

Summary Report of the GEN Survey on Government Green Procurement

Scope

This survey covers only the selected EU Member States.

Objective

The objective of this Survey (“Survey”) is to provide information to Global Ecolabelling Network (GEN) members on the policies, measures and practices adopted by selected EU Member States to promote government green procurement (GPP), with particular emphasis on the uses of ecolabelling schemes. As many EU Member States are known to have adopted non-mandatory measures to promote GPP, this information will be of particular comparative value to GEN members from Asian countries, such as Japan, Korea and ROC(Taiwan), which have adopted mandatory approaches to promote GPP, enacted green procurement legislation, and mandated purchases of green products (for example, ecolabelled products) in designated product categories. However, it will also be of value to GEN members and interested parties in the EU region to ascertain how neighboring countries are doing.

Methodology

The Survey questionnaire (see below) was sent to selected persons in designated EU Member States deemed by GEN to be well knowledgeable about the current status and practices in promoting GPP in the specific states, beginning in February 2006, with an initial submission deadline of March 15. Responses were received starting in the beginning of March, and follow-up activities continued until the beginning of May 2006. The term “EU Member States in the Survey” as used in the following discussion, indicates EU Member States from which GEN has received responses for this Survey.

Overview of Mandatory GPP Practices in Asia

Japan’s “Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities” (the Law) has been in effect since April 2001. It is stipulated in the Law that central government agencies shall establish green procurement policies, conduct purchases in accordance with published policies, and then report on results and achievements of green procurement. To implement the Law, the government has designated green procurement items and established evaluation criteria for use in such purchasing decisions. Local governments and the private sector are encouraged but not mandatory to abide by the Law. Implementation of the Law has resulted in over 90% of most office paper, 95% of most stationary and office equipment, and all official vehicles after 2004 considered as green procurement.

In Korea, the “Act on the Promotion of the Purchase of Environment-Friendly Products” (the Act) took effect in July 2005. In accordance with the Act, the public agencies (both national and local) are to publish green procurement policies and implementation plans, carry out the plan and report

the results. To assist with such efforts, the Environment Ministry is stipulated to publish guidelines, designated items and evaluation criteria. As this Act has just been enforced, no implementation result is available as yet. But preliminary statistics has indicated a more than 4 times increase of government spending used in green purchasing in 2005 when compared with those spent in 2004.

A different approach has been adopted by ROC(Taiwan). Instead of enacting a dedicated green procurement law, a green procurement article (the “Article”) has been inserted into the Government Procurement Act which has been in effect since May, 1999, as well as a requirement on mandatory green procurement contained within the Resource Recovery and Reuse Act. As stipulated by the Article, all government agencies are to conduct preferential purchases of designated eco-products which can enjoy a 10% price preference. The government has also designated product categories and various evaluation criteria for green procurement (among them, the Green Mark ecolabeled products are on the top priority list), and tracks the reporting and progress of implementation results. The annual target for purchases in designated product categories has been increased gradually since 2002 and is presently at 80%. The yearly targets have all been exceeded since the tracking started in 2002.

As part of the legislative compliance process, all three countries mentioned above have conducted extensive education, training and information dissemination activities for the government procurers. The governments have also actively promoted the green consumption concept, as in the formation in these countries of Green Purchasing Networks.

This mandatory type approach of promoting GGP more widely used in Asia, is of great contrast to the mostly voluntary type approach adopted in most EU member countries, which will be described in the Survey synopsis section below.

Synopsis of Survey Responses

Below is a summary of responses from the Survey’s respondents. As the questionnaire questions and responses are quite straightforward, only a brief analysis is provided in the response summary below. The original survey questionnaire is also enclosed for cross-referencing purpose.

GEN Survey on Government Green Procurement

1. In your country, is/are there any existing national law, policy, regulation and/or measure(s) in place to promote government green procurement? [If not, please proceed to Question 13]

- A. Embedded in the overall Environmental Protection Policy
- B. Part of Government Procurement Law
- C. Specific Government Green Procurement Law
- D. Other voluntary incentives _____

Country	A	B	C	D	Notes
Austria		X			
Belgium				X	Federal Sustainable Plan 2000-2004 creates a federal ministerial circular which is compulsory for all federal authorities.

