

## Europe's major cities commit to sustainable purchasing



Leaders and representatives of European cities and metropolises representing more than 60 million inhabitants gathered in the City of Paris on 26 March to declare their commitment to taking action on climate change. The event was hosted by the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, and was attended (amongst others) by the Mayors of Rome, Athens, Brussels, Bucharest, Geneva, Lisbon, Madrid, Sofia, Stockholm, Warsaw, Vienna, Lyon and Bordeaux.

One of the main objectives behind the gathering was to engage the cities to join forces, strengthen and share instruments that will help lead to a lasting energy and environmental transition. A declaration, adopted by 26 mayors, agrees to use their collective purchasing power – approximately €10 billion annually – to favour 'green' sectors of the economy and low carbon industries. "We must proceed even further by promoting the coordination of public investments on a voluntary basis," they declared. This joint action will focus on the areas where cities have significant purchasing power, and where the carbon impact is most important: transportation, energy, waste recovery and construction. The event is one of the key meetings leading up to the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties ([COP21](#)).

Read more about the event (in French) [here](#).  
Read the full declaration (in English) [here](#).



### Zoom in on... Railway sector

On 4 March, six major companies in the European railway industry launched a new international procurement initiative, Railsponsible, to help drive sustainability throughout the supply chain. Railsponsible will focus on sustainable public procurement (SPP) as a means of improving sustainability throughout supply chains, sharing best practices and processes, pushing for a common understanding across the industry, and using and sharing common tools. Deutsche Bahn alone has an annual purchasing volume of more than ten billion euro and places approximately 300,000 individual orders with 35,000 suppliers each year.

[More information...](#)

## GPP example

### Procurement of solar powered, compacting litter bins

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) County Council is responsible for the south-east region of County Dublin, Ireland. DLR has a population of approximately 206,000. Between 2009 and 2014, as a result of the economic downturn, the budget of DLR County Council was reduced by 25% and staffing levels by 17%. The County Council had to take a serious look at its services, and identify how to provide services with a reduced workforce. Following the consideration of various options, it was decided that the use of solar powered, compacting litter bins could allow for a similar level of service to be provided despite the reduction in fleet costs and staff numbers. This option also had the added benefit of reducing the organisation's fuel consumption due to the reduction in the number of trips.

An open tender was published, as a result of which 401 bins were purchased. Using a web-based application to monitor real-time levels of waste in the new units, the number of litter bins visited has been reduced by over 85% which has resulted in a reduction of 75% in fleet costs. This project has had the added benefit of reducing the organisation's consumption of diesel by 8,125 litres.

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



### Zoom in on... OECD Recommendation on public procurement

The new OECD Recommendation of the Council on Public Procurement was adopted in February 2015. The Recommendation provides a comprehensive set of guidelines for public procurement reforms and improvements at national or sub-national level. It provides policy-makers with a holistic approach on how to ensure the strategic function of public procurement. The 2015 Recommendation replaces the 2008 Recommendation, which was based on a [set of principles for enhancing integrity in procurement](#).

[More information...](#)



## Monitoring is key for effective SPP

*Peter Nohrstedt has been working on green public procurement (GPP) since the late 90's. As Secretary of the Swedish government Committee for GPP, he initiated and developed the national GPP tool and continued this work in the Swedish Environmental Management Council for 11 years.*



### **SKL Kommentus is a relatively well-established organisation in Sweden. Can you tell us more about it?**

SKL Kommentus is a company owned by the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities and has offices in three locations in Sweden: Stockholm, Gothenburg and Malmö. The company has three areas of work: Central procurement, which puts out framework agreements; consultancy work, which supports the public sector in various procurement related issues; and media services.

### **Tell us more about your role as Sustainability Manager at SKL Kommentus.**

In this position, I'm primarily responsible for managing and developing the system for monitoring the compliance of social and ethical criteria used in procurement by local authorities in Sweden. Another one of my roles will be to ensure that environmental and sustainability considerations are taken into account in all of our framework procurements, when relevant. I'll also be involved in providing consultancy and training on GPP/sustainable public procurement (SPP) and will seek externally funded projects in these areas.

### **What SPP related services does SKL Kommentus offer?**

The SKL Kommentus monitoring system for social and ethical criteria has been in place since 2012. We have 82 municipalities as our members who

each pay an annual membership fee. As monitoring is a general deficiency in public procurement, and specifically in SPP, there is a great need to pool available resources and further support public administrations. Our system collectively shares the burden between the members, regarding the monitoring of social and ethical criteria, which are common in many authorities' codes of conduct.

For our consultancy subsidiary we have an environmental policy in place that is in high demand from many of our customers. I will look into this further in the near future and develop both environmental and sustainability policies to cover all the relevant aspects of the work that we do.

**'As monitoring is a general deficiency in public procurement, and specifically in SPP, there is a great need to pool available resources and further support public administrations.'**

Municipalities are asked twice a year to suggest contracts which require that we follow up on. In order to prioritise which contracts we should audit, we have an expert council linked to the system. We use a framework contract for auditing consultants which are sent out on specific audits.

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



### **Zoom in on... Guidance for leading on sustainable purchasing**

The Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council's [Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing v1.0](#), now available as a free download, provides a comprehensive handbook for organisations seeking to optimise the environmental, social, and economic performance of their purchasing. One hundred organisations with more than 200 billion (USD) in purchasing power are already using Guidance v1.0 as part of a [pilot programme](#). The Council is especially interested in getting feedback from purchasers in the EU.

[More information...](#)



### **Zoom in on... Healthcare sector**

[Health Care Without Harm Europe](#), a non-profit coalition of hospitals, healthcare systems, local authorities, academic institutions and environmental and health organisations, recently published a fact sheet on [Sustainable Public Procurement in European Healthcare](#). The publication addresses a number of key issues facing healthcare organisations, such as how evaluating the most economically advantageous tender can be tackled under the new legal framework. Good practice from Austria, Norway, Sweden and Italy are also highlighted.

[More information...](#)

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