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**Interim report**

# **Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe**

**Conference report**

**by:**

Vanessa Schmidt, Anna Brüning-Pfeiffer

Berliner Energieagentur, Berlin

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On behalf of the German Environment Agency

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**Kurzbeschreibung: Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe**

Dieser Bericht fasst die Inhalte der Konferenz „Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe“ zusammen. Diese fand am 1. und 2. Oktober 2020 in Berlin statt. Sie wurde als zweitägige hybride und digitale Konferenz organisiert, zu der nationale und internationale Gäste und Referenten eingeladen waren. Schlüsselthemen waren Klimaschutz, Kreislaufwirtschaft, Artenvielfalt und eine nicht-toxische Umgebung. Gastgeber der Konferenz waren das Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU) und das Umweltbundesamt (UBA).

**Abstract: Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe**

This report summarizes the contents of the conference "Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe". It took place on 1st and 2nd of October 2020 in Berlin. It was organized as a two-day hybrid and digital conference with national and international guests and speakers. Key topics were climate protection, circular economy, biodiversity and a non-toxic environment. The conference was hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA).

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## List of abbreviations

<b>BBG</b>	Bundesbeschaffung GmbH
<b>BEA</b>	Berlin Energy Agency
<b>BMU</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety
<b>BMUB</b>	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
<b>CEAP</b>	Circular Economy Action Plan
<b>CET</b>	Central European Time
<b>CFO</b>	Chief Financial Officer
<b>CIS</b>	Commonwealth of Independent States
<b>CO<sub>2</sub></b>	Carbon dioxide
<b>CPO</b>	Chief Procurement Officer
<b>CPU</b>	Central Processing Unit
<b>CSCO</b>	Chief Supply Chain Officer
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility
<b>DG ENV</b>	Directorate-General for Environment
<b>DG Grow</b>	Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
<b>EBRD</b>	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
<b>EMAS</b>	Eco Management and Audit Scheme
<b>EMS</b>	Energy management system
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GIZ</b>	German Society for International Cooperation
<b>GPP</b>	Green Public Procurement
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communication technology
<b>IFZ</b>	Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture Graz/Austria
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IÖW</b>	Institute for Ecological Economy Research
<b>JRC</b>	Joint Research Center
<b>KNB</b>	Competence Center for Sustainable Procurement
<b>KrWS</b>	Recycling Management Act
<b>KTH</b>	Kungliga Tekniska högskolan
<b>LVŽS</b>	Lithuanian Farmers and Greens Union
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organisation
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
<b>SPD</b>	Social Democratic Party
<b>SPP</b>	Sustainable Public Procurement



<b>BBG</b>	Bundesbeschaffung GmbH
<b>TCO</b>	Tjänstemännens Centralorganisation
<b>UBA</b>	German Environment Agency
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCITRAL</b>	United Nations Commission On International Trade Law

## Zusammenfassung

Im zweiten Halbjahr 2020 hatte Deutschland die EU-Ratspräsidentschaft inne. In diesem Zusammenhang beschlossen das Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Reaktorsicherheit (BMU) und das Umweltbundesamt (UBA) eine gemeinsame Konferenz zum Thema Umweltfreundliche öffentliche Beschaffung zu veranstalten mit dem Titel „Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe“.

Die Konferenz richtete sich an Bedarfsträgerinnen und Bedarfsträger, Vergabestellen, die Leitungsebene öffentlicher Einrichtungen, politische Entscheidungsträgerinnen und Entscheidungsträger, Wissenschaft und Nichtregierungsorganisationen sowie Unternehmen in ganz Europa.

Die inhaltlichen Schwerpunkte der Konferenz umfassten die Themen Klimaschutz, Kreislaufwirtschaft, Artenvielfalt und eine nicht-toxische Umgebung. Ziel war es mit Experten aus Politik und der Beschaffungspraxis zu diskutieren wie die öffentliche Hand, die eine enorme Marktmacht besitzt, zur Unterstützung dieser Themen beitragen kann.

Die inhaltliche Präsentation der Themen und die Diskussionen erfolgten durch verschiedene Formate wie Impulsvorträge, Keynotes, Vorträge, Podiumsdiskussionen und produktgruppenbezogene Workshops.

Im Ergebnis wurde festgestellt, dass sich die öffentliche Hand bereits auf den Weg gemacht hat hin zu einer umweltfreundlicheren Beschaffungspraxis. Dies belegten insbesondere die vielen guten Praxisbeispiele der Referentinnen und Referenten. Es bedarf jedoch an erster Stelle politischen Willen und entsprechende (verpflichtende) gesetzliche Vorgaben, um eine umweltfreundliche Beschaffung zu ermöglichen. Und auch die Leitungsebene öffentlicher Einrichtungen muss diese Vorgaben kennen und mittragen und sich dafür einsetzen, dass sie in der Beschaffungspraxis umgesetzt werden. Zudem ist es dringend notwendig genügend personelle Kapazitäten vorzuhalten und die Mitarbeitenden umfassend zu schulen, um die Vorgaben erfolgreich in die Beschaffungen zu integrieren.

In den Workshops wurde anhand der Produktgruppen Textilien, IKT und Veranstaltungen gezeigt, wie diese Integration von Umweltaspekten in der Beschaffungspraxis erfolgen kann.

## Summary

In the second half of 2020, Germany held the EU Council Presidency. In this context, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA) decided to organize a joint conference on the topic of environmentally friendly public procurement entitled "Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe".

The conference was addressed to public purchasers, contracting authorities, the management level of public institutions, political decision-makers, science and non-governmental organizations as well as companies throughout Europe.

The conference focused on climate protection, the circular economy, biodiversity and a non-toxic environment. The aim was to discuss with experts from politics and procurement practice how the public sector, which has enormous market power, can contribute to supporting these topics.

The presentation of the topics and the discussions took place through different formats such as impulse presentations, keynotes, lectures, panel discussions and product group related workshops.

As a result, it was found that the public sector has already set out on the path towards greener procurement practices. This was confirmed in particular by the many good practice examples provided by the speakers. However, first and foremost, political will and corresponding (mandatory) legal requirements are needed to enable green procurement. The management of public institutions must also be aware of these requirements, support them and work to ensure that they are implemented in procurement practice. In addition, it is urgently necessary to maintain sufficient personnel capacities and to provide employees with comprehensive training in order to successfully integrate the requirements into procurement.

The workshops used the product groups textiles, ICT and events to show how environmental aspects can be integrated into procurement practice.

# 1 Introduction

The conference “Environmental Aspects in Public Procurement in Europe” took place on October 1st and 2nd, 2020 in Berlin. It was organized as two-day hybrid and digital conference inviting guests and speakers from all over Europe and beyond. The aim was to bring together decision makers, experts, scientists, and practitioners from all over Europe in order to talk about Green Public Procurement (GPP).

Key topics were climate protection, circular economy, biodiversity and a non-toxic environment. It was discussed how procurement practice can meet the goals of climate protection, circular economy, biodiversity and a non-toxic environment.

The conference was hosted by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the German Environment Agency (UBA) and organized by the Berlin Energy Agency GmbH (BEA). The event was held in English. The conference was organized using the guidelines of BMU and UBA on green events from 2020:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/leitfaden-fuer-die-nachhaltige-organisation-von>.

