

The Grimaldi Forum Monaco brilliantly keeps its environmental certification ISO 14001:2004

Three years have already gone by since October 15th 2008 when the Grimaldi Forum Monaco became one of the first convention and cultural center in Europe to obtain the environmental certification ISO 14001:2004.

June 29th of this year 2011, after numerous audit days devoted to the analysis of its environmental management system that the staff executes every week, the certification organism DNV (Det Norske Veritas) officially recertified the Grimaldi Forum Monaco until October 15th 2014.

This certification endorses the work initiated in November 2007 by the entire staff and management in order to participate in the eco-responsibility movement that the Principality of Monaco has launched at the instigation of its Sovereign Prince, but likewise to respond to the international corporate tourism market's increasingly pressing demands in this field. Under the ACT GREEN banner the Grimaldi Forum Monaco is now giving further concrete expression to its desire to actively promote a cleaner, greener event organisation industry, by also offering « Green Event » solutions.

Consequently the Grimaldi Forum Monaco wanted to complement its existing ecological measures, which include using seawater as a renewable energy for its air conditioning, so has adopted immediate solutions to reduce its impact on the environment: introduction of waste sorting, recycling of carpeting and PVC signage sheeting, buying and using ecocertified products, reducing electricity consumption by using low-voltage light bulbs or Led, etc...

Concrete balance sheet over three years

Between 2007 and 2010, the Grimaldi Forum devoted an important investment of over 300 000 euros in order to face three priorities: the reduction of electrical consumption, of water consumption, and waste sorting.

1. Electrical consumption reduction

Thanks to a "Centralized Technical Management" (CTG), the building possesses 20,000 control points managing as close as possible its consumption and preventing any types of drifts. Moreover, 69% of the 18,460 lighting bulbs present in the building are poor in consumption. Starting this summer, this percent will be optimized by the realization of important work on the lighting of the breakout rooms. Always in this improvement logic, the glass Main Lobby has been equipped with a shade structure, some solar filters have been placed on the Génois' windows and some automatic sliding doors have been installed in the Ravel Space ; these three measures allow to limit the resort to air conditioning. Finally, during 2010, as a response to the Mediterranean Sea warming reaching 27degrees Celsius in summer, work has been realized to directly withdraw a fresh water at a constant temperature limiting the energy consumption necessary for the air conditioning.

These measures have permitted the Grimaldi Forum to reduce its electric consumption by 9% between 2007 and 2010.

2. Reducing water consumption

Following the GTC, water consumption was also confronted to regular controls and analysis, in order to prevent any leak, dysfunction or pollution. The bathrooms have been equipped with automatic faucets and flushes with differentiated debit. An effort of sensitization of the staff and the public has been made in order to contribute to improve the behaviors on a site. Between 2007 and 2010, water consumption has decreased by 38%, about two Olympic swimming pools.

3. Recycle

The selective sorting is, without any doubt, the sector in which the Grimaldi Forum made the biggest effort (40 000€ have been invested), as the process had to be implemented from the beginning, our will being to go as far as possible on this track.

So, today, 37% of waste are sorted and recycled. Beside the classic sectors (paper, packaging, glass, batteries, lights ...), the event signage system is recycled through the French firm Réversible which turns it into bags and other decoration items. Carpets are recycled into car carpets and since the first trimester of 2011, there is a new valorization program for the wood, with the implementation of an ad hoc sector. The Grimaldi Forum staff is, of course, here to entice the public, clients and suppliers to correctly sort their waste and also to subscribe to selective sorting solutions on their site.

The Grimaldi Forum controls perfectly its energy consumption

On the last 30 November, the Grimaldi Forum Monaco and the Monaco Company of Electricity and Gas (SMEG) signed a partnership to establish an "energy assistance" to the Congress Center of the Principality, and realize an overall audit implemented through the technical expertise of GDF Suez. This approach was used to map all the energy consumed by the Grimaldi Forum and their uses to analyze the feasibility of a draft energy savings, which could lead to obtaining ISO 16001 certification (standard for the establishment of systems and processes to improve energy efficiency).

First general statement prepared by the auditors: "The Grimaldi Forum has been operating for almost 10 years and as such, we emphasize the good condition of facilities and good working knowledge of them.

The Grimaldi Forum signs the "Wood Chart" of the Prince Albert II of Monaco's Foundation

Following its operation "Together against deforestation" led by the Principality Tourism Direction in the profit of Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, the Grimaldi Forum signed, on the 7th of July 2011, the "Wood Chart" elaborated by the Foundation, in the same time as 26 other key firms of the Principality. Being sensitized to the global issue of deforestation, these firms also engaged themselves to adopt a virtuous behavior in the use and the management of certified and sustainable woods in their activities.

Logon to the Grimaldi Forum's website at www.grimaldiformum.mc and go to the Act Green page to consult all the founding texts.

Reminder: What is the ISO 14001 Certification?

ISO 14001 is the only recognised international standard for creating an environmental management system(EMS). It is based on the principle of continuous improvement (the Deming wheel principle) and its purpose is to identify, check and control the environmental aspects of an organisation and plan in detail the management of the entire system.

The standard presupposes:

- A commitment by management and the appointment of an Environment officer

- evaluation of impacts on the environment,
- compliance with laws and regulations in force
- an environmental policy,
- goals and a programme of actions to attain those goals,
- staff training and awareness raising,
- monitoring of environmental impacts,
- a management review, which studies the EMS and how well it is running.

A company, local authority, service provider or other entity that fulfils these conditions in a relevant way with regard to its particular environmental and organisational context, is awarded a certificate by a recognised certifying body.

Having an EMS brings a number of advantages. It

- commits a firm to improving its environmental performance,
- distinguishes it from the competition,
- provides control over the costs of environmental management (waste management, water and energy consumption, etc.),
- defines each person's responsibilities,
- acts on sub-contractors' environmental behaviour,
- motivates staff,
- is recognised by concerned parties,
- provides a structured, planned and measurable approach to environmental actions,
- enables a firm to prevent pollution and control environmental risks.