 and (EU) 2018/2026. This document shall not be used as a standalone piece of public communication.

Declaration number: 16 EA 87a/1
Date of issue: 7 October 2019



For the environmental verifier:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniëlla Segers".

Daniëlla Segers
Chairman Certification Commission



The publication of the next environmental statement is due in December 2020.



6. VARIABLES USED TO CALCULATE ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A ratio is used to calculate environmental performance, using appropriate variables for the operational context. The main variables used by the GSC are:

- degree-days;
- average number of occupants per day;
- the heated or air-conditioned surface area of the buildings.

6.1. DEGREE-DAYS

The concept of degree-days may be used to assess the severity of the season in which heating is required. This enables a comparison of the heating requirements of different buildings or of the same building at different periods. A commonly used concept is '15/15 degree-days'. The first 15 represents the average comfortable temperature in our climate over a 24-hour period and in a whole building, i.e. 18°C, minus 3°C, which is the average amount of heat conveyed by the sun and internal gains (lights, office equipment, people, etc.).

The second 15 represents the outside temperature below which there is deemed to be a need for heating, and which is consequently used to define the heating period. A more general benchmark may be obtained by standardising degree-days. The most commonly used benchmark is 'normal degree-days'. This figure represents the average number of 15/15 degree-days over the last 30 years as calculated by the Belgian Royal Meteorological Institute (sources: www.energieplus-lesite.be; www.bruxellesenvironnement.be; energie.wallonie.be).

YEAR	NORMAL DEGREE-DAYS	ACTUAL DEGREE-DAYS
2010	2 087	2 309
2014	1 893	1 424
2015	1 902	1 704
2016	1 913	1 948
2017	1 902	1 780
2018	1 902	1 740

6.2. NUMBER OF PEOPLE

The number of people is equal to the average number of occupants per day of all the buildings, based on the number of officials and people treated as such, the staff of external companies, visitors, members of delegations and journalists.

Once the Europa building became operational, a large number of activities were transferred there and staff moved to this new building.

YEAR	AVERAGE NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS PER DAY (PEOPLE)	
	ON THE EMAS SITES: JL, LEX, CR	ON THE EMAS SITES INCLUDING THE EUROPA BUILDING
2010	4 880	-
2014	4 782	-
2015	4 773	-
2016	5 013	-
2017	4 746	5 236
2018	4 929 (1) (2) (3)	

(1) new calculation method

(2) inclusion of Europa building in the EMAS scope

(3) by way of illustration, with the previous method the occupation rate would be 5 469

6.3 HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA (IN M²)

Energy performance certificates (EPCs) are issued to the GSC based on the heated or air-conditioned surface area of its buildings; for this reason, that surface area has been used to calculate certain environmental performance indicators.

YEAR	TOTAL HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA (in m ²)	HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA OF THE JUSTUS LIPSIUS (in m ²)	HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA OF THE LEX (in m ²)	HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA OF THE EUROPA (in m ²)	HEATED OR AIR-CONDITIONED SURFACE AREA OF THE CRÈCHE (in m ²)
2010	212 366	145 134	62 775	n.a.	4 457
2014	212 366	145 134	62 775	n.a.	4 457
2015	212 366	145 134	62 775	n.a.	4 457
2016	212 366	145 134	62 775	n.a.	4 457
2017	212 366	145 134	62 775	n.a.	4 457
2018	212 366	145 134	62 775	60 229	4 457

ANNEX

EXTRACT FROM THE CALCULATION OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS RESULTING FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF THE GSC, BASED ON 2017 DATA

A.1 Introduction

The aim of this review is to update, based on 2017 data, the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from all the GSC's activities. The first review of this kind was carried out in 2014.

The review uses the Bilan Carbone® (carbon balance) method and complies with ISO 14064.

The degree of accuracy in determining the values and emissions factors varies from one item to another. In order to take into account the margin of error caused by less accurate data, elements of uncertainty have been included, while still following the method referred to above.

Emissions for some items are evaluated by order of magnitude.

In order to cover the entire scope of the GSC's activities, this review is not limited to the EMAS buildings (Justus Lipsius, Lex and the crèche), but also includes the Europa building, the Luxembourg site and the Neder-Over-Heembeek warehouse.

A.2 Emissions considered

This review considers gas emissions generated directly within our organisation (direct emissions), as well as gas emissions generated off-site through activities necessary for organisational purposes, e.g. transport, the provision of services (indirect emissions).

Greenhouse gases such as methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O) or refrigerants (hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)) have been translated into CO_2 equivalents (CO_2e) using coefficients defined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) according to their global warming potential.

