



europaean network on debt & development

Eurodad environmental policy

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This policy covers Eurodad's approach to reducing its impact on the environment while carrying out its work. Reducing damage to the environment and to the people most dependent on the natural environment is a matter of principle and a matter of coherence with Eurodad's aims. The evidence that human-caused climate change and other environmental degradation is endangering the livelihoods and lives of impoverished people in the South and in the North is now irrefutable.

Improving environmental performance is also a matter of good practice. In many cases good environmental management is also good general management, and will save money and time. But Eurodad is also prepared to change its practices and on occasion pay more or take longer if this will reduce its environmental footprint.

1. Office supplies and functioning

Printing uses significant amounts of paper, energy and ink. Paper uses trees as a raw material, and also may use chlorine or other chemicals in its production process.

Eurodad will minimise its impacts via printing through:

- a) Not printing documents or e-mails which do not need to be read or kept off screen;
- b) Setting double-sided printing as default;
- c) Using non-bleached, post-consumer recycled paper for all internal use and non-chlorine bleached recycled paper for final reports. This will also be mentioned on the reports to encourage other organisations to use similar paper;
- d) Projecting documents (i.e. meeting agendas) on the wall rather than printing and distributing them at meetings;
- e) Ensuring its print cartridges are recycled
- f) Taking steps to minimise junk mail received.

Eurodad will also minimise the print-related impacts of its audiences by:

- g) distributing materials electronically (including on CD-Roms), adding a warning to its e-mail signatures.

Other office supplies may also cause serious environmental impacts through the raw materials used, the production processes employed or the waste that they create.

Eurodad aims to:

- h) purchase organic (and also fair trade) products (tea, coffee, etc) where not more than 20% more expensive than equivalent other products
- i) purchase low-impact cleaning fluids and other chemicals, for example Ecover products;
- j) encourage staff not to purchase over-packaged products, including bottled water, lunches, etc;
- k) ensure it does not purchase unneeded electronic or other equipment and to dispose of all such equipment responsibly, ideally by passing it to another organisation or individual that can use it, for example in a developing country
- l) separate all of its everyday waste in line with Belgian legislation (which is good).

In the medium-term Eurodad aims to:

- m) Co-locate its office with other like-minded organisations that are trying to establish a 'Maison du Developpement Durable' (Sustainable Development House) in Brussels. This will mean Eurodad is part of a project that is reducing its impacts systematically through the way the building is designed and managed, and that equipment is shared where possible.

2. Energy use

Eurodad needs to use energy to carry out its work. Computers, printers, kitchen equipment and other devices require energy to run, and in the winter heating is required. This energy use causes direct and indirect environmental impacts, through CO₂ emissions and the extraction and transportation of fossil fuels. Eurodad will:

- a) Turn off the printer and other equipment each evening and at other times when not in use;
- b) Purchase electrical equipment which has high energy efficiency ratings;
- c) Turn heating off when not needed and keep the thermostat low (19 degrees);
- d) Turn off lights when not needed and use low energy light bulbs where possible;
- e) Use an energy provider that is investing in renewable energy;
- f) Insulate and draught-proof the office;
- g) Not use air conditioning. .

3. Transport

Transport is a major contributor to climate change and local environmental degradation as most motorised transport emits significant quantities of carbon dioxide and other waste gases. While recognising that staff of an international network dealing with international development issues will have to travel to many meetings a year, Eurodad will minimise its impacts. Eurodad staff will:

- a) Propose video or phone conferences instead of physical meetings where these can reduce travel. Often, where people know each other already, a meeting may not be necessary. Eurodad's role is mainly to make a short presentation. If this requires an investment in internet bandwidth or equipment, Eurodad will do so;
- b) Suggest other people who can go to meetings instead of Eurodad staff, where these people are closer and/or there is no major benefit for Eurodad staff to be present. This will be the case with certain groups which Eurodad knows well;
- c) Propose several meetings to take place in back to back in one time window.
- d) Encourage staff to use forms of transport other than private cars to travel to work and to work meetings;
- e) Encourage staff to use surface travel to reach meetings within Europe. The rule is that meetings which can be reached within 8 hours surface transport must be reached that way unless there is an overriding reason not to.
- f) Not offset its carbon emissions via one of the controversial existing schemes, but consider limited support to grassroots environmental justice campaigns either through in-kind or financial contributions.

All Eurodad staff are responsible for implementing this policy, with the major responsibility resting with the Eurodad Office and Finance Manager and Coordinator. Part of implementing this policy is awareness-raising for staff of the importance of good environmental practice and of this policy. This can be achieved through discussions at weekly meetings, and also posters and other written reminders which can be displayed at different locations where they will be visible. This policy will be made public, reviewed at least once at the beginning of each year, and adjusted as necessary. Eurodad staff will provide a short implementation report to Eurodad's members, which will be examined in draft by Eurodad's board at its first meeting of each year.