



# Public *Affairs*

Mobilising action for Fair Trade Public Procurement



**Objective** To mobilise Public Authorities to act on sustainable production and consumption by systematically introducing Fair Trade criteria into their public tenders.

**Duration** December 2007 - November 2010

**Project Partners**

- ✓ EFTA - European Fair Trade Association (Project leader)
- ✓ CTM- Altromercato (Italy)
- ✓ Ideas (Spain)
- ✓ Oxfam Wereldwinkels (Belgium)
- ✓ ICLEI (European Partner)

**Target Groups**

- ✓ National, Local and Regional governments and authorities
- ✓ European Institutions
- ✓ Schools, Universities and Hospitals
- ✓ Business sectors, including catering and vending services
- ✓ Fair Trade Organisations

**Project Outputs**

- ✓ European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement
- ✓ Model on Fair Trade Public Procurement with benchmarks
- ✓ Research and studies on current situation of Fair Trade criteria in public tenders
- ✓ Database on Fair Trade Public Tenders - good practices and case studies
- ✓ Monitoring and sharing of relevant laws and actions
- ✓ Training sessions and workshops for Public Authorities, HORECA sector and Fair Trade Organisations
- ✓ Educational activities in schools
- ✓ Seminars and conferences
- ✓ Quarterly newsletter
- ✓ Partners' and Observatory websites

# Summary

As we are faced with increasing poverty, climate change and excessive use of natural resources throughout the world, public authorities and citizens have a growing interest in taking on a model of development where economic growth, increased social cohesion and a better environment are sought together.

Many public authorities are making an active contribution to sustainable development through their daily decision-making, including public purchasing. As well as introducing environmental and social considerations into their procurement procedures, an increasing number of public authorities are going one step further towards supporting sustainable development by promoting Fair Trade in those procedures. By doing so, their purchasing decisions will not only have an impact on the lives of producers in developing countries, but will also set an example for others, such as citizens and private business.

The Public Affairs project aims at promoting Fair Trade considerations into public procurement, enabling a growing number of public authorities and other public and semi-public sector bodies to use public procurement as a tool to combat poverty and to contribute to sustainable development by systematically including Fair Trade criteria into their procurement policies and practices.

To achieve this, the European Observatory on Fair Trade Public Procurement, a dynamic European platform, has been set up. Visitors can register on the website to have access to various content, including best practices, guides, studies, legislation, resources, news and events. Through the Observatory, a model on Fair Trade Public Procurement will also be made available by 2010. This model will be based on research and studies on the current situation of Fair Trade criteria in public tenders that are being carried out within the Public Affairs project.

Throughout the project, various activities such as seminars, training sessions and workshops for public authorities, catering and vending services and Fair Trade organisations, as well as educational activities in schools, will be carried out.

The project will conclude with a final international conference to be held at the end of the project, presenting the model on Fair Trade Public Procurement.

*For additional information on the Public Affairs project or on Fair Trade and Public Procurement, please contact:*

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