

# Press release

31 January 2013

## **KBC gains EMAS certification**

**Today KBC Belgium gained EMAS certification for its support services thus becoming the first Belgian financial institution allowed to register for this European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme.**

**EMAS is the European Commission's management tool to help companies continually improve their environmental performance. EMAS registration is only possible once an organisation has issued a public environmental statement and implemented an environmental management system to govern its environmental policies.**

KBC's environmental policy uses an environmental management system based on risk analysis thus guaranteeing a systematic approach within the company to improve its environmental performance. The process is driven by KBC's environmental centre.

KBC has an embedded environmental management system that is consistently applied in practice. In addition, it raises staff awareness of environmental issues both at work and at home.

KBC has complied with the requirements of the international environmental management standard ISO 14001 since 2009. In 2012, KBC also set its sights on registering for EMAS, the European Eco-Management and Audit Scheme. EMAS sets the bar higher for sound legal compliance, staff commitment and the publication of environmental performance.

To secure EMAS and renew ISO accreditation, KBC paid particular attention in 2012 to:

- in-house environmental campaigns; environmental objectives that are incorporated in a non-recurrent results-based bonus(NRRV) <sup>1</sup> i.e.:
  - reducing paper consumption, reducing CO2 emissions from heating and lease cars, and reducing electricity consumption
  - replacing conventional materials by more environmentally-friendly alternatives.

External audits are carried out annually to check if KBC's management system still meets regulatory requirements. In November 2012, Bureau Veritas Certification Belgium nv/sa conducted an audit at KBC not only of its policies and organisation around environmental sustainability and its technical and regulatory framework, but also regarding employee and community involvement. The public environmental statement was validated. Thanks to compliance with all these requirements, KBC is proud to be the first Belgian bank-insurer to have an EMAS certificate.

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<sup>1</sup> A bonus which is paid out, provided a set goal has been achieved. The terms and conditions for paying this bonus are laid down in a Collective Labour Agreement.

KBC is committed to developing further its environmentally-friendly and sustainable business practices and will set up pilot projects in 2013 on biodiversity and new forms of work in co-operation with social interest groups.

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