Denmark	X		X	X	Voluntary agreement between the Danish minister of environment and local and regional authorities on green public procurement
France		X			
Germany		X			
Netherlands				X	
Sweden	X ¹		X ²	X ³	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Swedish environmental law there is stated common principles that also include purchasing (e.g. precautionary principle, substitution principle); 2. Governmental Agencies are required (from July 2006) that at a minimum 25% of purchased cars must fulfill the National definition (maximum fuel consumption etc.) on an environmentally adapted car. 3. Statement from the Swedish Prime Minister in 2002: Program declaration that public authorities should take environmental considerations in their procurement. Since 2001 the Government decided to develop an instrument to help public purchasers (voluntary).
UK				X	<p>UK Government has established a mandatory policy framework for sustainable development which covers the government estate, with targets on procurement, for central Government departments. The Framework refers to a set of minimum environmental standards for certain products (Quick Wins) which departments are expected to use. The Framework is currently under review.</p> <p>In addition, other public sector organisations have developed sustainable or green procurement policies, including the UK National Health Service, and local and regional Government organisations. There also exist commodity-based sustainable policies, for timber and food procurement.</p>
EC*				X	The EC has recently ran a pilot project under which certain Directorate Generals have taken the initiative to obtain registration under the EU environmental management system EMAS. The pilot has been successfully achieved and all the relevant services have been registered. The EC is now looking for a way to expand this registration to all of its services. Obviously, green public procurement is an important element of the overall environmental policy commitment under EMAS.

Note: Most European Commission (EC) responses are from the perspective of a purchasing authority only. (Purchaser of goods and services).

Analysis: Though mandatory GGP measures were in place in several states, no EU Member States in this Survey have enacted legislation specifically to implement green procurement, as opposed to Japan's "Law Concerning the Promotion of Procurement of Eco-Friendly Goods and Services by the State and Other Entities" (in effect since April 2001) and Korea's "Act on the Promotion of the Purchase of Environment-Friendly Products" (in effect since July 2005). Most EU Member States in the Survey rely on green procurement principles/policies embedded in government procurement legislation which may be subjected to favorable or unfavorable interpretations by the government procurers, plus voluntary initiatives to promote GGP. Certain encouragements and incentives will be helpful to encourage active practicing of green procurement under EU's current government procurement legislative framework.

2. What is the scope of your government green procurement?

- A. Central government agencies only
- B. All levels of government agencies
- C. All public sectors (including public schools, hospitals and enterprises, etc.)
- D. Government agencies plus their major subcontractors/suppliers

E. Other

Country/ Answers	A	B	C	D	E	Notes
Austria			X			
Belgium	X*					*Responder can only respond to federal level perspective
Denmark			X			
France			X			
Germany			X			
Netherlands					X	Central government (13 departments and their agencies); local government (468 municipalities); 30 water boards; 12 provinces.
Sweden			X			
UK	X				X	The current Framework is applicable to central Government departments only. However, some other public sector organisations have their own sustainable or green procurement policies. In addition, there is UK Government activity to promote green procurement at the European Union level, under the EU's Environmental Technologies Action Plan (http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/etap/implementing.htm#19)
EC		X*				*When the European Commission is viewed as a purchasing authority.

Analysis: It can be inferred that all EU Member States in the Survey practice GGP in the public sector which includes all levels of government agencies (federal/central plus local/municipal governments), public institutions (schools, hospitals, libraries, etc.) plus state-owned enterprises. However, different levels of governments may not be bound by the same legislative framework and may be subjected to different treatments/restrictions.

3. Does the government green procurement include both products and services?

Both Products only Specific products/sectors only

Country	Both	Products only	Specific products/sectors only	Comments/Notes
Austria	X			
Belgium				
Denmark	X			
France	X			
Germany	X			
Netherlands	X			
Sweden	X			
UK	X			
EC	X			

Analysis: All EU Member States in the Survey include both products and services in the GGP.

