

## Importance of sustainable procurement highlighted at High Level Political Forum on sustainable development

This summer, the importance of sustainable procurement (SPP) was recognised at the highest global level, when it was underlined as key to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nation's (UN) annual [High Level Political Forum](#) (HLPF) in New York (9-18 July).

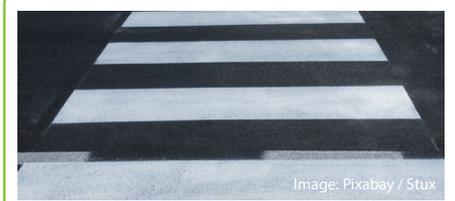
The HLPF is the UN's main platform on sustainable development and plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the SDGs at the global level. Over 125 heads of state and government ministers attended to discuss this year's theme of 'Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies'.

Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation



and Nuclear Safety (Germany), was one of the political representatives of the HLPF in July, and in her keynote speech, called attention to public procurement's contribution to SDG 12: Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns.

To read the article in full, click [here](#).



### Zoom in on... GPP criteria for paints and varnishes in 22 languages

In January, the EC released new guidance for greener procurement of paints, varnishes and road markings, in the format of [EU GPP Criteria](#). These criteria are now available on the European Commission's GPP website in 22 languages. The criteria, which are intended to be used both for the purchase of products and works, are aimed at prolonging longevity and reducing environmental impacts.



### Zoom in on... Barcelona's new sustainable procurement plan

Last April (2018) Barcelona's City Council approved its [First Annual sustainable Public Procurement Plan](#): the Plan communicates the objectives of what the municipal authority, as a whole, must achieve. Some priorities for this year are that the level of usage of recycled paper reaches 90%; 90% of wood purchases have guarantees of a sustainable origin (100% for tropical wood); and the percentage of low emission vehicles used by the municipal fleet doubles. A [new website](#) with information in Spanish, Catalan and English is also available.

## Interview: Sending a strong signal to the market in favour of 'green' heavy vehicles, Helsinki region



*Kristiina Bailey is the Procurement Manager at [Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority](#) (HSY). She is a member of the Unit Board and several internal and external working groups, and*

*is responsible for developing procurement processes and analysing their impacts, supplier relationships and strategic development.*

### Why did you develop common GPP criteria for heavy vehicles?

Heavy vehicles are responsible for carbon emissions and other air pollution, and are an important area of focus to meet our CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and other emission targets. That's why the public procurement specialists of several public authorities around the capital area of

Finland recently joined forces to set up common environmental criteria for heavy-duty machinery, trucks and other similar services.

The benefit of this approach is that contractors feel more confident in improving their fleet and machinery accordingly, as they know the criteria will be the same regardless of the procurement unit in question. By meeting the criteria, suppliers support the cities in achieving their emission targets as heavy-duty machinery and related transport services are significant source of emissions.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).

## GPP good practice

### Austrian framework for alternatively powered vehicles

Austria's [Federal Procurement Agency](#) (BBG) is the central purchasing body for Austria, and provides holistic purchasing services and innovation procurement support to public authorities in Austria. BBG has been proactively monitoring the market for alternatively-fuelled vehicles for several years, and in 2016 decided to pool the needs of the public sector and encourage greater uptake of electric and other alternatively-fuelled vehicles across Austria.



An initial needs assessment showed that 1,134 cars could potentially be powered by alternative fuels. To encourage uptake, BBG offered professional consulting services, where the existing vehicle fleet and the organisational requirements were examined and the optimised drive mix (to understand any driving-range limitations) determined. The framework contract commenced in October 2017 and will be in operation for four years. The contract value is estimated at €42.4 million. So far 62 battery electric vehicles and 11 plug-in hybrids/hybrid electric vehicles have been replaced.

Download the full case study [here](#).

### Sustainable reconstruction of the A6 motorway in the Netherlands by the Department of Public Works

In 2015, the [Department of Public Works within the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management](#) (RWS) published a Design, Build, Maintain and Finance contract to widen a 13 kilometre stretch of road between Almere Havendreef - Almere Buiten Oost (A6 motorway) and maintain this during a 20-year operation phase. RWS uses the 'Most Economically Advantageous Tender (MEAT)' procedure to select tenders on the basis of price and quality, which in this project were assessed on a risk management plan, a traffic congestion restriction plan, and sustainability.



RWS assigns monetary values to quality aspects. These values are then subtracted from the actual offered price to provide a 'corrected total price' in which environmental impacts are also accounted for. The bidder with the lowest 'corrected total price' then wins the contract. By monetising efforts to reduce environmental externalities, RWS was able to assess and select a provider on the basis of more holistic information on cost and quality.

RWS' approach enabled it to select a design for reconstructing the A6 motorway that will generate a saving of 52,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions, or 15,048 tonnes of oil (toe) equivalent over the life time of the project (or annual savings of 1,056 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year and 301 toe/year) compared to the maximum ECI allowed value.

Download the full case study [here](#).



### Zoom in on... Europe's tropical timber imports

Only 30% of tropical timber products in the EU market are sustainable - this is one of the key findings of a recent [report](#) commissioned and co-authored by [IDH - the Sustainable Trade Initiative](#) - and forest and timber experts. The report identifies trends in the trade of tropical timber on the European market, and explores how a European commitment to 100% verified sustainable tropical timber, can contribute to deforestation-free supply chains and help meet climate change mitigation targets.



### Zoom in on... Croatian GPP portal

The Croatian national government have launched a new website dedicated to GPP. The website contains information, tools (such as for calculating Life Cycle Costs) and good practice cases aimed at supporting further actions in green procurement by the public sector. Materials developed for four training sessions delivered during 2017 can also be found on the website.

[More information...](#)

The GPP News Alert is an initiative of the European Commission, Directorate-General Environment. Editor: EU GPP Helpdesk  
Email: [gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org](mailto:gpp-helpdesk@iclei.org)  
The articles published in the GPP News Alert represent the personal views of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission, nor any person acting on its behalf.

To read more GPP examples, visit the European Commission's GPP [website](#).  
Previous issues of the GPP News Alert are available [here](#).