



FAIR PROCURA 2010

Sessions description

24th September, Dortmund Westfalenhalle, Germany
(as of 17th September 2010)



Opening Plenary



Project co-funded by the EU

Session time: 11.00-12.30

Session language: English and German

Room: N° 30, Messe-Forum

Background

Public authorities are major consumers and public procurement currently accounts for around 16% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This purchasing power represents a large opportunity to boost the sales of Fair Trade products, and is an excellent way for public authorities to set an example and show their support to Fair Trade.

The **Public Affairs: Mobilising action for Fair Trade Public Procurement** is a 3-year project led by EFTA that brings together several European partners with the aim of promoting Fair Trade considerations into public procurement. Having started in December 2007, the project is now coming to an end. The conference is the occasion of presenting its main outcome and to make the point on the Fair Trade Public Procurement (FTPP) state of play in Europe.

Objective

The **Public Affairs** project context and its main outcomes will be presented, and the state of play of FTTP in Europe will be assessed. Different stakeholders from final beneficiaries from the South to EU institutions representatives, as well as the partners of the project will participate to enlighten the key evolutions of FTTP as well as the issues at stake.

Methodology

In this session the project, its context and its outcome will be presented, and followed by an opportunity for the audience to discuss with the project participants on FTTP developments in Europe.

Contributors

1) Welcome

Ullrich Sierau, Lord Mayor of Dortmund, Germany

2) Fair Trade Public Procurement in EU policies

Linda McAvans, Member of the European Parliament (EP), Chair of the EP Working Group on Fair Trade

3) Fair Trade Public Procurement can make a difference

Lianne Zoeteweyj, Director of El Guabo, Fair Trade producers Organisation, Ecuador

4) FTTP, a very important tool for sustainable development at local level

Mar Campanero, "Sustainable Municipality" Programme, Municipality of Barcelona, Spain

5) Assessing Fair Trade Public Procurement (FTTP) in Europe: the **Public Affairs** project

Astrid Hilaire, European Fair Trade Association (EFTA); *Elisa Dolci*, CTM-altermercato; *Laura Rodriguez*, IDEAS; *Lynn Geerinck*, Oxfam-Wereldwinkels; *Peter Defranceschi*, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Moderator: Peter Defranceschi, ICLEI

DOs & DON'Ts on Fair Trade Public Procurement (FTPP)

Session time: 14.00-14.30

Session language: English and German

Room: N° 30, Messe-Forum

and

A: Continued legal session: DO's and DON'Ts on FTTP

Session time: 14.30-15.30

Session language: English and German

Room: N° 30, Messe-Forum

Background

Purchasing Fair Trade products is undoubtedly a very important mean to support sustainable development, and in particular marginalised producers in the South. In the hands of public authorities, who spend substantial amounts on goods and services, Fair Trade Public Procurement can have an enormous impact on the lives of many marginalised producers.

However - unlike Green Public Procurement (GPP) - Socially Responsible Procurement (SRP), including Fair Trade procurement, bears several legal uncertainties still. Many hope that the about-to-be-published European Commission Guide on Social Criteria in Public Procurement will shed some light on SRP, and in particular on how to purchase Fair Trade products in a legally valid way.

Objective

The plenary session will begin with a presentation of the European Model on FTTP, whose development was one of the key tasks of the European Public Affairs project, apart from assessing the FTTP status in Europe. The continued legal session will permit to enter more in depth into legal aspects of including Fair Trade criteria into public purchasing procedures. After a short presentation of do's and don'ts on FTTP, panellists will respond to the questions raised by the facilitator and the audience, allowing an open discussion. The aim is to have a pragmatic, interactive session on typical legal challenges public authorities are facing when purchasing and tendering for Fair Trade products.

Methodology

The plenary will be the occasion of presenting the EU model on FTTP. The parallel session will be held in an open panel discussion format allowing maximum participation by the participants, after a short presentations of do's and don'ts on FTTP.

Plenary

- Introduction of panellists and session format
- Presentation of the European Model on FTTP developed in the frame of the Public Affairs project

Parallel session

- Marc Martens, lawyer in Bird&Bird Brussels office, will shortly introduce dos and don'ts on FTTP
- The moderator will open the discussion with a couple of questions for the panellists
- The floor is open for questions from the audience

Contributors

Panel: *Marc Martens*, Lawyer, Birds & Bird Brussels office, Belgium; *Janet Meissner Pritchard*, Lawyer, ClientEarth, United Kingdom; *Astrid Hilaire*, European Fair Trade Association (EFTA), Public Affairs coordinator; *Frans Papma*, Working group on Sustainable Natural Stone (WGDN), the Netherlands

Facilitator: *Sergi Corbalan*, Fair Trade Advocacy Office coordinator

Rapporteur: *Astrid Hilaire*, EFTA

B: TEXTILE & COTTON

Session time: 14.30-15.30

Session language: English and German

Room: N° 31, Messe-Forum

Background

Public authorities purchase uniforms for gardeners, kitchens staff, fire brigades and hospital personnel. Between one quarter and one half of all European employees use work wear. Good practice experiences on Fair Trade and/or organic clothing can be found in both the private and public sectors.

The sustainable production of textiles is a complex procedure, which starts with the harvest in the cotton fields, the processing of the tissue, the sewing etc. In addition, the production chain is usually divided between different countries. 99% of cotton farmers live and work in the developing world where 70% of the world's cotton supply is produced. Important countries of production are India, China and countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The vast majority of the estimated 218 million child workers world-wide work in agriculture, many of them in cotton production.

