

## **SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION & GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT**

### **The situation today**

The production and consumption patterns of modern society significantly exceed the carrying capacity of the planet and are the cause of major environmental, societal and animal welfare problems. These pressures continue to increase as the world population keeps on growing. To find more sustainable ways of consumption and production has therefore become one of the major challenges of our time.

In a bid to halt the destructive trends of production and consumption the European Union has introduced a Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS) as well as a range of specific policies which will contribute to improving the environmental and animal welfare related performance of products and increase the demand for more sustainable goods.

The respect of animal welfare is an integral part of sustainable development. As an established, well developed and science based discipline, which is supported by a mature market for welfare friendly goods and by institutions within government, private and non-governmental sectors, animal welfare provides a practical vehicle for realising many of the objectives of the EU SDS.

### **Green Public Procurement**

Animal Welfare concerns have to play a particular role in Green Public Procurement. Public authorities like civic administrations, municipalities, schools, hospitals, armed forces etc. spend 16% of the EU GDP on the purchase of goods and services. As such they are important players in the **food market**, purchasing a substantial amount of meat, eggs and dairy products. High standards of animal welfare in public procurement policies can have a significant impact on the way primary producers treat and house their livestock.

Many EU Member States have already established national guidelines on Green Public Procurement<sup>1</sup> or have adopted national action plans as recommended by the European Commission. For example, the United Kingdom has launched a *Food Procurement Action Plan*<sup>2</sup> in which it sets clear goals for food and catering services to help deliver the aims of other government strategies such as the ones for food and farming and on health and obesity.

Concerning the consumption of **cleaning products** public authorities can have a major impact by purchasing, where possible, only animal test free products. Over recent years, the market has been offering a steadily growing selection of such products as a result of the increased consumer demand.

### **Relevant EU actions and proposals**

In 2006, the EU Member States adopted a target for Green Public Procurement (GPP) under the *renewed Sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS)* of 2006<sup>3</sup>, stating that by 2010, the average level of GPP

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/national\\_gpp\\_strategies\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/pdf/national_gpp_strategies_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/sustain/procurement/pdf/unlocking-opps.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Review of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy, Council of the European Union, 10117/06

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should be the same as in the best performing EU countries at the time. Since then, the Commission has fixed a baseline and requests that by 2010, 50% of all tendering procedures should be green.

On 16 July 2008, the European Commission has presented a package of proposals on sustainable consumption and production<sup>4</sup> which are intended to improve the environmental performance of products and should stimulate the demand for more sustainable goods and production technologies.

The set of proposals addresses animal welfare concerns in the context of green public procurement (GPP), through a *Communication on Public Procurement for the Environment*, a related *Working Document* and an *Impact Assessment on GPP*<sup>5</sup>. Its chief goal is to reduce the environmental impact of public expenditure and stimulate eco-innovation. It will also ensure an EU-wide harmonisation and thus consistently increase the quality and quantity of Green Public Procurement in all Member States.

The Communication establishes a set of requirements which are graded in “core” and “comprehensive” criteria.

The “**core**” **GPP criteria** are formulated as minimum specifications that all bidders have to comply with in their tenders. They are designed to allow easy application of GPP. Monitoring will take into account compliance with core criteria.

The “**comprehensive**” **GPP criteria** consider more aspects or higher levels of environmental performance, for use by authorities that go further in supporting environmental and animal welfare related innovation goals.

The criteria are set for products and service groups in **10 priority sectors**. Among these are - food and catering services and - cleaning products and - services, the areas which are of direct relevance for animal welfare.

### Food and catering services

For food and catering, the “core” GPP criteria require that a certain percentage of a defined product group such as dairy, meat, vegetables or a list of specific products must be organically produced according to Regulation (EC) 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of such produce. Proof must be supplied by the bidders that the food has been certified as organically produced. The contracting authority will verify compliance on the basis of award criteria during the contract period and appropriate penalties will be applied for non-compliance.

Comprehensive GPP criteria for food and catering services address a broader range of requirements including higher animal welfare standards, the absence of GMOs and integrated production processes. Suppliers are required to give evidence that they meet the relevant national voluntary standards for higher animal welfare.

### Cleaning products and services

So far, the GPP criteria for cleaning products do not require the use of animal test free detergents. However the bidders have to proof that the products meet the EU biodegradability standards.

## Actions needed

- Priority should be given to local produce which would avoid long distance transport.
- Public catering should offer a selection of vegetarian diet, which is more sustainable.

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<sup>4</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/escp_en.htm)

<sup>5</sup> SEC(2008) 2124, SEC(2008) 2125 SEC(2008) 2126

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- In public catering which applies comprehensive GPP criteria a voluntary public single-issue label scheme should be foreseen which implies "*we contribute to healthier and happier animals*". This promotion tool should be easily visible to consumers.
- Purchase a fixed percentage of animal test free detergents and toiletries with a commitment to steadily increase the share.
- Purchase only animal products produced according to EU rules. This applies also for imported animal products from third countries.
- Comprehensive information on animal welfare should be provided in the Commission's training toolkit for purchasers.