

## New guidance from the EU on green Cleaning products and Services

**New recommendations** for how to purchase greener cleaning products and services for indoor use were published on 24 October by the European Commission. The recommendations are an update of the guidance developed a few years ago, and come in the form of practical criteria which can be inserted into public calls for tender.

The new criteria propose the use of cleaning products and supplies with less environmental impacts (like ecolabelled products and microfiber cloths), staff training to improve efficiency and ecological performance of the service, and selecting providers based on their competencies in providing environmentally conscious cleaning services, to address the main sustainability impact areas.

Cleaning is one of the top groups of products and services accounting for a large proportion of public sector



spending, and responsible for a high proportion of the environmental impacts of public procurement.

A number of cities are pushing the boundaries and leading by example in this area. The cities of [Ghent](#) and [Vienna](#), the [Consortium of University Services of Catalonia](#), and [Romania's environmental protection authority](#) are some of the more recent best practices showcased by the European Commission on their [GPP website](#).



### Zoom in on... Clean vehicle procurement

The European Parliament voted on 25 October to increase the number of zero-emissions buses on Europe's roads, agreeing to additional public procurement targets in the revised EU clean vehicles directive. EU Parliamentarians voted for national targets of between 43% and 75% of new buses to be 'clean' vehicles in 2030, and for 25% to 50% of cars and vans. Read the [amendments](#) to the [initial proposals](#) made by the European Commission. [More information...](#)

## Interview: How a mistake led to a new way of procuring in Amsterdam



*Anita Poort works for the Directorate of Legal Affairs in Amsterdam's city administration, and has been working with various municipal departments since 2013 to improve Amsterdam's procurement practices*

*for strategic purposes. One such purpose is to meet the City's sustainability goals – adopted in 2015 by the city council.*

### Could you tell us how Amsterdam's '10 ways to a more innovative and professional procurement practice' Plan came about?

In the [City of Amsterdam](#), we started thinking about changing the way we manage our projects, in general, due

to errors made in the decision-making process to build the North South Subway Line, underneath the historical city centre (2002-2018). On July 22 of this year the subway line was opened for use by the public - and in the end it was quite a success! In the beginning though, and during the course of the project, some things went seriously wrong, which came at a high cost and caused losses in time. The City Board started a thorough investigation into the causes of these errors, which resulted in the development of a Pay Attention programme based on the 10 most important lesson learned.

To read the interview in full, click [here](#).



### Zoom in on... Feedback on innovation procurement

The [draft results](#) are out of the Benchmarking of National Policy Frameworks for innovation procurement across the EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. The benchmarking exercise is led by the European Commission following recommendations from the European Research Area and Innovation Committee (ERAC) to create an EU-wide measurement framework for innovation procurement, and an EU knowledge sharing service to exchange experiences. Provide your comments on the Country Profiles and share any good practice examples via the [online consultation](#) - by 15 January 2019.



## GPP good practice

### Socially responsible cleaning framework using green cleaning products - Government of Catalonia

Including environmental contract clauses is important, but it is only effective in service contracts if their compliance is monitored. This is evidenced by the recent experience from the Government of Catalonia in contracting cleaning services for its buildings, premises and facilities.

Along with including ambitious sustainability criteria throughout the public procurement process, onsite audits of seven out of the 16 companies contracted via the framework agreement revealed that only 28% of the companies used the same cleaning products, paper products and bags in the performance of the contract as stated in the framework agreement. 43% of the companies partially complied and 29% did not comply at all.



An audit of all 16 companies and their compliance with the social clauses was also conducted. This revealed that there was non-compliance with requirements to record daily working time, as well as irregularities in overtime, social security contributions, and some partial non-payment of salaries.

The [Government of Catalonia](#) is the institution under which the Spanish autonomous community of Catalonia is politically organised. The region has 7.5 million inhabitants. Its [Ministry of Territory and Sustainability](#) acts as an expert body for environmental policy and the promotion of green public procurement (GPP).

The Ministry of Territory and Sustainability works closely with the government's Central Purchasing Authority (the Central Supplies Commission of the Ministry of Economy) to incorporate environmental criteria into framework agreements, and since 2005, this cooperation has resulted in most framework agreements of the Catalan Government including environmental criteria, including its framework agreement for cleaning services.

Download the full case study [here](#).



#### Zoom in on... Live market engagement event

Presentations and results of a live European Market Engagement event to discuss social responsibility of supply chains for information and communication technologies (ICT) equipment purchased by public entities are available online. The event took place on 3 October in Nijmegen, the Netherlands, as part of the [MakelCTFair](#) project.

[More information...](#)



#### Zoom in on... Winners of sustainable procurement awards

The cities of Barcelona and Rotterdam, and the Government of Flanders were each honoured for their work in sustainability and innovation at the [EcoProcura 2018 Conference](#) on 4 October in Nijmegen ([press release](#)). For details on the award winning procurements, and the runners up of the three award categories, [visit this page](#).

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