Public authorities are generally not aware of the different aspects to consider when showing responsibility in a globalised world. Awareness and sensibility to these issues is increasing among European public authorities, for instance, the German campaign against child labour where over 130 German public authorities have politically committed against the purchase of products produced using some form of child labour. Furthermore, contracting authorities report sometimes difficulties in finding suppliers of Fair Trade and/or organic textiles.

Objective

The goal of this parallel session is to bring together public purchasers and companies/suppliers. The aim is to understand the challenges of purchasing textiles responsibly, and the impact it can have on small producers and workers.

Methodology

The format of this session will be a panel discussion, allowing for maximum participation by the participants. The aim is to have a pragmatic, interactive session that will facilitate the exchanges between public authorities interested in purchasing textiles responsibly and Fair Trade textile suppliers.

The facilitator will first provide a short introduction of the topic by addressing challenges and typical problems public authorities are facing. Following a set of specific preliminary questions to the panellists, the participants are welcome to join in with questions, ideas and recommendations.

Contributors

Panel: *Christoph Löchle*, Sustainable Development Coordinator, City of Dortmund, Germany; *Beat Von Felten*, City of Zürich, Switzerland; *Jochen Gottwald*, Better - The Fashion rEvolution, Germany; *Maren Moennich* and *Matthias Böhme*, Hess Natur

Facilitator: *Peter Defranceschi*, ICLEI

Rapporteur: *Laura Rodriguez*, IDEAS

C - FOOD

Session time: 14.30-15.30

Session language: English and German

Room: Ringhotel Drees, room Saturn, Hohe Strasse 107, 44139 Dortmund. www.riepen.com/de/hotels/dortmund

Walking distance from venue: 20 minutes

Background

Sustainable food procurement is becoming increasingly important in Europe. In Germany, for instance, this is also linked to the introduction to the all-day schools and the need to ensure healthy meals for children. Whereas some countries such as Italy, United Kingdom, Sweden and Austria already have developed good practices, other countries are still working on the establishment of such initiative. Sustainable development, climate change, health issues are some of the different justifications used for introducing sustainable food in school canteens and catering.

Food is an ideal product group where public purchasing can be used to make a change in the South, i.e. by supporting marginalised small producers with limited access to big markets. Organic Fair Trade bananas represent 15 % of the total consumption in Italy.

Objective

The goal of this parallel session is to showcase the Italian example of the "Fair Canteen Services" Campaign with hundreds of cities specifically asking for Fair Trade products in their tenders. The aim is also to explore other good practices and to exchange ideas on how similar initiatives can be replicated elsewhere. It will also be explored how Fair Trade could be successfully combined with organic and/or local food.

Methodology

The facilitator will provide an introduction of the topic and showcase the example of the "Fair Canteen Services" from a strategic perspective (step-by-step). Fair Trade Wales experience will also be shared. The aim of the session is then to have an interactive discussion between panellists and participants in order to exchange ideas and explore win-win scenarios for their respective countries, at local level.

Contributors

Panel: *Enrico Reggio*, Fair Public Procurement Office, Ctm-altromercato; *Eleanor Fisher*, Centre for Development Studies, Swansea University, Wales, United Kingdom

Facilitator: *Amalia Ochoa*, ICLEI

Rapporteur: *Lynn Geerink*, Oxfam-Wereldwinkels

D - FTTP in countries of low Fair Trade awareness

Session time: 14.00-15.30 (Please note that this session starts earlier than the others and will only be available in English)

Session language: English and German

Room: Ring Hotel Drees, room Venus, Hohe Strasse 107, 44139 Dortmund. www.riepen.com/de/hotels/dortmund

Walking distance from venue: 20 minutes

Background

Over the past years, Fair Trade awareness and consciousness of the importance of responsible public procurement has been growing amongst the new EU Member States. The Fair Trade movement has also been significantly expanding and many young organisations have started being very active in the promotion of Fair Trade as a powerful tool to support the development of marginalised producers and workers from South.

However, the awareness on the issue of Fair Trade Public Procurement is still lower in these states than in the EU15, where the adoption of responsible public procurement practices and policies is more and more common. These policies are both a response to the increased sensitivity of the citizens to environmental social and ethical issues as well as a way for public authorities to increase their support to development, raising awareness on the role played by trade and purchasing policies in the promotion of development for marginalised producers and workers in the South.

Objective

The partners of the Public *Affairs* project developed a highly positive experience with public authorities that committed to implement effective tools to promote development in the South, in particular through their procurement policy. Therefore, this workshop aims at sharing information and concrete means to exploit the potential of Fair Trade Public Procurement in the EU Member States where Fair Trade awareness is still comparatively lower.

The objective of this workshop is twofold: on one hand it will be an information sharing event aiming at inspiring participants, and on the other hand it will be an out-and-out training session.

Methodology

The workshop foresees a high involvement of the participants. They will be asked to fulfil a questionnaire in advance. The analysis of their answers will provide an overview of the situation in the new Member States. In this first part of the seminar some best practices will be presented underlining the specific constraints and potentialities existing for FTTP. In the second part Fair Trade organisations and Local Authorities from the new Member States will be able to actively discuss and interact with the invited experts concerning the concrete ways to promote FTTP in their countries.

Contributors

Panel: *Cristiano Calvi*, Fair Public Procurement Office, Ctm-altromercato; *Serenella Milia*, Head of the Trade Development Policy Unit, Liguria Region, Italy; *Stanislav Komínek*, Society for Fair Trade, Czech Republic

Facilitator: *Cristiano Calvi*, Fair Public Procurement Office, Ctm-altromercato

Rapporteur: *Elisa Dolci*, Ctm-ateromercato, Public *Affairs* coordinator

Public *Affairs* Project partners

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