A.3 Overall results

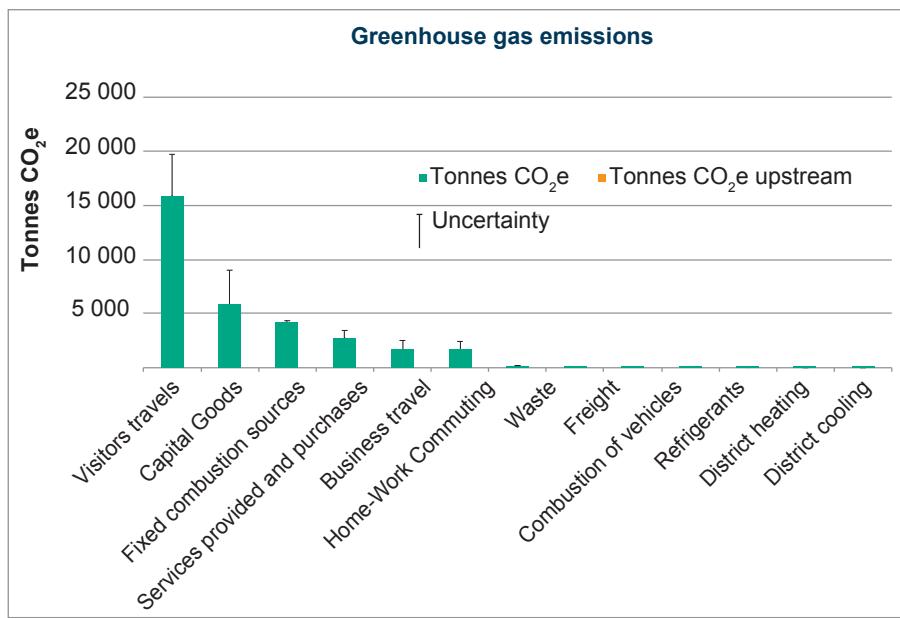


Figure A1:

Figure A1 shows the highest CO₂ emissions by category and 'upstream' emissions, i.e. emissions related to the production and transport of fossil fuels. It also shows the degree of uncertainty attached to each category.

A.4 Results expressed in tonnes of CO₂e and per FTE

The table below shows emissions per item, the total in tonnes of CO₂e and the relative figure per full-time equivalent (FTE).

The changes in these figures are strongly influenced by two main factors:

- the increase in the number of meetings in 2017: approximately 1500 more than in 2016, representing an increase of around 25 % between 2016 and 2017;
- the inclusion of the Europa building and the Overijse warehouse in the 2017 calculations.

	CATEGORY	TONNES CO ₂ e			CHANGE 2014-2017	Compared to 2014
		2014	2016	2017		
1	Visitor transport	18.597	15.905	19.598	1.001	5
	Delegates by car	20	36	29	9	
	Delegates by plane	18.536	15.828	19.519	983	
	Delegates by train	34	34	38	4	
	Other visitors	7	7	12	5	
2	Fixed assets	6.996	5.931	6.785	-210	-3
	Office space	2.744	2.744	3.498	754	
	Surface area garage	432	432	459	27	
	Surface area restaurants	82	82	119	37	
	Warehouse surface area	0	0	59	59	
	Computer equipment	3.571	2.495	2.497	-1.074	
	Office equipment	167	179	153	-13	
3	Stationary combustion sources	4.010	4.137	5.068	1.059	26
	Diesel	12	12	17	5	
	Fuel oil	206	114	0	-206	
	Gas	3.792	4.011	5.051	1.259	
4	Purchases of goods and services	1.948	1.698	1.734	-214	-11
	External services	1.034	950	1.005	-29	
	Food	549	398	416	-133	
	Crèche	106	101	102	-4	
	Office supplies	259	249	212	-47	
5	Missions	1.825	2.781	2.281	456	25
	Flights	1.809	2.746	2.245	436	
	Travel by train	16	35	36	20	
6	Commuting between home and work	1.610	1.679	1.680	70	4
	Car sharing, walking, cycling	11	9	9	-2	
	Car, motorcycle	1.365	1.533	1.534	169	
	Public transport	234	137	137	-97	

	CATEGORY	TONNES CO ₂ e			CHANGE 2014-2017	Compared to 2014
		2014	2016	2017		
7	Waste	184	203	193	9	5 %
	Hazardous	2	2	2	0	
	General (incineration)	155	176	161	6	
	Organic (methanisation)	11	15	18	7	
	Recycled or reused	6	5	5	-1	
	Bulk, building waste	10	5	8	-2	
8	Freight	110	101	99	-12	-11 %
	Van hire	4	3	1	-3	
	Food	59	59	59	0	
	Post	22	14	13	-9	
	Office supplies	13	12	12	-1	
	Other	13	13	13	0	
9	Vehicle fuel	70	54	52	-17	-24 %
	Diesel	18	17	6	-12	
	Petrol	49	28	38	-11	
	Hybrid	3	9	8	5	
10	Refrigerant leaks	43	6	269	226	526 %
11	Electricity	22	21	0	-22	-100 %
12	District heating	7	25	15	8	114 %
13	District cooling	4	6	7	3	92 %
	Grand total	35.424	32.547	37.782	2.357	7 %
	Full-time equivalent	3.124 ⁹	3.138	3.127		
	TCO₂e /FTE	11,34	10,37	12,08		

⁹ Number of people employed by the General Secretariat of the Council (excluding external staff, visitors etc.).