## 2 Agenda

**Table 1: Programme day 1**

Time	Item on the agenda
9:00	<b>Welcome Conference facilitator:</b> Minu Hemmati (MH)
9:15 – 9:20	<b>Welcome and Impulse:</b> Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany
9:25 – 9:35	<b>Keynote I:</b> Virginijus Sinkevičius, DG Environment, European Commission
9:40 - 9:50	<b>Keynote II:</b> Dirk Messner, President German Environment Agency
9:50 - 10:00	Break / Stretching: MH
10:00 - 10:55	<b>Panel I: Thinking ahead – how to push GPP</b> Emmanuelle Maire, DG Environment, European Commission Mark Hidson, ICLEI für UN SPP Programme One Planet Network Paulo Magina, OECD Ulf Jaeckel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany Diana Wehlau, City of Bremen
10:55 - 11:00	Summary and preview: MH
11:00-11:15	Close
11:15 - 12:00	<b>Procura+ Award Ceremony</b>
12:00	End
12:00 -13.30	Break / Catering / Countdown
13:30 - 13:35	Welcome: MH
13:35 - 14:30	<b>Panel II: Implementation of SPP</b> Thomas Solbach, Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy Benjamin Bongardt, City of Berlin Emma Borjesson, City of Malmö Els Verwimp, Government of Flanders, Environment and Spatial Development Department
14:30 - 14:35	Break
14:35 - 15:35	<b>Discussion Round Local Regulation</b> Rikke Dreyer, City of Copenhagen, Denmark Lidia Capparelli, Consip, Italy Mascha Menny, City of Hamburg Vanessa Schmidt, Berlin Energy Agency
15:35 - 15:50	Summary and preview: MH
15:50	Close

All times in Central European Time (CET)

**Table 2: Programme day 2**

Time	Item on the agenda
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome: MH
10:05 - 10:20	<b>Presentation I: Procurement and Climate Protection</b> Annie Ståhlberg, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden
10:25 - 10:40	<b>Presentation II: Circular Procurement; Target: Zero Waste</b> Joan Prummel, Rijkswaterstaat
10:45 - 11:45	<b>Workshop I: ICT</b> Maike Janssen, German Environment Agency Joakim Thornéus, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden Andreas Nobell, TCO Development, Stockholm Felice Alfieri, Joint Research Center (JRC) Ilse Beneke, German Competence Centre for Sustainable Procurement (KNB)
11:45 - 13:00	Break
13:00 - 13:15	<b>Presentation III: Procurement and Biodiversity</b> Ria Müller, Senior Researcher / Partner, Institute for Ecological Economy Research – IÖW
13:20 - 13:35	<b>Presentation IV: Toxic-Free Procurement</b> Johanna Wurbs, German Environment Agency
13:40 - 14:40	<b>Workshop II: Green Events</b> Regina Preslmair, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) Austria Romaine Stracks, Green Events Luxemburg Isabelle Schummers, Green Events Luxemburg
14:40 - 15:00	Break
15:00 - 16:00	<b>Workshop III: Textiles</b> Kristin Stechemesser, German Environment Agency Marianne Burum Eskeland, Nordic Swan Sophie de Smet, Rijkswaterstaat Ilda Sukurica, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) Christiane Klewais, Zorgleuven
16:00 - 16:15	Review and farewell: MH
16:15	Close

All times in Central European Time (CET)

### 3 Speakers

**The speakers are presented in the order of their contribution to the conference.**

#### **Conference facilitator: Minu Hemmati**

Dr. Minu Hemmati is a clinical psychologist with a doctorate in ‘Organizational and Environmental Psychology’. She has been working as an independent advisor with governments; international agencies; NGOs, women’s networks; corporations; and research institutions since 1998. Minu’s work is focusing on collaborative transformation processes towards sustainable development, gender equity, and good governance. Her work includes designing, facilitating, coaching and evaluating multi-stakeholder dialogues and partnerships; leadership development; training and teaching; and research and advocacy on participation and on gender issues.

<http://minuhemmati.net//> [www.msp-institute.org](http://www.msp-institute.org)

#### **Minister Svenja Schulze, Minister, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany**

Svenja Schulze is a German politician (SPD). Since March 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 she has been Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in the Merkel cabinet. From July 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 to June 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 she was Minister for Innovation, Science and Research of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia. <https://www.bmu.de/>

#### **Virginijus Sinkevičius, Commissioner of the DG Environment of the European Commission**

Virginijus Sinkevičius is a Lithuanian politician (LVŽS), Seimas member since 2016 and Minister of Economy of Lithuania from the end of November 2017 to 2019. He was the youngest minister in Lithuanian history after the restoration of state independence. Since December 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 he has been Commissioner for Environment and Oceans in the European Commission.

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

#### **Dirk Messner, President, German Environment Agency**

Prof. Dr. Dirk Messner became the new President of the German Environment Agency on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The internationally renowned sustainability scientist was Director of the Institute for Environment and Human Security at the United Nations University in Bonn and Co-Chairman of the German Advisory Council on Global Change (WBGU). <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/>

#### **Emmanuelle Maire, DG Environment, European Commission**

Emmanuelle Maire works at the European Commission in Brussels, in the Directorate general for Environment (DG ENV). She heads the team responsible for Sustainable Production, Products and Consumption. The core activity of the team is to support the transition to a circular and green economy in the European Union. She held several positions before that with the European Commission, being Head of unit for multilateral environmental cooperation (2015-2018), and Head of Unit for the EU Internal market in aviation (2010-2015). <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/>

#### **Mark Hidson, ICLEI for UN SPP Programme One Planet Network**

Mark Hidson joined ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability in 2003. He is a member of ICLEI Europe’s Board of Directors and responsible for ICLEI’s Sustainable Economy and Procurement work. Mark Hidson is the Global Director of ICLEI’s Sustainable Procurement Centre, lead of the

United Nations One Planet Network on Sustainable Public Procurement, Vice-Chair of the International Green Procurement Network and a member of the European Commission's Green Public Procurement Advisory Group. Mark oversees ICLEI's Global Lead City Network on Sustainable Procurement OECD, the Procura+ European Sustainable Procurement Network and ICLEI's sustainable procurement conference series – EcoProcura. <http://www.glcn-on-sp.org> // <http://www.procuraplus.org> // <http://www.ecoprocura.eu/>

#### **Paulo Magina, OECD**

Paulo Magina is the Head of Public Procurement at the OECD Directorate for Public Governance since March 2014, where he is devoted to supporting member and non-member countries in their efforts to improve their public procurement and infrastructure governance systems, making them more strategic and impactful for the life and well-being of citizens. With over 15 years of experience in the public sector, most recently he was a board member and the CFO of the Portuguese Central Government Shared Services Agency, in charge of finance, accounting, HR, IT and public procurement for the public administration. Between 2010 and 2012, he was also the CEO of the National Public Procurement Agency, where he led the setting up of the central purchasing body and the e-procurement implementation. He also worked lately with the EBRD and UNCITRAL to advise policy and legal reforms, develop action plans and road maps for restructuring public procurement systems in the CIS region. Formerly he was deputy member of the cabinet of the secretary of state for transports in Portugal and held managerial positions as CFO and Investment Director in the transportation, banking and private equity sectors, for more than twelve years. <https://www.oecd.org/>