4. Which government agency(ies) is/are responsible for promoting government green procurement?

Single responsible agency _____

Multiple agencies _____

Country	Single agency	Multiple agencies	Comments
Austria		X	Ministry of Life, Bundesbeschaffungs GmbH (Federal Procurement Agency - BBG), BeschaffungsService Austria (BSA)
Belgium		X	Federal Public Planning Sustainable Development; Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment - DG Environment ; Belgian Taskforce on GPP (formed by representatives from federal and local authorities to exchange views on speeding up the inclusion of environmental and social criteria in Belgian public procurement, and also to coordinate federal measures with regional, community and local authority initiative); Cells of "CPA-CMS" from the Federal Public Service Personnel & Organisation.
Denmark		X	Environmental Protection Agency and Energy Agency
France		X	
Germany		X	Umweltbundesamt (Federal Environment Agency), Federal and State Ministries of Economics and of Environment
Netherlands		X	Ministry of Environment and SenterNovem (Agency of the Economic Affairs Ministry). (www.senternovem.nl/duurzaaminkopen)
Sweden		X	
UK		X	Office of Government Commerce; Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Other agencies responsible for procurement within the public sector e.g. NHS PASA (National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency).
EC*		X	As the Commission purchases are not (necessarily) centralized, all services are responsible for their own procurement policy. Some purchases (construction; renovation; catering and ICT for instance) are centralized however. * EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: Multiple agencies are responsible for promoting GGP in all EU Member States in the Survey. These agencies are mostly competent authorities responsible for the states' environmental and/or economic affairs. When multiple agencies are involved in promoting GGP, the degree of cooperation and synergy between/among them is an issue to be considered. Also whether the government purchasing structure is centralized or de-centralized/distributed also affects the degree of difficulty in tracking the results and effectiveness of implementing GGP.

5. Is there a mechanism in place to determine and track the effectiveness of government green procurement efforts (e.g. reporting and monitoring system)? No

Yes – Identify: _____

Country	Yes	No	Comments
Austria		X	
Belgium	X		Sustainable development cells are in place in each Federal Public Service and they have to monitor the respect of the different federal ministerial circulars about the SP public procurement (general products, ICT material, vehicles and now timber and wood). Currently working on a National Action Plan on GPP and will foresee a specific monitoring.
Denmark	X		National survey on green public procurement has been carried out in 1998, 2001 and

			2005.
France		X	
Germany		X	
Netherlands	X		Every 2 years (started in 2004) a monitoring report will be/was sent to the House of Parliament to report the state of play in the field of Sustainable Public Procurement (environmental and social sound criteria).
Sweden	X		Surveys done by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
UK	X		The annual "Sustainable Development in Government" questionnaire includes questions on procurement, allowing monitoring and reporting of UK government procurement practices.
EC*	X		Reporting on green purchasing will be part of the reporting and monitoring exercise under EMAS. * EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: Most EU Member States in the Survey have certain mechanisms in place to determine and track the effectiveness of GGP efforts. Many of them take the form of questionnaires or surveys. It is unclear if government agencies in these countries are also required to report on results of their GGP activities. When implemented alone, surveys or questionnaires are usually better suited for information gathering or awareness enhancing purpose, just like in this Survey. In countries with dedicated GGP laws, government agencies are usually required to conduct mandatory reporting of their green purchasing results, as part of the compliance process.

6. Is/are there a target(s) set for levels of government green procurement to be achieved (e.g. % of total annual government spending on green products, % of government spending for certain product categories, % of individual departmental or agency spending levels, etc.)?

