

# EU policy on Green Public Procurement

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# To make Green PP work

In the EU, the public procurement spend amounts to ca. 16% of the gross domestic product

To “green” PP, 4 steps must be taken:

1. The EU has to allow MS to “green”
2. MS have to prepare themselves to green
3. The EU must encourage MS to “green”
4. Public purchasers must be told to buy green

# 1. The EU has to allow MS to “green”



# EU Services Directive

- Legislation, compulsory for all Member States
- Directive [2006/123/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market [Official Journal L 376 of 27 December 2006].
- Prohibits all economic special requirements/ conditions, that hinder Free Trade
- Does not allow favouring companies in any way

# EU Services Directive

But:

Allows EU public authorities to include conditions that are meant to safeguard urgent public interests

Such as public health, public safety, environmental protection

## 2. MS have to prepare themselves to green



# MS Public authorities must

On national, regional or local level:

- Define and establish policy on urgent public interests
- Based on facts and figures, expressed in objectives and targets
- Translated in general requirements for companies active on their territory

# Why must PA do so

- If they want to apply Green PP, they must be able to prove that their choice is based on general rules and is not arbitrary
- In case of a lawsuit at the European Court of Justice, companies that did not get the order should not be able to question whether “tricks” were used just to rule them out



### 3. The EU must encourage MS to “green”



# Encourage or oblige MS

- The EU does not (yet) oblige MS to procure green, free trade is a sensitive topic
- But the EU does encourage; by publishing the  
Communication “*Public procurement for a better environment*” (COM (2008) 400, published on 16 July 2008)

# And next work on ...

- setting common GPP criteria
- encouraging publication of information on life-cycle costing (LCC) of products
- increasing certainty about legal possibilities to include environmental criteria in tender documents
- establishing support for the promotion and implementation of GPP through a political target linked to indicators and monitoring

## 4. Public purchasers must be told to buy green



# Gap to be closed

- Even when “green” policy has been defined around long term values
- “Green” PP is often more expensive on direct costs / short term
- Procurement officers / buyers will not buy green without an incentive or instruction
- These are depending on the political climate
- Political decisions are influenced by voters

# Raising awareness

- Training for Procurement Officers
- Green incentives – prices, publicity ...
- Involving the public: CoP ?
- Tools: handbooks, Q&A facility, list of Green Companies, website with Best Practices, website

# More on Communication

“Public procurement for a better environment”

# Great support

- Adopted by the EU Competitiveness Council, saying in it's decision:

“thereby stimulating, at a level permitting economies of scale .... “ (= short, local)

“CALLS ON the Member States to make full use of the potential of GPP to stimulate expansion of the market in environmental products and services ....”



# What's on the EC website

On GPP:

- Definition
- Benefits
- Barriers
- Green vs sustainable PP
- Dialogue with the market (suppliers)
- Life Cycle Costing
- Eco-labels

# What's on the EC website

## On Policy Framework:

- GPP Policy
- EU Strategic Policy
- Related EU Legislation
- International Policy Framework

# What's on the EC website

On GPP criteria:

- Background
- GPP criteria
- GPP Toolkit for GPP trainers and public purchasers (all languages):
  1. *A strategic module which seeks to raise the political support for GPP.*
  2. *A legal module which seeks to clarify legal issues.*
  3. *An operational module aimed at purchasing officers.*

# What's on the EC website

On GPP criteria development process:

- Process for setting criteria
- Work plan
- Stakeholder's participation, the way information on a certain topic was gathered; input for handbooks

# What's on the EC website

On information:

- Studies
- Projects
- Reports
- GPP examples

# What's on the EC website

On news & events:

- GPP expert meetings
- Events
- GPP Brochure
- News-alert
- Newsletter ITCILO:

*In 2009 and 2010 the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation executed a program to raise the awareness of GPP policy in 19 EU Member States. National GPP conferences were organised in cooperation with national GPP experts. (mainly New MS)*

# What's on the EC website

## Links:

- EU websites
- National websites (all MS)
- Networks and initiatives, such as:

<http://www.publicprocurementnetwork.org/>

<https://procurementforum.viadesk.com/do/login/>

<http://www.igpn.org/> (*international green purchasing network, you can start your own group there*)

[http://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/gproc\\_e/gproc\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gproc_e/gproc_e.htm)

# EC Handbook

“Buying Green ! A handbook on Green Public Procurement”, in all EU languages

A step by step tool for purchasers

Key GPP sectors:

- Buildings
- Food and catering services
- Electricity
- Timber



# EC Handbook

What criteria does the EC address on food:

- % organic
- in season
- sustainably harvested
- minimising food waste
- minimising food packaging
- trained staff on GPP present

# EC Handbook

What criteria are missing / could be added:

- freshness of food
- low food mileage / low carbon (and other) footprint
- quality and safety level of working conditions
- re-usage of energy, water and materials, sustainable production & processing

# EU Work in progress

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/sustainable.htm>

Consultation on Delivering more Sustainable Consumption and Production

Period of consultation: From 11.01.2012 to 03.04.2012

View the consultation documents:

[Background document](#)

[Executive background document](#)

# EU Work in progress

**Objective of the consultation** The European Commission wants to gather views and additional information on the possible introduction of EU wide measures related to Sustainable Consumption and Production. The consultation also looks at Green Public Procurement (GPP), the Environmental Footprint of Products (PEF) and the Environmental Footprint of Organisations (OEF). The consultation offers an opportunity to all interested parties to express their views, to give their opinion on the proposed policy options.

# Enough food for thought and discussion ?