#### **Ulf Jaeckel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany**

Dr. Ulf Jaeckel is an Economist with a PhD in environmental economics. Since 1994 he works at the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety and is the Head of Division Sustainable Consumption, Environmental Product Policy. Further he is engaged at the National Focal Point of the United Nations 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production and holds the Vice-Chair of the national standardisation body on environmental management. <https://www.bmu.de/>

#### **Diana Wehlau, City of Bremen**

Dr. Diana Wehlau is head of the division Eco-innovation and climate change adaptation at the Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban and Housing Development of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen. This division is in charge for the development and implementation of green public procurement in the City State of Bremen. She has received her PhD from the University of Bremen and holds an M.A. in Global Political Economy and Finance from the New School University of New York City. For several years she did research with a focus on political economy, sustainable consumption, green public procurement and socio-economic aspects of climate change. She represents the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen in expert committees and working groups of the Federal Ministry for the Environment. <https://www.bauumwelt.bremen.de/>

#### **Thomas Solbach, Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy**

Thomas Solbach entered the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy in 1999. He took over the position of head of unit for public procurement policy in 2012. The unit is responsible for European, international and national public procurement law. Thomas Solbach studied law in



Passau (Germany) and Tours (France) and did a PhD in European Community Law. He was in charge of the negotiations of the EU public procurement directives from 2014 and their transposition in German law on behalf of his ministry. <https://www.bmwi.de/>

#### **Benjamin Bongardt, City of Berlin**

Benjamin Bongardt is the Head of division Waste Management and Green Procurement in the Senate Department for the Environment, Transport and Climate Protection of the City of Berlin. Berlin has adopted one of the most developed green procurement regulations in Germany. Benjamin holds a PhD in urban climatology and a university degree in Geography. Before entering the public sector he worked in science and for different German NGOs, particularly on circular economy and resource efficiency.

<https://www.berlin.de/senuvk/service/gesetzestexte/de/beschaffung/>

#### **Emma Borjesson, City of Malmö**

Emma Börjesson is a project manager at Environmental department in City of Malmö. City of Malmö strives to become one of the world's most sustainable cities. Emma has spent ten years working with sustainable development for the public sector, and the last three years focusing on circular economy. She is involved in several European projects on Circular Procurement and is exploring how City of Malmö can become a circular organization. <https://malmo.se/Nice-to-know-about-Malmo/Sustainable-Malmo-.html>

#### **Els Verwimp, Government of Flanders, Environment and Spatial Development Department**

Els Verwimp has been working on SPP for the Environment and Spatial Development Department of the Government of Flanders since 2020. She supports the procurers of the organization, but also other organizations (e.g. local authorities), to take into account environmental issues in their procurement. Next to spreading information, good examples and developing instruments, Els takes an active role in several procurement teams, which gives her a good inside in day to day SPP practice. <https://www.vlaanderen.be/en>

#### **Alexandra T de Leeneer, City of Copenhagen**

Alexandra de Leeneer works as a CSR consultant in the City of Copenhagen and is responsible for implementing the [City of Copenhagen's policy for ecolabelled procurement](#). <https://international.kk.dk/>

#### **Rikke Dreyer, Ecolabelling Denmark**

Rikke Dreyer works as chief consultant for public procurement in Ecolabeling Denmark. She gives guidance and corporate with procurement officers in municipalities and other public organizations to promote green public procurement. Also she is chairman for The Danish Forum on Sustainable Procurement. <https://www.ecolabel.dk/en>

#### **Lidia Capparelli, Consip, Italy**

Lidia Capparelli is a lawyer and has 30 years of experience in procurement and sustainable procurement. From 2001 she works in Consip, the National Purchasing Body of Italy, and has the role of Senior Sustainability and Innovation expert. Since 2006 she has been the representative of the Ministry of the Environment for the implementation of the National Action Plan on GPP. She is currently project leader of the European project Procure2Innovate for the creation of the network

of competence centers of innovation procurement. Project leader of some European projects in the field of Sustainable procurement as Buy Smart +, Green Proca, GPP2020. She teaches at the School of Administration for the training of executives and public officials in the field of circular economy, sustainable procurement and innovation procurement. <https://www.consip.it/>

#### **Mascha Menny, City of Hamburg**

Mascha Menny has an academic background in law and a Master of Science in Environmental Management and Policy. Since May 2019, Mascha Menny is working with sustainable procurement in the city of Hamburg, in the strategic procurement department at the city's Ministry of Finance. In addition to advising purchasers on sustainable procurement issues, Mascha Menny is responsible for more strategic topics, such as the development of guidelines, monitoring and networking. <https://www.hamburg.com/>

#### **Vanessa Schmidt, Berlin Energy Agency**

Vanessa Schmidt has studied law and environmental management. She is working for the Berlin Energy Agenda since 2007 in the field of green public procurement. After coordinating several European projects in that field like the Buy Smart initiative, she consulted Berlin and Hamburg on their local regulations on green public procurement as well as the German Protection Agency. <https://www.berliner-e-agentur.de/en>

#### **Annie Ståhlberg, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden**

Annie Ståhlberg is Head of the Sustainability Unit at the Swedish National Agency for Public Procurement. The Agency has an overall responsibility for developing and supporting the procurement carried out by the contracting authorities and entities. Annie has 15 years of experience within the field of sustainable public procurement and was earlier head of the Policy Unit at the Swedish Competition Authority. Annie has a broad international experience and is a member of the European Commission's Green Public Procurement Advisory Group. <https://www.upphandlingsmyndigheten.se/>

#### **Joan Prummel, Rijkswaterstaat**

Joan Prummel is International Advisor for Circular Economy for the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat. Together with international colleagues Joan supports and guides public and private organizations in Europe and beyond to set their ambitions, policies and operations. The key activity in circular economy is collaboration: through the supply chain (with the market) and within the organization. Joan's role is to advise, stimulate and support public and private organizations all over the world in their efforts to implement circular economy. Think of the role of procurement; the specific position of waste management industry; circular design and sustainable production. All contributing to a circular economy system. <https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/>

#### **Maike Janssen, German Environment Agency**

Maike Janssen has a background as Environmental Engineer. She is research associate at the German Environment Agency since 1999. Since 2009 she works in the field of sustainable products and consumption, mainly working on the sustainable use and life cycle assessment of ICT products. <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en>

**Joakim Thornéus, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden**

Joakim Thornéus work as a sustainability specialist at the Swedish National Public Procurement Agency. He joined the National Public Procurement Agency in 2015. He has been working with sustainable public procurement since 2000 in different organizations in Sweden. Now he mainly works with different aspects of public procurement for circular economy.