No

Yes – Identify: _____

Country	Yes	No	Comments
Austria		X	
Belgium	X		Normally, all the products which are in the federal ministerial circular must be chosen in respect of the environmental and social criteria's which appear on website: www.guidedesachatsdurables.be .
Denmark		X	
France	X		Targets available on SFM wood products, High Environmental Quality for buildings, low emission cars, some office equipment (e.g. Energy Star label required for new computer screens...), recycled paper, lighting, etc.
Germany		X	
Netherlands	X		Targets set for national government: 100% Green Public Procurement in 2010; and other governments: at least 50% GPP in 2010 (meaning 50% of the total sum of money involved in that year spent on products and services that include sustainable (environmental/social) criteria).
Sweden	X		Only for cars. Governmental Agencies are required (from July 2006) that at a minimum 25% of purchased cars must fulfill the National definition (maximum fuel consumption etc.) on an environmentally adapted car.
UK		X	
EC*		X	*EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: About half of the EU Member States in the Survey have established specific targets for their GGP efforts. When targets are set, tracking of GGP results and effectiveness may become easier and more specific. However, GGP targets needs to be adopted in combination with effective

reporting and monitoring mechanism.

7. Are there product-/service- specific criteria for public sector procurement officials to use?

No [Please proceed to **Question 9**]

If yes, what type of criteria?

National or Regional ISO Type I Ecolabel (e.g. EU Flower, Nordic Swan, German Blue Angel, etc.)

International or National Energy Label (e.g., Energy Star)

Sector-specific ISO Type III Environmental Declaration

Manufacturer-declared Environmental Claims

Other _____

Country	Yes	No	Comments
Austria	X		Type-I Eco-label; Energy label
Belgium			Technical criteria which are common for different labels can be found on the website: www.guidedesachatsdurables.be
Denmark	X		Type-I eco-label; energy label, Type III (a national system is under construction www.mvd.dk). The Danish EPA has published approximately 50 product-specific guidelines since December 1996, giving advice on which environmental questions to ask and which requirements to set when purchasing a particular product or service. The guidelines, which are purely voluntary, cover areas ranging from transport to textiles and are accompanied by background material in separate publications. The material has been made out to accommodate the needs of the small purchaser looking to buy just a few products as well as the big organisations spending substantial amounts or replying to calls for tender, so all will be helped to relevant information on a scale that matches the needs in question. The guidelines are currently being updated and turned into an internet based tool.
France	X		Type-I eco-label; energy label, Type III, manufacturer-declared environmental claims, environmental management system (ISO 14001, EMAS), organic food and fair trade labels
Germany	X		Type-I eco-label; energy label, Type III, manufacturer-declared environmental claims
Netherlands	X		Type-I eco-label; energy label, Type III, manufacturer-declared environmental claims. Others see website: www.senternovem.nl/duurzaaminkopen/milieuspecificaties/index.asp
Sweden	X		Type-I eco-label; energy label, Type III, manufacturer-declared environmental claims, Others: EKU develops own criteria for different product categories. Note that public authorities in EU are not allowed to require specific eco labels or certificates; they can use the criteria in an eco label but not the label/certificate in itself. The label can function as a proof of compliance but the authority has to accept other proofs as well.
UK	X		Others: for example, OGC Buying Solutions "Quick Wins" (http://www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/environmental/products/environmental_quick_wins.asp)
EC*	X		Type-I eco-label and energy label. The Commission, in its general green public procurement policy (which it seeks to implement in the Member States, for more information see website http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/gpp/) encourages the use of underlying technical specifications of European and national eco- labels (type I); without however excluding the use of other criteria and labels such as national energy labels or even environmental product declarations, if appropriate for proving compliance with certain environmental specifications set forth in tender documents. * EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: Almost all EU Member States in the Survey adopted environmental criteria of Type-I

ecolabelling schemes, among others, as part of the criteria used in selecting products and services in their GPP efforts. This finding confirms GEN's view that implementation of Type-I ecolabelling programs can be beneficial and complementary to the promotion of GPP.

