

Proposed Directives set new rules for SPP



On 20 December 2011, the European Commission published its proposals for revision of the procurement directives and a new directive on concessions.

national procurement oversight bodies to report on implementation of SPP in each Member State.

Rules are also proposed for:

- Rejection of tenders, which are abnormally low due to breach of environmental/social laws;
- Use of eco-labels in technical specifications;
- Application of life-cycle costing including environmental externalities

Contracting authorities with experience in implementing GPP/SPP are invited to read these provisions to see how they compare with their existing practices. The proposals have been transmitted to the European Parliament and Council of Ministers, and are scheduled for adoption by the end of 2012. According to the proposal, the current public sector and utility Directives will be repealed from 30 June 2014.

[More information...](#)

In addition to simplifying procedures, the reform aims to ensure public contracts can be used for strategic purposes related to environmental and social objectives, innovation and support of SMEs – without inhibiting competition or transparency.

In the consultation, which took place in 2011, many respondents mentioned the importance of including environmental and social characteristics of production in technical specifications. The possibility to do so was confirmed in the proposals. It will also be possible to exclude candidates or tenderers based on breach of EU or international environmental and social laws. A new requirement will apply for

Zoom in on...New and revised GPP criteria published



New EU GPP criteria for [indoor lighting](#) have just been published, addressing the key environmental impacts of lighting products, design and installation.

Updated criteria have also been published for [office IT equipment](#), [transport](#), [electricity](#), [cleaning products and services](#), [textiles](#), [gardening products and services](#), [hard floor-coverings](#) and [street lighting and traffic signals](#).

Criteria are in development for [taps and showerheads](#), [toilets](#), [heating systems](#), [office buildings](#), [imaging equipment](#) and [medical devices](#). For some of the groups, there is still an opportunity to contribute views.

Since 2008, the EU GPP criteria have been developed based on scientific research into the life-cycle of each product and service covered and input from public authorities, industry and others. Criteria currently exist for 19 groups.

[More information...](#)

Putting sustainable procurement into action in Malmö



Trevor Graham, Head of Environment Department, Malmö (Sweden). Malmö will play host to the [EcoProcura 2012 conference](#) September 19-21 as part of its ongoing commitment to sustainable public procurement.

How do you keep track of your progress?

Our central procurement database now includes a broad range of data on the food used by our twenty kitchens across the city. This keeps track of the type and quantity of food used at several hundred facilities, as well as staff training, waste and other factors related to the quality and efficiency of delivery. We can thus monitor our progress district by district.

What do you expect from EcoProcura 2012?

At local level, we would like to raise awareness around SPP and the opportunities and challenges this presents. On a larger scale, we see it as a chance to foster debate on the role public procurement can play in moving to a more sustainable economy and meeting targets related to climate change and energy efficiency, for example.

What actions has Malmö recently taken to promote more sustainable procurement?

One area we've been focusing on lately is the procurement of more sustainable food for our schools, pre-schools and elder care facilities. The goal is that by 2020 all food will be sustainable and climate adapted – meaning 100 percent organic and lower volumes of meat. This has required an active dialogue with suppliers to ensure they can meet the challenging new requirements.

Zoom in on... Consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production



On 11 January the European Commission launched a new consultation on Sustainable Consumption and Production, including GPP measures.

The consultation will steer EU-wide policy in the following areas, sustainable consumption and production and sustainable industrial policy, green public procurement, improving the environmental performance of products and improving the environmental performance of organisations. The consultation runs until 3 April and contributions are invited from all interested parties.

[Access the questionnaire...](#)

Zoom in on... Procurement workshop on energy-efficient data centres



The EU-funded PrimeEnergyIT project is organising a workshop on public procurement of energy-efficient data centres and server farms on 10 February 2012 in Paris. The workshop is aimed mostly at procurers from public authorities.

Guidelines and recommendations will be presented. Aside from the IT-equipment itself, the focus will be on how to procure energy-efficient data centre infrastructure, such as cooling systems and energy-supply.

[More information...](#)

GPP examples

Basque Council maintains buildings the greener way (Spain)



The Provincial Council of Gipuzkoa is responsible for the operation and upkeep of a number of buildings in Donostia-San Sebastian, the province's capital. As part of its environmental strategy, the Council aims to incorporate GPP criteria across a range of its contracts.

The high impact associated with heating, cooling, lighting, waste and other aspects of building operation and maintenance make this a priority area for GPP.

In 2010 a tender was published for the maintenance of two properties – one residential and one office building. With help from Ihobe (Basque Environmental Management Agency), the Council implemented criteria relating to the skills and experience of the personnel in providing environmentally friendly building maintenance. Contract performance clauses also addressed the waste management plan of the contractor and environmental reporting requirements.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Sustainable school meals in East Ayrshire (Scotland)



As a council responsible for providing over 1.3 million school meals a year, East Ayrshire has a lot on its hands. A growing awareness of the health, environmental, social and economic impacts of those meals led it to adopt a new procurement strategy in 2008. The focus was to be on fresh, unprocessed and organic ingredients.

An EU-level tender incorporated all these elements, and has had lead to increase take up of school meals as well as other positive results.

Independent research carried out by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency indicated that the CO₂ emission savings associated with the change in food sourcing for one school alone amounts to 37.7 tonnes per annum. East Ayrshire was also the winner of an [Association for Public Service Excellence](#) award in 2011.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

To read more GPP examples, visit the GPP [website](#). Previous News Alerts are available [here](#).