<https://www.upphandlingsmyndigheten.se/>

**Andreas Nobell, TCO Development**

Andreas Nobell leads the criteria development for TCO Certified, a sustainability certification for ICT products. The comprehensive criteria in TCO Certified are designed to drive social and environmental responsibility throughout the product life cycle. Covering eleven product categories including computers, mobile devices, display products and data centre products, compliance is independently verified, both pre and post certification. Andreas holds a Master of Science and Media Technology at KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Andreas is an expert in KEEP knowledge sharing project with 14 partners aiming to create a traceability solution to streamline sustainable production, re-use and material recycling. He was one of the founders of Circular Electronics Day in 2018. <https://tcocertified.com/about-tco-development/>

**Felice Alfieri, Joint Research Center (JRC)**

Felice Alfieri has a multidisciplinary background: Environmental Science, Chemistry for Sustainable Development and Chemical Engineering. At the Joint Research Centre he is supporting the development of sustainable product policy tools such as the [EU Green Public Procurement](#), the [EU Ecolabel](#), the [Ecodesign Directive](#) and [Energy Label](#) with a specific focus on ICT products. Before joining the Commission he mainly worked in the sustainability certification field, in particular on GHG emission reduction projects, sustainability of biofuels and environmental technologies verification. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/joint-research-centre\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/joint-research-centre_en)

**Ilse Beneke, German Competence Centre for Sustainable Procurement (KNB)**

Ilse Beneke is head of the German Competence Centre for sustainable procurement at the procurement office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. With a team of eight people, her job at the Competence Centre is to foster the implementation of sustainability aspects in public procurement in Germany and to provide practical help to all public contracting authorities. Being a lawyer, she started her career at the Ministry of Ecology, Health and Consumer protection for the Federal State of Brandenburg. As one of her last activities there, she was responsible for the partnership between the Government of the Federal State of Brandenburg and the business- and craft associations, addressing and fostering an eco-friendly economic behaviour. Her enthusiasm to form a sustainable and future-orientated society led her to complete extra-occupational master-studies dealing with Responsible Management. [http://www.nachhaltige-beschaffung.info/DE/Home/home\\_node.html](http://www.nachhaltige-beschaffung.info/DE/Home/home_node.html)

**Ria Müller, Senior Researcher / Partner, Institute for Ecological Economy Research – IÖW**

Ria Müller is senior researcher and partner at Institute for Ecological Economy Research. Her research field is “Ecological Product Policy” with a focus on sustainable public and commercial procurement. Ria Müller holds a Joint Master’s Degree in Economics and Social Sciences. Between 2006 and 2009 she worked as scientist and consultant for the Procurement Service Austria

situated at IFZ – Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Technology, Work and Culture Graz/Austria.  
<https://www.ioew.de/en/>

#### **Johanna Wurbs, German Environment Agency**

Dr. Johanna Wurbs studied chemistry and wrote her thesis about the evaluation of life cycle assessments. 2005 she started to work at the German Environment Agency in the section Substance-related Product-Issues with the focus on dangerous substances in electronics and in construction products. The working field included the development of test standards, the definition of criteria for environmental labels and the identification of regulatory needs. 2017-2018 she changed for two years to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety to the Section Sustainable Consumption, Product-related Environmental Protection, being especially in charge for ecolabels and environmental products assessments. Since 2019 she is the head of the section Ecodesign, Environmental Labelling, Environmentally Friendly Procurement at the German Environment Agency.  
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/wirtschaft-konsum/umweltfreundliche-beschaffung>

#### **Regina Preslmair, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) Austria**

Regina Preslmair is an expert in the field of environmental management and technology in the Austrian Ministry of the Climate Protection. There she is responsible for environmental certification and eco-marketing for the Austrian and the European Eco-label. Her main focus is on tourism, green meetings and events as well as green museums and green producing.  
<https://www.bmk.gv.at/en.html>

#### **Romaine Stracks, Green Events Luxembourg**

Romaine Stracks is an environmental consultant at [SuperDrecksKëscht®](#). The SuperDrecksKëscht® is a trademark which was developed in the frame of the waste management missions of the Luxembourg state. It is the task of the SuperDrecksKëscht® to use and apply the most recent information to implement a sustainable and high quality management of resources in the ecologic and economic sense. Together with Oekozer Pafendall, SuperDrecksKëscht® support the Green Events initiative in Luxembourg, a project initiated by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development. <https://www.greenevents.lu/>

#### **Isabelle Schummers, Green Events Luxembourg**

Isabelle Schummers is an environmental consultant at [Oekozer Pafendall](#). The Oekozer Pafendall is a NGO and consulting centre that leads innovative projects in the field of environment, agriculture and green building. Together with SuperDrecksKëscht, Oekozer Pafendall coordinates the Green Events initiative in Luxembourg, a project initiated by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development. <https://www.greenevents.lu/>

#### **Kristin Stechemesser, German Environment Agency**

Kristin Stechemesser is working as a research associate at the German Environment Agency since 2015. She is responsible for the [Blue Angel for Textiles and Foot wear](#) and was involved in the development of the step-by-step plan for sustainable procurement of textiles at the national level.  
<https://www.blauer-engel.de/de/blauer-engel/wer-steckt-dahinter/umweltbundesamt>

**Marianne Burum Eskeland, Nordic Swan**

Marianne Burum Eskeland is environmental manager in Ecolabelling Norway with the responsibility of the EU Ecolabel. She has 25 years of experience in ecolabelling and during these years I have been working with textiles most of the time. She also has been a licencing manager in Ecolabelling Norway with the responsibility of all licencing activities in Norway, for the Nordic Swan and EU Ecolabel. <https://www.nordic-ecolabel.org/>

**Sophie de Smet, Rijkswaterstaat**

Sophie de Smet is Project Leader Sustainable Public Procurement at Rijkswaterstaat, Department of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. Before working at Rijkswaterstaat Sophie was a Procurement Officer at the Dutch Ministry of Defense, within the department of textiles and workwear. As a Procurement Officer Sophie executed and led several European tenders which focused on the Socially Responsible and Sustainable Public Procurement of Textiles and workwear. <https://www.rijkswaterstaat.nl/english/environment/index.aspx>

**Ilda Sukurica, German Society for International Cooperation – GIZ**

Ilda Sukurica studied social sciences with a special focus on sustainable development related topics. She is a Junior Advisor in the sector programme Sustainability Standards and Public-Private Responsibility at the GIZ and works in the field of sustainable public procurement. The GIZ is a development agency which has over 50 years of experience in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development. <http://www.kompass-nachhaltigkeit.de/>

**Christiane Klewais, Zorg Leuven**

Christiane Klewais, CPO/ CSCO (chief procurement and supply chain officer) of ZORG Leuven. Procurement director with a history of working in public administrations and Health Care Services. Skilled in Public Procurement, Sustainable Purchasing, Customer Relationship Management, Hospitality Management, Internal Distribution and Logistics. Socio-economical professional master degree from Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB). Zorg Leuven (CARE Leuven) is a welfare association established by the public welfare centre Louvain (Leuven) and by the city of Louvain (Leuven) in which both organizations have regrouped their residential care functions and their home care. When Flanders launched a call for a Green Deal Circular Purchasing in early 2017, the central purchasing department saw an opportunity to gain experience in integrating circularity in purchasing projects and in contributing in putting ZORG Leuven on the map as a sustainable organization. During 2018-2019 the central procurement department realised successfully two purchase projects, in particular the realization of circularity in the framework agreement for sustainable rent and maintenance of linen and work clothing and in the framework agreement for sustainable leasing of reprographic devices and digitalization. <https://www.zorgleuven.be/>

## 4 Conference content

### 4.1 Conference day one: October 1, 2020

Conference facilitator Minu Hemmati welcomed to the conference. She introduced the topic and explained why GPP is important. She also introduced the hosts of the Conference, the UBA and the BMU as well as the organizers of the BEA. She gave an overview over the agenda of the two days of the conference. Further, two polls were carried out. The digital audience was asked, how they are at this day and what stakeholder group they belong to.