8. Which agency(ies)/organization(s) is/are responsible for the development of product-/service- specific criteria?

Identify - _____

Country	Comments
Austria	No one directly. BSA developed criteria (see www.oekoeinkauf.at) in a LIFE-project; some cities (e.g. Vienna in the ongoing project OekoKauf Wien) developed their own criteria; The Ministry of Life proposed criteria being based on the Austrian ecolabel which were developed in co-operation with VKI and BSA; the environmental association of Vorarlberg (a province of Austria) developed own criteria together with BSA etc.
Belgium	During the development of the website, when the criteria were developed for the first time, the work was given to an organization (C.R.I.O.C.) which made a study on the different existing labels for 77 products in 14 categories. Later, criteria revisions were made and managed by the Federal Public Planning Service Sustainable Development through specialists.
Denmark	Danish EPA
France	ADEME (Agency for the environment and energy management) and AFAQ-AFNOR
Germany	Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt)
Netherlands	SenterNovem and Stichting Milieukeur.
Sweden	Swedish Environmental Management Council
UK	-Office of Government Commerce; -Other agencies responsible for procurement within the public sector e.g. NHS PASA (National Health Service Purchasing and Supply Agency). -The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra's) Market Transformation Programme (see http://www.mtprog.com/) supports the development and implementation of UK Government policy on sustainable products. The programme seeks to drive and support innovation and competition including through performance measurement, labeling and standards approaches, voluntary industry agreements, government procurement and informing decisions on EU directives.
EC	The Commission (DG ENV) together with the member States develop criteria for the European eco-label (for more info see website http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/ecolabel/index_en.htm)

Analysis: Besides the competent authorities for environmental affairs in the countries, a multitude of private and public organizations are responsible for developing the product/service specific criteria used in GPP in many EU Member States in the Survey. As stated before, when multiple agencies are involved, the extent of cooperation and synergy becomes an issue to be considered. Activities to inform, train and educate government procurers on which criteria to select and use would become even more necessary, when multiple criteria for same/similar product categories are involved.

9. What is/are the major incentive(s) for public sector procurement officials to cooperate?

Country	Comments
Austria	Public sector forced to include environmental considerations in their tendering according to the national procurement law.
Belgium	Due to the federal ministerial circular (P&O/DD/1 du 27 janvier 2005), it is no more possible for the federal authorities to make public procurement without including environmental and social criteria for some products. Consult " www.guidedesachatsdurables.be " for the circular.
Denmark	Following the law, image and saving money (for example, lower energy bill when purchasing energy efficient equipment)

France	Exchange of information and good practices
Germany	Economically more advantageous when taking into account the life-cycle costs of the products/services
Netherlands	Image and quality, benchmarking.
Sweden	Political decisions organizational policies, saving money
UK	Different audiences and different sectors will respond to different calls for greening procurement. In the public sector, staff with procurement responsibility to a larger or smaller extent, can be the CEOs/Permanent Secretaries (highest level of responsibility); Procurement Managers; Procurement Officers and Buyers. Each will have their own barriers and incentives.
EC*	Considering the need to ensure registration under EMAS and considering the importance of public procurement in the overall environmental policy of the CE, procurement officials are seeking cooperation in order to exchange knowledge on how to apply GPP in their tendering procedures and where to find the right criteria. The Environmental management scheme seems to be the essential driver for applying GPP. * EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: When GGP legislation/requirements are in place, the most important incentive for conducting GGP is complying with the law. If EMAS registration is also considered, it can be another incentive for practicing GGP. Besides the legal issue, life-cycle costing and environmental image considerations appear to be driving the implementation of GGP. However, extensive training and education may be required for government procurers to realize the true life-cycle costs of products and services.

