

## New procedures for GPP criteria development



A meeting of National GPP expert group - i.e. informal working group of DG ENV of the European Commission - took place on 7 June. Among other issues the new GPP procedure for process and criteria development was discussed. The overall objective of the new procedure is to create greater synergy among different instruments (GPP, Ecodesign, EU Ecolabel). The procedure proposed by the EC is to be very similar and parallel to the Ecolabel criteria development. Most importantly, there will be a common scientific evidence

base for preparation of technical reports and criteria for products, which will take into account specificities of each instrument.

An informal Advisory Group (AG) will be set up to act as a consultative body to the Commission for developing GPP criteria. It will be composed of 1 representative per Member State as well as 3 representatives of other stakeholders (civil society, industry and SMEs).

You can find more information [here](#).

### GPP training and awareness raising

DG ENV launched two projects aiming at raising awareness on the EU GPP policy and training of GPP experts. Projects are running in 19 Member States and have intensely involved 40 national policy and procurement GPP experts. More than 2,000 delegates have attended national conferences across the EU.

Three more conferences will be held by mid-July 2010: in Athens, Valetta and Lisbon.

More information on [gpp.itcilo.org](http://gpp.itcilo.org).

## Antoine Bonsch, ADEME Aquitaine



*Antoine Bonsch, in charge of purchasing at French environmental agency ADEME Aquitaine.*

Mr Bonsch tells us how joint procurement can encourage sustainable public purchasing.

### What is joint procurement and what does it imply?

Joint orders take place when several organisations make collective orders for specific goods. It is a way of pooling resources and means, so that public purchasing becomes more efficient. In particular, it is very useful to foster eco-responsible processes, since this new sector requires expertise, human

commitment, and even sometimes financial investment.

### What are the benefits of joint procurement?

Joint orders enables to save money, but also to share and spread existing expertise on the environmental aspects of purchasing. This is particularly true for small organisations which do not necessarily have dedicated staff for purchasing. Moreover, these orders are a way of encouraging new green markets (electric vehicles for instance), because larger quantities give a stronger signal and can structure the market.

### How can difficulties be overcome?

The main issues are related to defining, coordinating, and harmonising the goals and expectations of all the organisations, which sometimes have different needs. In this respect, appointing a coordinator for the group orders is the first step.

### Zoom on... a conference

In June the [main outcomes](#) of a conference "[Promoting Innovation Through Public Procurement: Best Practice & Networking](#)" (organised by DG Enterprise and DG Information society in March) were published. Main highlight states that public procurement is recognised as a driver for fostering innovation. Several hurdles are identified however: public authorities' risk aversion and the need for support - financial incentives, guidance, networking and knowledge sharing.