#### 4.1.1 Welcome and Impulse: Minister Svenja Schulze, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety Germany

Minister Svenja Schulze stressed that the Covid-19 crises gives the opportunity to change procurement routines. She said, we don't have much time left and need to take actions now in order to save the climate. GPP should be as easy as possible and should be included in tender routines. Important is the support of procurers by the management level as well as a proper monitoring of green procurement. The use of Ecolabels like the Blue Angel can help to push GPP. Ecolabels also make it easier for procurers to decide between products. In addition, BMU and UBA are working on guidelines and checklists to facilitate GPP. On the regulatory level, Germany introduced the Climate Change Act (2019) and the revised Circular Economy Act (KrWG) with binding requirements on GPP that emphasize the role of public authorities in achieving a climate neutral and circular economy. Svenja Schulze hoped the conference is about learning and sharing and provides viewers with many "fruitful thoughts".

#### 4.1.2 Keynote I: Virginijus Sinkevičius, DG Environment, European Commission

Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius stressed that the public sector is a major consumer in Europe: they spend approximately 1.8 trillion euro annually, representing around 14 percent of the EU's gross domestic product. Thirty percent of the impact on climate change by countries in the EU is a result of public purchases. By using their purchasing power to choose goods and services with lower impacts on the environment, they can make an important contribution to sustainable consumption and production. Green purchasing is also about influencing the market. By promoting and using GPP, public authorities can provide industry with real incentives for developing green technologies and products. In some sectors, public purchasers command a significant share of the market (e.g. public transport and construction, health services and education) and therefore their decisions have considerable impact.

The EU helps procurement bodies by offering a help desk, setting criteria for 20 product groups, offering over 150 best practice examples, a newsletter, guidelines, and tools for calculating the life cycle costs: [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/gpp/index_en.htm). According to the Commissioner public spending is now more important than ever. By agreeing on standards public authorities lead the way for private businesses towards green procurement. This can lead to economic savings and help the private sector to align with the transition.

Mr. Sinkevičius invited the audience to take part in the consultations on the work of the directives, like the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Packaging Directive.

#### 4.1.3 Keynote II: Dirk Messner, President German Environment Agency

Dirk Messner stressed, this is the first conference on GPP organized by the BMU and UBA. He described the context of GPP and raised awareness from a climate protection point of view. He



explained shortly the dangerous tipping points for the earth system. Five years ago, he would have said we will meet the tipping points by a warming of three to four degrees. Now scientist know we already move there with a warming of 2 degrees. This implies that we have to be as ambitious as possible on all fronts.

Dirk Messner said it is no longer only about moving into the right direction but also moving into the right direction with a lot of speed to be able to solve the problems we are talking about on the conference (climate change, biodiversity loss, global environmental changes).

Dirk Messner reminded that 20 percent of the market is driven by public procurement, these are 500 billion euro a year, which is a large leverage point - not a niche, but an important factor. This implies according to Dirk Messner, that the state itself could be a role model and a pioneer for environmental solutions. He also mentioned that in 2014 the European Union Public Procurement Law has been updated. This law allows to set environmental enquiries, not in a mandatory, but flexible way. Dirk Messner said he would talk about two modes of procurement: First, a flexibilization of regulations to make it possible to address environmental issues. And second, mandatory requirements. There is a need now for binding guidelines and long-term objectives to bring emissions, consumption and loss of resources down.

In Germany, the Climate Change Act of 2019 and the Circular Economy Act include binding requirements which need to be applied also in public procurement.

But the procuring offices may not be left alone. A challenge is, that there are many procurement offices. In Germany alone there are 30.000 procurement bodies on different levels. This is a huge challenge to drive a whole community into a certain direction. The range is from federal procurement bodies (large scale ones, who invest money e.g. into public buildings) to very small offices in schools.

Ecolabels can help to make decisions easier and find sustainable products. Unfortunately, procurement bodies are not yet strategic buyers. Even the German Government of Germany and the UBA still have to learn, to make this a strategic goal. The UBA helps to implement this process and supports procurement bodies with tools and guidelines and a dedicated website [www.beschaffung-info.de](http://www.beschaffung-info.de). On the website there are also product specific tender recommendations based on the Ecolabel "Blue Angel". Another important partner is the Competence Center for Sustainable Procurement (KNB) which offers customized trainings and tools available here.

The UBA is an environmental organization, but Dirk Messner would like to widen the perspective: Parallel to the environmental aspects also social aspects and fair procurement have been gaining more attention. To build legitimacy for the sustainability transformation, justice, fairness and social dimensions are a key. Procurement investments need to be linked to social aspects, and there need to be prove compliance along the value chains.

#### **Discussion (questions from the digital audience):**

**Question:** Is there any website in English where we can find tools, guidelines and ecolabels?

*Dirk Messner:* Yes, there is a lot of English material available on the website [www.beschaffung-info.de](http://www.beschaffung-info.de)

**Question:** On the same subject as the first question, how do you expand this internationally? (Canadian here):

*Dirk Messner:* We need a broad perspective and we need to make this a global case. But it is not yet on the highest level of the agenda as it should be.

**Question:** Have you linked the procurement requirements to non-financial reporting standards that business already uses?

*Dirk Messner:* There should be non-financial reporting standards in private businesses. It should be part of a business model, not just an add-on, but a part of every business of the corporations.

**Question:** How can Europe lead the way in promoting sustainable procurement outside Europe, particularly in developing countries?

*Dirk Messner:* Regarding GPP, first homework needs to be done here in Europe (e.g. mandatory criteria). If this is successful, it could serve as an example for other countries.

**Stretching: Minu Hemmati**

#### **4.1.4 Panel I: Thinking ahead – how to push GPP**

**Emmanuelle Maire, DG Environment, European Commission**

Emmanuelle Maire reflects in her presentation the newest EU policy developments in the field of public procurement. The Commission will propose minimum mandatory green public procurement (GPP) criteria and targets in sectoral legislation and phase in compulsory reporting to monitor the uptake of Green Public Procurement without creating unjustified administrative burden for public buyers. Furthermore, the Commission will continue to support capacity building with guidance, training and dissemination of good practices and encouraging public buyers to take part in a “Public Buyers for Climate and Environment” initiative, which will facilitate exchanges among buyers committed to GPP implementation. The new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP) introduces a new policy framework addressing all products placed on the EU market, supporting more sustainable patterns of consumption and cutting waste by e.g. promoting better design. The Green Claim initiative will require companies to substantiate claims they make about the environmental footprint of their products/services by using standard methods for quantifying.

**Paulo Magina, OECD**

Paula Magina described that meanwhile GPP moved to one of the main objectives in procurement. States have huge economic power, and due to their procurement decisions they can drive forward innovation. But there is still a lot that needs to be done. In the past the concept was more on secondary policy objectives. But when the OECD did a monitoring report last year, they realized that the concepts have changed. We are not talking about secondary objectives anymore, we are talking about complementary objectives, broader outcomes and we are now mainstreaming these broader outcomes. There is an increasing understanding and relevance of the topic. The OECD is developing some interesting tools to assess the procurement tools and it is also looking at the ways the concept is shifting. It is not anymore about “green”, but “sustainable” public procurement (SPP), which means that all three dimensions of sustainability have to be recognized.

