Improving resource and energy efficiency in Estonian companies as a result of ENHANCE project

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EMAS Action Plan in Estonia

Six policy measures to promote EMAS implementation that fall into two groups:

**Economic actions and instruments**
1. Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS registered companies
2. Exemption of environmental charges/taxes

**Measures that provide administrative relief to companies that have implemented EMAS**
3. Relief on energy audit requirement
4. Simplification of the environmental permit application
5. Reduced reporting requirement
6. Reduced inspection requirement

Contribution to the following policy instrument

*Specific objective: solutions that increase resource and energy efficiency of enterprises in Estonia*
Action: Relief on energy audit requirement for EMAS registered companies

- Large EMAS registered companies are exempted from the mandatory energy audits (requirement of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive)
- Special guideline was prepared
- This measure has received positive feedback from quite a number of companies and thus can be expected to be an additional incentive for enterprises to implement EMAS
Action: Reduction of financial guarantees for EMAS registered waste management companies

- An amendment to the Waste Act (§ 98) has exempted EMAS registered companies from a warranty or financial guarantee related to waste depositing.
- This measure has given a very strong impetus to the implementation of EMAS, especially in the sector related to waste management and the circular economy.
- Today, most of the major waste management companies in Estonia have started to implement EMAS.