10. What is/are the major obstacle(s) to public sector procurement staff's cooperation?

Country	Comments
Austria	(Responder's personal view) People do not know that they have to consider environmental aspects in their tendering; Purchasers do not have enough time; Purchasers do not know how to check whether the purchased product fulfill the criteria; Purchasers do not know where to get up-to-date criteria from.
Belgium	Purchasers are used to buy some products and don't know which respect the environmental criteria's ; Some purchasers need to be convinced that those products give the same quality, and same efficiencies, etc. Purchasers don't know how to be sure that the products respect the criteria
Denmark	Lack of time, money and knowledge concerning green procurement
France	Compartmentalization of administrative services and still lack of professional skills
Germany	Limited budgets with the fear that "green" products are more expensive than others
Netherlands	Prejudice on presumed higher costs of sustainable products/services; Management that thinks it isn't important.
Sweden	Lack of personal resources, knowledge and interest; There is still an opinion among purchasers that the procurement law sets up obstacles for green procurement
UK	The Sustainable Procurement Task Force (see Q13 below) has identified the following barriers for sustainable procurement through published reports and own work. These reflect an amalgamation of the views from various aspects of procurement responsibility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Lack of leadership ◆ Focus on cost/ price reduction ◆ Failure to integrate sustainable development ◆ Lack of information, training and accountability ◆ Lack of control (de-centralisation) ◆ Ignorance, the term sustainability has little impact

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Suspicion, Procurers are not convinced of the merits ◆ Confusion, mixed messages and confusing guidance ◆ Supply chain complexity ◆ Short term budgets, no long term thinking, little financial flexibility ◆ Benefits often not in the contracting department, so not taken ◆ Difficulty in calculating intangible benefits
EC*	<p>There does not seem to be an obstacle to cooperation, but staff is dealing with usual obstacles, such as lack of information and training in the field of GPP, as well as budgetary restraints (especially where the "up front" market price of products is still relatively more expensive than the price of "neutral" products – this could change only if public authorities would take into account the life cycle cost of these products when awarding the contract : in so doing, the "green" offers will become cheaper (because the "green" aspects often address life cycle issues, such as energy use during performance/use phase).</p> <p>* EC as purchasing authority.</p>

Analysis: There appears to be two major types of barriers. “Knowledge Barrier” refers to the lack of knowledge/information on environmental aspects, product criteria, life cycle costing, tendering/contracting issues, equivalent functions and legal requirements on the side of government procurers. “Budgetary/Costing Barrier” refers to the higher or perceived higher costs associated with “green” products. The “Knowledge Barrier” can be overcome by providing government procurers with “knowledge” through education/training and information provision activities; while “Costing Barrier” may be overcome through education (for perceived higher costs), or market and policy incentives to reduce green product costs/prices.

11. Do procurement officials receive regular information on green procurement?

Regularly Irregularly Once or very rarely Not at all

Country	Regularly	Irregularly	Once or very rarely	Note at all	Notes
Austria	X				A quarterly newsletter is available, but only to subscribers.
Belgium					
Denmark		X			
France	X				
Germany		X			
Netherlands		X			
Sweden	X				
UK		X			Note that, due to the decentralized nature of UK public procurement, the amount of information received will vary; while some procurement officials will receive information regularly others will be less well informed
EC*		X			Just starting up the training, should become regular gradually * EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: Government procurers in over half of the EU Member States in the Survey only receive GPP information on the “Irregular” basis. It is difficult to define “Regular” or “Irregular”, and it can only be assumed that when major changes occur, for example, adoption of new legislation, all relevant procurers will receive updates on the latest information.

12. Do procurement officials receive regular training on green procurement?

Regularly Irregularly Once or very rarely Not at all

Country	Regularly	Irregularly	Once or very rarely	Note at all	Notes
Austria		X			On request
Belgium					
Denmark			X		Information concerning green public procurement in Denmark can be found at: http://www.ski.dk/greenprocurement/
France	X				
Germany			X		
Netherlands			X		
Sweden			X		
UK		X			
EC*		X			Just starting up the training, should become regular gradually * EC as a purchasing authority.

Analysis: As with the last question, education and training is essential in overcoming knowledge barrier. On the training aspect, most government procurers in EU Member States in the Survey receive irregular or little training on GPP, even in countries which are known to practice GPP extensively. It may be because green consumption has been long practiced that it has become citizens' deep-rooted awareness or common sense. However, it is imperative that when major changes (such as in legislation) in GPP occur, all relevant government procurers receive pertinent updated information.

13. Is there a new or replacement national law, policy, regulation or measure being considered or in legislative process which will be beneficial to the promotion and implementation of government green procurement?

