



Campaign
for sustainable
purchasing of computers

ProcureITfair Roundtable meeting 8 October 2010, Berlin

Sustainable Procurement in Europe - Challenges and Chances for Implementation

Programme outline

Organisers

ProcureITfair is an EU-funded coalition of European NGOs focused on raising public awareness of the dismal working conditions and environmental issues in the production of computers.¹ ProcureITfair stresses the need to include social and ecological criteria in procurement mechanisms, to ensure that labour rights and environmental issues are respected throughout the international IT hardware supply chain. That is why ProcureITfair calls upon policy makers as well as public and other purchasers to use their (buying) power to ensure compliance with international labour and environmental standards in the global IT hardware supply chain. ProcureITfair has recently published a guideline for sustainable procurement of computers especially addressed to public buyers: “Buy IT Fair” The guideline is available in six different languages and versions.² The German NGO World Economy, Ecology & Development (WEED) is leading the project procureITfair.³

8 October, Roundtable

Friday, 8 October, WEED is organising a procureITfair Roundtable meeting. The day long event will take place at the “Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte” in Berlin. We will look into two topics:

- Bidder declaration as a mean to achieve sustainable procurement
- The content and impact of the European Commission guide on sustainable public procurement on, that is going to be soon published by the European Commission

Participants

For this roundtable meeting a number of legal and NGO experts in the area of procurement have been invited. Besides the procureITfair partner organisations a number of other interested civil society organisations from different European Countries have been invited. Furthermore we have invited a number of representatives of European cities responsible for public procurement and different organisations in charge of sustainable procurement.



The event is supported by financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of the Event are the sole responsibility procureITfair and WEED and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

¹ www.procureitfair.org

² <http://procureitfair.org/add-news/buyer-guides-now-published-in-six-different-languages/>

³ www.pcglobal.org, www.weed-online.org

Programme, 8 October 2010

(provisional, registered participants will soon receive a further completed programme)

- 10:00 Reception**
- 10:30 Bidder declaration as means to achieve sustainable procurement (Rike Krämer, University of Bremen, Germany)**
In public procurement companies are often asked for so-called bidder declarations by which they guarantee the compliance with certain standards. For this reason the German NGOs WEED and CIR have commissioned the lawyers Rike Krämer and Prof. Dr. Markus Krajewski to write a legal commentary on the potential of bidder declarations to include social criteria. Based on the result of the commentary, WEED and CIR have developed bidder declarations focusing on social standards for the product groups of computers and clothes. Rike Krämer will present the commentary, followed by an open discussion.
- 11:30 Commentaries on experiences from other countries with the inclusion of social criteria in bidder declarations (TBA)**
- 11:45 Open discussion**
- 13:00 Lunch break**
- 14:30 Analysis of the European Commission guide “Buying social. A Guide to taking account of social considerations in public procurement” (Ramon Vives, Setem, Spain and Ignasi Manrubia, legal expert, Spain)**
It is highly probable that the guide of the European Commission will be published by the end of September. The guide will be central as many public purchasers will orient their procurement practice on it.
Ramon Vives from Catalan NGO Setem and Ignasi Manrubia have worked extensively on this subject and will provide an informed critical appraisal of the probable outcome of the writing process of the Guide. If the guide is published until the 8 October they will present a first hand analysis of the document.
- 15:30 Commentary on possible strategies in dealing with the guide (Tim Steinweg, SOMO, Netherlands)**
In early September the Fair Trade Advocacy Group and the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) have hosted a meeting in Brussel that dealt with the EC Guide. Tim Steinweg from the Dutch NGO SOMO will report which possible reactions from civil society to the guide have been discussed there.
- 15:45 Commentaries on different national perspectives on the use and meaning of the guide for public procurement (TBA)**
- 16:00 Open discussion**
- 17:00 End**

Venue, Contact and Registration

Venue

The Roundtable will take place at the Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte, Greifswalder Str. 4, 10405 Berlin. (close to Alexanderplatz)

Registration and further Information

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