**Mark Hidson, ICLEI for UN SPP Programme One Planet Network**

Mark Hidson said there are still a lot of barriers: therefore we need to help procurers in their day-to-day work, it is not easy to do so and there are still a lot of struggles. There is a need for specific legislation, as true costs of products are not shown. We need e.g. financial tax incentives and life cycle costing. The European Commission is moving forward now, as public purchasers need a solution such as capacity building. Benefits should be made clearer to procurers, but it is a huge task to train them all. Some of the barriers are decentralization and a lack of data or criteria ready to be used. Mark Hidson said, procurement is day-to-day work and we do need to



manage the policy framework. Due to the Covid-19 crisis there is an opportunity to do things differently. Sustainability needs to be a part of the recovery from the pandemic crisis. We need to know what is out there in the market.

**Ulf Jaeckel, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety  
Germany**

Ulf Jaeckel said that SPP is an important issue for the German government and the BMU. The state has a huge purchasing power and needs to use it to transform markets to achieve more sustainable outcomes. There is an initiative in the BMU and the federal government to become climate neutral by 2030. The BMU supports the EMAS label, which also has to be used at sustainable events. Germany welcomes the Circular Economy Action Plan of the European Commission.

Further, the BMU wants to make environmental aspects of public procurement more binding. Important pillars are concrete provisions such as the Climate Change Act and the Circular Economy Act.

**Diana Wehlau, Bremen**

Diana Wehlau pointed out that the city state Bremen was one of the first states in Germany that introduced a mandatory approach to GPP, this was in 2009. Bremen revised the Law on procurement and since then it was mandatory for every procurer to implement environmental aspects in the procurement process. But Diana Wehlau stressed that even if there is a legally binding framework, it is still a hard way to get it actually implemented. Therefore it is necessary to join forces in order to implement GPP. Bremen followed a strategic way with environmental, social and also economic aspects. The Central Service Centre bundles the demand.

After 10 years of binding requirements for GPP the result is that once you have started, the challenge is to get it to a broad dimension. You should choose easy products to start with, for example tables or paper. But the switch to innovative solutions is a higher step.

**Discussion (Questions from the digital audience):**

**Question:** What is the most promising route to achieve more binding rules to act faster?

*Ulf Jaeckel* said, external costs should be included (e.g. procurement of vehicles, Clean Vehicle Directive). *Mark Hidson* agreed, *Diana Wehlau* said the political will is important: If the mayor says, it is important, it is more likely to work. The product should be combined with EMS systems, needs should be bundled. The costs of environmental degradation is much more expensive later than buying eco-friendly products now.

**Question:** Has your government considered offering financial incentives to agencies that adopt green procurement?

*Mr. Magina:* There are big differences between European countries. Some countries are linking the financial incentives. Longer budget periods are needed, to not see only the short term in benefits, green budgets could be a solution.

*Diana Wehlau:* On a regional or national level we discussed a lot about the question if you are allowed to use environmental criteria in the past. Since we did not have any question about this issue today, I assume that we are really much further today. It is not any longer the questions of “if” but “how to” and to consider the financial problems in the long run. This is the baseline of today’s morning. A legally binding framework.

### **Explanatory movie on GPP**

The UBA developed an explanatory movie on GPP, which was shown several times during the conference. It explains what environmental-friendly procurement is and is available in German language with German and English subtitles. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R\\_A-uMCSrwg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_A-uMCSrwg)

#### **4.1.5 Procura+ Award Ceremony**

This year the Procura+ Award Ceremony was integrated into the digital conference. It was held by the European Sustainable Procurement Network. The Procura+ Awards reward successful, already running, sustainable and innovative public procurements. These procurements lead to significant improvements of public goods, services, processes and infrastructure.

The jury consisted of Erika Bozzay (Senior Policy Advisor, OECD), Marzena Rogalska (Director, European Commission DG Grow), Mark Hidson (Global Director ICLEI's Sustainable Procurement Centre) and Johanna Enberg (Strategist Innovation Procurement, Swedish Competence Centre for Innovation Procurement).

The winner of the category "Procurement Initiative of the year" was the City of Haarlem. The runner-up was the BBG Austria. The winner of the category "Innovative procurement of the year" was the City of Malmö. The runner-up was the City of Malmö. The winner of the category "Outstanding Innovation in ICT Procurement" was the Austrian Federal Real Estate Agency. The runner-up was the Fabulous Project. The winner of the category "Sustainable Procurement of the year" was KampC Belgium. The runner-up was the Region of Brittany.

#### **4.1.6 Panel II: Implementation of SPP**

##### **Thomas Solbach, Federal Ministry of Economics and Energy**

Thomas Solbach discussed whether mandatory or voluntary criteria work better. He said, that you can specify certain criteria in technical aspects, in which you lay down requirements. The next step are certain selection criteria, e.g. sustainable related. But selection criteria are bidder related. The award criteria is the most important criteria. The best award is usually chosen according to the most economically advanced tender. In fact, it is possible to integrate here also environmental and social criteria. And then it is possible to choose the tender on the basis of this award criteria. Another possibility is to integrate environmental criteria in the performance conditions of contracts. Because it is difficult to find something for all different contracts, energy efficiency is mandatory above threshold and for federal procurement offices. You need certain quotas for clean vehicles, training is missing for procurement offices, and the will from the hierarchy is often missing. What is needed is more professionalism and a better education of procurement workers.

##### **Benjamin Bongardt, City of Berlin**

Benjamin Bongardt said, Berlin is a city state which means that he works at the subnational level. This makes it easier for top down processes when it comes to procurement. In Berlin they have very good experiences with the education of procurement officers. When you centralize procurement this would mean that you also decrease the number of procurement officers who know about the environmental aspects of products. Berlin wants to become climate neutral by 2030 and procurement is one of the key factors for this. In Berlin there is a Public Procurement Act following the national law, and under this law there is a regulation in place, which is called Administrative Regulation on Procurement and Environment, so this is solely focussing on the environment-perspective, not the sustainability-perspective. This is mandatory for everyone within the administration, but it is not mandatory for public companies. The central idea in

Berlin is to take into account the Life-Cycle-Costs. In addition to this the City of Berlin offers procurers "tender-sheets" for a variety of product groups which are reviewed regularly. Procurers can find these online. One of the most important sectors is the building sector. Berlin has rules for procurement, e.g. wood and recycled concrete, which saves huge amounts of greenhouse gases.

**Emma Borjesson, City of Malmö**

Emma Borjesson said that one of the topics that has been successful in Sweden was organic food. In schools 70 percent of the meals are organic. Success factors are a good communication. Circular requirements for furniture has saved a lot of money used for furniture. Also important are networks such as Procura+ and others. The national agency sets minimum requirements and there are trainings for procurers and buyers in order to change behaviour.

**Els Verwimp, Government of Flanders, Environment and Spatial Development Department**

Els Verwimp said that ICT was the focus and that the success was easy by using existing labels such as TCO certified. The sustainable procurement of smartphones is more complicated and social aspects more difficult. In general it is important that ICT products have a long life. What you can do best to make sure that computers, smartphones etc. have a long life. The ICT teams are asked to overview the ICT and to watch how long they live. It is monitored how much energy the ICT uses. It is easy to follow TCO certified. Els Verwimp is working on a procurement agency and is helping procurers to assess what is delivered. What is needed is to link up people and to have a good network.

**Discussion (Questions from the digital audience):**

**Question:** How can we increase interest from Science to participate in GPP/SPP?

*Benjamin Bongardt* said, in Berlin scientists have been involved in the development and design of the tender sheets. There is a scientific Action Group working on it.

