



The EcoProcura Call for Action - Moving the Market Barcelona September 2006

Communities all over the world are facing dramatic consequences of climate change, excessive use of natural resources, threats to biodiversity and increasing poverty. Therefore, every public Dollar, Euro, Yen or other must be spent on products and services that foster sustainable development. Procurement and sustainable procurement should be one and the same. Sustainability (economic growth, social development and environmental protection) has to be at the core of purchasing. Responsible leadership cannot exist without sustainable procurement.

Making the shift to a more sustainable production and consumption patterns is one of the most important challenges for the 21st century. The public sector has significant purchasing power; it is responsible for 15 – 25% of GDP in most countries, which provides a real opportunity and responsibility to encourage the supply of more sustainable products and services. However, this can only be achieved if the thousands of public sector actors work together to send a clear, unified signal to the market.

Increasing globalisation and integration of markets, such as within the European Union, provide not only challenges and problems to sustainable procurement but present a new opportunity to tangibly influence markets.

We, the delegates of the EcoProcura Barcelona 2006 conference commit to making sustainable procurement a practical reality, and call on all public and private organisations to co-operate and contribute to the same goal. We recognise the significant achievements of many pioneering public authorities, international organisations and businesses in driving forward the sustainable procurement agenda. Now is the time to move from individual action to the mainstreaming of sustainable procurement.

We, the delegates call on:

National Governments and the European Commission to:

- commit to sustainable procurement and lead by example in their own procurement actions and when committing financial resources to third parties
- ensure public procurement rules allow and require public authorities to include social, environmental, and ethical criteria in public procurement processes
- encourage all public authorities, to implement sustainable procurement
- ensure all public procurers demand from their suppliers, and the goods and services they provide, compliance with social and environmental legislation and international agreements
- set performance indicators and targets to be met at national and European level
- provide greater resources for training procurement staff, the promotion of good practice, collecting evidence to demonstrate benefits, disseminating information and providing practical guidance to public procurers
- develop and use of organisational/national/international tools with, to the extent possible, harmonised environmental and social standards for products and services

Local and regional public authorities to:

- adopt policies committing to the inclusion of environmental and social concerns in their procurement activities
- take the lead in helping and encouraging other authorities to implement sustainable procurement effectively



- use best value (i.e. giving consideration to sustainability) approach when making purchasing decisions
- constructively engage with the private sector to encourage innovative developments and increase awareness of the need for increasing sustainability in production
- develop a strategy, allocate resources and undertake training and awareness raising for procurement staff to ensure that these commitments are implemented
- promote the use of already existing tools for sustainable procurement
- actively share positive and negative experiences with sustainable procurement to other public authorities, for example through the joining of exchange networks and national/international campaigns

International institutions, networks and associations to:

- commit to the promotion of sustainable procurement and lead by example in their own procurement actions and when committing financial resources to third parties
- take a key role in contributing to a better understanding and promoting the concept of sustainable procurement, disseminating best practice, practical guidance and training materials for procurement staff
- encourage the development and use of harmonised environmental and social standards for products and services

The private sector to:

- commit to integrating environmental and social criteria in their own procurement actions
- continuously improve their production and products, to compete for the most environmentally and socially friendly products
- produce and offer on the market in developing countries, products of no inferior environmental and social performance
- engage in dialogue with public authorities to identify improvements in the environmental quality and social responsibility of the manufacturing and use of products and the delivery of services
- increase research into the development of environmentally and socially innovative products and services and communicate with public authorities and other important stakeholders

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¹ The Local Authority EMAS and Procurement (LEAP) project is cofunded by the European Commission and aims to provide a series of practical tools for assisting public authorities in implementing sustainable procurement and its integration with existing environmental management systems. For more information visit www.iclei-europe.org/leap