No [If "no", then this is the end of the survey. Please review all your responses to the questions above and forward the completed survey to me. Thank you.]

Yes - please describe the proposed new law, policy, regulation or measure briefly:

Country	Yes	No	Comments
Austria		X	
Belgium	X		Currently working on the National Action Plan on GPP
Denmark			
France	X		A reform of the public procurement regulation which could integrate sustainable development concerns is underway
Germany	X		Implementation of the new EU procurement directives
Netherlands			
Sweden	X		New EU-directives will be implemented in the Swedish national procurement law later this year (2006). The directives points out that there is big possibilities to take environmental considerations in public procurement in the EU. Every EU-member has set up goals for the next 3 years in an action plan for green procurement.
UK	X		The Sustainable Procurement Task Force was set up in May 2005, following a commitment made in the UK Sustainable Development Strategy, Securing the Future,

		<p>that the UK be recognised as amongst the leaders in sustainable procurement, across EU members states, by 2009. The business-led, government appointed Task Force has amongst its members, representatives from local government and related organisations. The Task Force has been charged with drawing up an Action Plan with recommendations to government on how to embed sustainable development considerations into procurement and investment decisions across the public sector in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Avoid adverse environmental impacts arising on the government estate and in the supply chain •Make more efficient use of public resources •Stimulate the market to innovate and to produce more cost effective and sustainable options for all purchasers •Set an example for business and the public and demonstrate that government and the wider public sector is serious about sustainable development <p>The Task Force is due to report in Spring 2006.</p>
EC	X	The EC has encouraged its Member States to adopt national action plans on green public procurement by the end of 2006; in the year 2007, the Commission plans to adopt a Communication in which it will propose "aspirational" (non mandatory) targets for Green public procurement and propose methods for achieving these targets.

Analysis: Most EU Member States in the Survey are working on implementing the new EU government procurement Directives or developing the national action plans on GGP. EU Commission plans to adopt a Communication in 2007 and in it proposes "aspirational" (non-mandatory) targets for GGP and methods for achieving these targets. Without EU-wide GGP targets and legislation in place, EU Member States will have to develop their own strategies and frameworks to promote GGP, mostly on the non-mandatory basis, within the legal framework of EU.

14. When do you expect the new law, policy, regulation or measure to take effect?

- In the next month
 In the next three months
 In the next six months
 Later this year
 Next year
 Sometime later in the future
 Don't know/cannot predict

Country	Next month	Next 3 months	Next 6 months	Later 2006	2007	2008 or later	Don't know	Notes
Austria								
Belgium								
Denmark								
France		X						
Germany			X					
Netherlands								
Sweden				X				
UK								Following the publication of the Sustainable Procurement Task Force's National Action Plan, government will formulate an official response which will determine its future policy.
EC*					X			* EC as purchasing authority.

Analysis: The time frame of 3-6 months to a year corresponds well with the implementation of

new national procurement law and adoption of national action plan on GGP within the EU region. GEN will be closely watching the development of GGP in EU and advise its members on how to best position and implement Type-I ecolabelling schemes in response to these changes.

15. Please browse through Questions 1-12 above, and describe briefly how the new/replacement national law, policy, regulation or measure might be implemented._

Country	Comments
Austria	
Belgium	
Denmark	
France	The new regulation will enforce the use of eco-labels and Environmental Management Systems in public procurement and could give more incentive to the development of sustainable public procurement.
Germany	
Netherlands	
Sweden	No change compared with before because the new directives only states what we already knew from legal practice from the European Court of Justice. However it will be clearer to the public sector that there aren't any great legal barricades to take environmental considerations in procurement.
UK	Cannot predict in advance what the Task Force will recommend or how Government will respond to it.
EC	

Analysis: It is possible that the role of ecolables and EMS may increase following the new changes; however, it is hard to predict the outcome. GEN will closely follow these developments and may conduct additional surveys and studies to update its knowledge, and inform interesting parties of the latest status.