**Question:** How is the availability of data and how can it be proved?

*Thomas Solbach* said that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2020 the new national statistic system has started in Germany. Data of public procurement procedures at different levels are collected. All procurers from different levels are asked to transfer their data to this new monitoring system for all contracting authorities above 25.000 euros net. For the first time there will be valuable data of procurement. The OECD says Germany spends around 500 billion euros in per year. It is important for triggering sustainability, but data was lacking so far. Sustainability criteria will be monitored, too.

*Els Verwimp* added that in Germany questions are very general, in Flanders they did the same, but to know more they went case by case to check which criteria were used. The data is there, you just have to get it.

*Emma Börjesson* said that in Sweden they are still waiting for a national tool, buyers have to be included. The data is also needed to assess the green-house gas emissions.

**Question:** What are the main challenges ahead to reach the 2030 goals?

*Thomas Solbach* said that there is a shift towards mandatory criteria and more and better training. Buyers have to be included and more competence centres are needed on the regional level.

*Benjamin Bongardt* said CO<sub>2</sub> needs a price. If it has a price and if this price rises, then it is easier to assess Life-cycle costs. This could be used or promoted and pushed and should be a bigger

topic. Good practice examples are there. Digitalization is also a key, as bidders have to fulfil a lot of paper work with e-tendering, this should become easier.

*Emma Börjesson* said she thinks of a climate fee e.g. for travelling. And she is also looking to more product groups and how these products are used.

*Els Verwimp* said you do not only need the procurers. You also need the decision makers to acknowledge that procurers need resources (know-how, time, money) to implement GPP.

#### **4.1.7 Discussion Round Local Regulation**

##### **Rikke Dreyer, City of Copenhagen, Denmark**

Rikke Dreyer said, that in Denmark 9 of 10 people know the Nordic Svan Ecolabel. Cooperation began in 2017 with Copenhagen since then there is a policy. Since 2018 every year two product groups are defined with a market dialogue such as toys, work clothes, office supply, furniture and others. They sent letters of interest to municipalities to have more Ecolabel products. The results and lessons learned are that numbers of eco-labelled products have increased and that there is a bigger choice of products.

##### **Lidia Capparelli, Consip, Italy**

Lidia Capparelli said that Italy started in 2008 with Consip (brought to life by the ministry of environment). Since then 20 product groups are covered and minimum criteria are mandatory. In Italy there are five billion euros spend on of green products per year. In Italy there are centralized analyses of need market consultation. All the parties are involved, not only the public authorities but also the associations of suppliers and the civil society.

##### **Mascha Menny, City of Hamburg**

Mascha Menny said that one of her tasks is the evaluation and monitoring in Hamburg. In 2016 the administration in Hamburg published guidelines for green procurement. One thing that they have learned, that it is not only about the negative impact of products but also to look what you are actually buying. Monitoring is not so easy if you actually do not know who is procuring what. This is why in Hamburg developed a system to get a good overview. Regulation is needed on the one hand but also good experiences and guidelines on the other hand.

##### **Vanessa Schmidt, Berlin Energy Agency**

Vanessa Schmidt said that the guidelines in Hamburg contain a list of products that should not be procured, e.g. outside heating devices or capsule coffee machines. There are also a lot of minimum criteria. The Blue Angel is the reference and standard for e.g. paper. Also a big training program was established in Hamburg.

#### **Discussion (Questions from the digital audience):**

**Question:** When you train people, there is sometimes resistance. What is your experience with trainings in Hamburg?

*Vanessa Schmidt* said that people always go into discussion on certain products. There are for e.g. catering guidelines in Hamburg with vegetarian meals and some people really felt insulted by that. The younger the people the more consciousness exists.

**Question:** You are working on the local level mostly. How important is the EU or national level regulation for the local level?

*Rikke Dreyer* said that it is really clear for her how important regulation is. Ecolabelling Denmark is collecting the tenders with Ecolabel criteria.

*Lidia Capparelli* said that the European level of legislation is very important. But national legislation is fostering a lot. The simplification done by Ecolabels is really a key issue.

*Mascha Menny* said regulation is very important because it gives procurers the possibility to use certain criteria and the criteria of the European commission are very helpful.

*Vanessa Schmidt* said that it is very important that the law provides the basis but it is also important to have common criteria due to the Ecolabels.

**Question:** Are the Guidelines of Hamburg available in English?

*Vanessa Schmidt* said that short versions of the Hamburg Guidelines are available in English.

**Question:** Turning into a market with circular economy could cut EU emissions by nearly 70 Percent should this be a priority topic?

*Lidia Capparelli* said the potential of circular economy is very high and that the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> is really a reality. Also the communication towards citizens is a priority. Public authorities must lead this process.

*Mascha Menny* said that circular economy is one aspects, but it is also quite challenging. It is important not only to work with sustainability words, but to transfer it into a language that everybody can understand.

## **4.2 Conference day two: October 2, 2020**

On the second day of the conference several workshops via Zoom were held. In the beginning of the workshops each speaker was giving a short elevator pitch and afterwards the group were splitted into several Break-out Sessions. Furthermore there were four presentations by experts on GPP.

### **4.2.1 Presentation I: Procurement and Climate Protection**

**Annie Ståhlberg, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden**

The presentation was about the climate effects of procurement, the influence of procurement and a spending analysis. But it is not only about climate emissions, but also about other emissions such as noise etc. In Sweden there are 131 product groups with 970 criteria. After the presentation there are loads of questions about monitoring and criteria.

### **4.2.2 Presentation II: Circular Procurement; Target: Zero Waste**

**Joan Prummel, Rijkswaterstaat**

The goal is to have circular economy by 2050 in small countries. Earth Overshoot Day is the calculated illustrative calendar date on which humanity's resource consumption for the year exceeds earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year. 2020, this day was the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. This means we need 1,5 planets to keep on living on this planet. In a circular economy the goal is to have no waste. The focus is on design and conscious use of produced goods as well as a more and better recycling. The benefits are savings on raw materials, more work, less carbon dioxide, less raw materials, less land and water use. A lot of products are like that, circular potential is there. But the process (collaboration) is lacking, partnerships are lacking – procurement must step in and influence the chain. Good examples are circular office furniture, which are all online. Why should a bridge be recyclable? After 30 – 50 years you have to replace it. Elements can last about 200 years.

### **4.2.3 Presentation III: Procurement and Biodiversity**

**Ria Müller, Senior Researcher / Partner, Institute for Ecological Economy Research – IÖW**

The biodiversity loss of our time means that it is 100 to 1000 times faster than normal extinction. The ecosystems are under enormous threat. When we look at the production chain, the production phase is the most important in relation to the biodiversity topics. There are some low hanging fruits: The GPP criteria for the product group 'paper' should cover finished paper products, cardboard and printed matter tissue paper. General mandatory regulation on 'paper' is being drafted. When it comes to furniture, there is the problem of unsustainable timber and durable furniture. Regarding catering services, it should be vegetarian, seasonal, fresh, organic food, no food waste, sustainable fish, and fair coffee. Big points are buildings and public space maintenance. An urban green design and maintenance elements could be a solution, there are good examples from London and Tokyo. What we need is a comprehensive ecological governance.

