

Green, responsible procurement supported by EU Parliament



The recent votes by the European Parliament's Internal Market Committee (IMCO) saw proposals for further changes to the future EU public

social criteria.

The changes suggest that MEPs wish to see greener and more socially responsible public procurement, whereby contracting authorities take sustainability into account by considering the environment, life-cycle costs, and/or social objectives, which can also include fair trade. Further amendments were made to broaden the inclusion of social and environmental considerations within production processes, into all stages of the tendering process. The procedure for the establishment of labels or certificates (such as energy certificates for buildings) and their use in tendering has also been altered from the Commission's previous proposal.

The Parliament will decide in the coming weeks if the rapporteurs on the procurement and the concessions directives will be given a mandate to start negotiations with the European Council (see [December GPP News Alert](#) for the Council position).

procurement rules. The votes took place on 18 December for the '[Classic](#)' directive and on 24 January 2013 for the '[Utilities](#)' directive. The reform text proposed by the Commission at the end of 2011 has been amended by MEPs and includes now, among other things, an elimination of the possibility for public procurement contracts to go to the lowest cost bid. Instead, the 'most economically advantageous tender' (MEAT) should be the only basis for awarding contracts, including the possibility of setting environmental or

Zoom in on... help for buying green vehicles



As part of the European Clean Fleets project, direct support training, specific advice, and assistance with tendering is being offered to organisations that fall under the [EU Clean Vehicles Directive](#) (CVD).

Clean Fleets aims to help public authorities and fleet operators implement the CVD, which is now integrated into national law in all EU Member States.

To learn more about free support with tendering, training, exchange or direct advice click [here](#).

Image: Flickr, Mitsubishi-España

Province of Barcelona steps up sustainable procurement



Mercè Rius Serra is the Deputy for Environment at Barcelona's Provincial Council and Councillor of Badalona's City Council (Spain).

carried out by the GPP Working Group of the Catalan Network of Cities and Towns towards Sustainability, coordinated by our Environment Department, and involving 70 experts from purchasing or environment departments from 45 municipalities. Their work involves drafting up model calls for tender which include sustainability criteria, identifying new resources on GPP to help in the day-to-day work, organising training workshops for local authority technicians, amongst other initiatives.

What are the next steps for Barcelona?

Internally, we're working on updating our Sustainable Corporation Programme, which aims to improve the Council's approach to environmental management for various sectors including procurement. Influencing monitoring, evaluation and communication approaches is a further challenge. We will also continue to support municipalities in improving their environmental performance and disseminating good practice.

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

Which have been the key GPP achievements for the Province of Barcelona?

Work on GPP began some years ago, with the approval of a Plan for Resource Optimisation for the Province in 2004, with 'greening' purchases and contracts. More recently, all new contracts for cleaning services of Council buildings incorporate sustainability criteria; as do contracts for multifunctional equipment for offices, and also for purchasing/leasing public vehicles. We have also increased cooperation between the Environment and Logistics Departments - responsible for most of the purchases and contracts.

In what ways does the Provincial Council support municipalities in Barcelona?

I believe that networking with municipalities provides great value to our work. I'd like to highlight the work

Zoom in on... making savings by buying green



It is often mistakenly assumed that buying green products/services is more expensive, a particular issue during times of austerity. A new publication (November 2012) providing the public sector with key arguments favouring GPP has been released by two Spanish organisations. The publication compiles key strategies to use both natural and economic resources more efficiently. With each strategy, real examples are presented along with environmental benefits and economic savings.

The guide, available in Spanish and Euskara, can be downloaded from this [link](#).

Image: Flickr, mammal

Zoom in on... efficient data centres and server rooms



A publication with case studies on the energy efficiency of data centres and server rooms, produced by the [Prime Energy IT](#) consortium, is now available online.

The collection was created to address the issues linked to the increasing use of IT and data interchange. Supported by [IEE](#), it provides examples of energy efficient hardware and infrastructure in the public and private sector.

The case studies and accompanying procurement guidelines are available [here](#).

Zoom in on... guidance for responsible procurement



The guidance produced through the European [LANDMARK project](#) analyses methods of verifying social responsibility at different stages of the procurement process.

It explores if, how and to what extent verification schemes developed in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Austria can be used under EU law.

Demonstrating the complexity of the issue, the Guide introduces a set of different legal opinions and points of agreement on the verification schemes described. Download the Guide [here](#).

GPP examples

Cost-efficient and clean police cars in Berlin, Germany



Berlin's police force purchases some 200 vehicles every year. Their most recent tender (from May 2012) saw the inclusion of a number of environmental and economic requirements as recommended by the European [Clean Vehicles Directive](#).

In addition to including some basic environmental criteria as a requirement, the contract was awarded based on the life-cycle, energy and environmental costs of the vehicles.

The environmental costs were calculated based on a) fuel consumption, b) energy consumption, c) CO₂ emissions, d) NO_x, e) non-methane hydrocarbons and f) particulate matter.

The tendering procedure, the first of its kind using life-cycle costing (LCC), including green costs, proved successful and thus will be used again by the police force in the future.

Download the GPP example [here](#).

Green stationery and paper, Gloucestershire County Council, United Kingdom



In 2011, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) signed a contract under a central government framework agreement for the supply of office stationery. Products supplied under the "Government Office Supplies Contract" are compliant with the [UK Government's Government Buying Standards](#), which are similar to the EU GPP criteria.

The contract not only offers GCC a wider range of green products, but provisions made under the contract and by GCC's Procurement Department make it more difficult for devolved purchasers to buy more costly and potentially non-compliant products from outside the Government Catalogue.

Before entering into the contract, GCC undertook a series of measures to reduce unnecessary demand for stationery and reuse existing items. After collecting unused stock from around the Council, a month-long moratorium on buying stationery was imposed. This saved GCC around £29,000 (€34,000).

Download the GPP example [here](#).

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