### **4.2.4 Presentation IV: Toxic-Free Procurement**

**Johanna Wurbs, German Environment Agency**

Johanna Wurbs starts with a reading recommendation: UN Global chemical outlook II. The amount of produced chemicals doubled almost every 15 years. The chemicals talked about are used for industrial production, biocides and plant production. Chemicals facilitates to make life

on the one hand easier, but they can also pollute water soil and air, workers and consumers. There are goals by the United Nations and European Union, the target is a sound management of chemicals by 2020, but this goal is not achieved.

Where are chemicals relevant?

Case 1: Use of chemicals because of their toxic propriety -avoidance or appropriate use.

Case 2: Use of classical products – use ecolabels or GPP guidance like GPP criteria.

Case 3: Use of chemicals during the production process (textiles, metals, paper pulp).

Chemicals can hinder the reuse of materials. There are trade-offs when no chemicals are used, but UBA does not give a weighing information.

#### **4.2.5 Workshop I: Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

##### **Maïke Janssen, German Environment Agency**

The elevator pitch is about products, services, software and life cycle assessment. Most greenhouse gas emissions are emitted during production phase. Recycling alone does not solve the problem. CPU utilisation must be increased, this is a new indicator for data centre efficiency. When it comes to software, there are huge differences in the energy they need to run.

##### **Joakim Thornéus, National Agency for Public Procurement Sweden**

There are challenges on certain criteria of procurement and he wants to discuss certain experiences from the practices.

##### **Andreas Nobell, TCO Development, Stockholm**

It is important to use the same criteria in public procurement. But there is a lack of long-term planning when it comes to it in the industry. The industry finds it difficult, when different criteria are used by the procurers. Therefore there is the TCO roadmap. If it is too difficult you will get no products. If it is independently certified there are no bidders for tenders.

##### **Felice Alfieri, Joint Research Center (JRC)**

Environmental impacts are looked at when setting up the criteria. It is also important for private users and schools who use these ICT. It is important to use the criteria because of the social and economic issues.

##### **Ilse Beneke, German Competence Centre on Sustainable Procurement (KNC)**

Bidders and structures need to be well organized and it is good to go into discussion with the market. It is important to get an environmentally friendly bid, but often the basic standard is the most known standard.

##### **Summary Break-out room with Ilse Beneke:**

Most important for GPP are consultants or policy makers. They are working with social standards and talk to manufacturers. A collective dialogue of the market is needed, you must set up buyer groups to assemble the market power and you have to carry out pilots to test. Minimum standards make sense. The example of smartphones came up: Is it a tool or status symbol? An ICT procurement strategy for Germany circulated in the German government to find a standard. On October 20 there is a meeting for all competence centres in Europe organized by the KNC in order to share information and possibly join forces.

##### **Round up – what do you take away?**

*Joakim Thornéus:* It is difficult to have an overview of the market.



*Felice Alfieri:* A lack of confidence on legal issues, people are willing, but support is needed.

*Ilse Beneke:* Who is doing what in Europe, it is good to share experience, also online networking is great and that so many people are already working on implementing green ICT.

#### **4.2.6 Workshop II: Green Events**

##### **Regina Preslmair, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) Austria**

The event industry came to them and asked for certification – so they worked on the certification of organisation and catering. The certification is trustworthy, the certification of the food is very important.

##### **Romaine Stracks, Green Events Luxembourg**

(Missing)

##### **Isabelle Schummers, Green Events Luxembourg**

Single use plastic has to be avoided, waste has to be minimized. There is no ecolabel, but support is provided for event organizers, mostly for the public. There are workshops, checklists and a logo for a green event. Business events can not apply yet for the logo. The key element is, that there should be easy and accessible alternatives and the logistics behind green products.

##### **Summary Break-out room with Isabelle Schummers:**

Experiences are shared. In Slovakia reusable paper cups are used. They rent professional dishwashers for events for reusable cups and dishes. One participant from Spain said that it costs one euro per piece of dishes to bring it back. They try to bring food to people, who practice reducing waste. Also the Blue Angel has a certification for reusable cup systems. Experiences have been shared about what did and what did not work out. You cannot organize it just top down, you have to have partners.

#### **4.2.7 Workshop III: Textiles**

##### **Kristin Stechemesser, German Environment Agency**

There are guidelines on sustainable procurement of textiles, which will be available within the next days. This guideline combines green and social standards. The first step is about ecological criteria, the second step about exclusion criteria. The third step includes production criteria. The last step looks at fibre criteria. The guideline is based on the criteria of the Blue Angel certification for textiles. The Blue Angel can be used as a verification of the guideline. The Guideline is in German, but the Blue Angel for textiles is also translated into English.

##### **Marianne Burum Eskeland, Nordic Swan**

Norway uses the Nordic Swan and EU Ecolabel. There is no chemical education of procurers. However, since 2017 procurers require Ecolabel products. Before that procurers had to set up the criteria by themselves. There are also guidelines in Norway procurers can use. It started with furniture, work wear, bed linens, and towels.

##### **Sophie de Smet, Rijkswaterstaat**

Before at the defence ministry, they had a circular approach to textiles. Textiles were collected and 65 percent could be used again, the rest was recycled. The requirements for new textiles are that ten percent must be recycled by 2025 and 20 percent must be recycled materials. This is ecological feasible. There is a market strategy for tender organizations, who share their demands.



### **Ilda Sukurica, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)**

Resilient supply chains are important as we can see due to Covid-19 crisis. There is a guideline for sustainable textile procurement and the GIZ is planning a study on the actual real price of textiles. The GIZ is supporting Caritas and Diakonie - the study is online. There are also online seminars available.

Christiane Klewais, Zorgleuven

In Zorgleuven they tried sustainable procurement in practice. The preliminary phase was crucial, they had workshops to determine the focus.

### **Summary Break-out room:**

The participants are asked what they think about labels. Sophie de Smet said they asked for one label but then had to go into the details. It is discussed how to deal with documents. In Denmark they are not allowed to spend more than one hour to proof verification. In Flanders it should not be longer than two pages, they do not know if that would survive in court. Otherwise it takes too much time to compare means of proof. Helmut Baumann said national standards make no sense; it must be international, coming from the industry. In the Philippines textiles need to come from Philippines. In the Netherlands there are ILO norms, self-declaration, standards for audits and questionnaires.

### **Round up - what do you take away?**

*Marianne Burum Eskeland:* The differences between the existing Type- 1 labels on textile are so small they should all be used equivalent.

*Sopie de Smet:* Global standards and social auditing in factories are needed. It's hard for public procurers to compare the different labels.

*Ilda Sukurica:* There are challenges in calculating life cycle costs for textiles. Digitalization could provide solutions.

## **A Presentations**

### **A.1 Workshop I: ICT in Public Procurement**

Maike Janßen, Gemran Environment Agency

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/green\\_it\\_maik\\_e\\_janssen.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/green_it_maik_e_janssen.pdf)

### **A.2 Presentation III: Procurement and Biodiversity**

Ria Müller, Institute for Ecological Economy Research – IÖW

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/iow\\_procurement\\_and\\_biodiversity\\_final.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/iow_procurement_and_biodiversity_final.pdf)

### **A.3 Presentation IV: Toxic-Free Procurement**

Johanna Wurbs, German Environment Agency

[https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/wurbs\\_toxic\\_free\\_procurement\\_kurz\\_online\\_documentation.pdf](https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/sites/default/files/medien/376/dokumente/wurbs_toxic_free_procurement_kurz_online_documentation.pdf)