

## **Linking CSR to Public Procurement in the EU**

- Report from an ECCJ seminar and workshops 3 October 2007 -

Stockholm, Sweden

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## 1. Executive Summary

This report is the outcome of a seminar where European lawyers, NGO's, public procurers and representatives from unions met to discuss the restrictions and possibilities in the present EU regulation regarding ethical demands in public procurement.

The seminar was co-organized by the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) which brings together civil society organisations working for corporate accountability throughout the European Union, and its Swedish members SwedWatch and Fair Trade Center. The coalition is currently undertaking analysis of a range of issues which could play a central role in developing a stronger regulatory framework for corporate accountability. This report is the outcome of a seminar in Stockholm on one important issue: sustainable public procurement.

Public authorities in the European Union annually spend around € 1500 billion on public procurement. That is approximately 16 percent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Union. National governments and the European institutions are both regulators of, and participants in, the market. In both roles they should take their responsibilities and work towards implementing sustainable procurement practices.

There are three main areas of sustainable procurement:

- Green procurement- promoting environmentally sustainable practices
- Ethical procurement- promoting acceptable working conditions, minimum salaries, human rights and abolition of child labour along the supply chain
- Social procurement- promoting employment, equal opportunities and accessibility, safeguarding working conditions and supporting the social economy

The work around the issue of sustainable procurement is often complicated by misunderstandings of what the discussion really is about. To avoid confusion the ECCJ wants to promote the term 'sustainable public procurement' which covers all three above mentioned areas of responsible procurement.

This report focuses on the role sustainable procurement can play to push European companies to act more responsibly on the global market. The buyers have a great opportunity to create positive changes in many of the societies from where products are sourced. Public authorities including ethical criteria in tenders could be an important driver for the suppliers buying from low cost countries to make use of that possibility.

Local and national procurement officials and politicians all over Europe have woken up to the issue of sustainable procurement in the last year. Media attention, NGO-campaigns and increased interest in corporate responsibility are some of the reasons. The legal framework is vague and open to interpretation. The reading done by leading procurement lawyers in Sweden was presented at the seminar. In short, it is most probably legal to demand from the supplier compliance with core ILO conventions, one article from the UN Children's convention and national legislation.

The ECCJ members and other organisations present at the seminar and workshop in Stockholm were clear in that the demands need to go further and include such things as a living wage, worker education and human rights, for example. Still, those attending decided to focus in the near future on implementation of and pushing existing possibilities, not legislative changes.

One central agreement among participants was that the major challenge is the follow up, especially verification of compliance. The way in which future ethical criteria will be audited will have a major implication for the efficiency of those criteria in creating substantial change on the factory floor. Transparency is a key.

## 2. The Case for Action

The European Coalition for Corporate Justice represents a diverse range of civil society organisations from across Europe. The coalition's vision is of a sustainable world in which corporations drive for profit is balanced by the interest of society at large and respects social, human and environmental rights.

ECCJ was launched in 2005 with the aim of strengthening the work on corporate accountability issues throughout the European Union. The initiative brings together national platforms and over 200 civil society organisations working on issues of Corporate Justice around Europe. National chapters of Oxfam, Greenpeace, Amnesty International and Friends of the Earth are but a few examples.

ECCJ believes that a regulatory approach, based on internationally agreed standards and principles is needed as a foundation for achieving corporate accountability. The development of a regulatory approach, as a complement to voluntary measures, requires a thorough analysis of the status quo by, for example, analysing the existing EU directives or national legislation on issues of corporate social responsibility.

The coalition is currently undertaking analysis of a range of issues which could play a central role in developing a stronger regulatory framework for corporate accountability. This includes research in the areas of social and environmental reporting, supply chain management, corporate liability and sustainable public procurement. This report is the outcome of a seminar in Stockholm on the last of the four issues, sustainable public procurement.

Public authorities in the European Union yearly spend around € 1500 billion on public procurement. That is approximately 16 percent of the total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the European Union. Large amounts of products, services and utilities are purchased by public authorities through public procurement procedures every day. As a consequence of decentralisation processes, responsibilities and budgets have been shifted to regional and local public authorities, including utilities.

In March 2004 the European Parliament and Council adopted a revision of EU procurement legislation. This is now translated into national legislation in most member countries. In this respect governments are both regulators of and participants in the market.

The question at hand is what role public procurement could play to enhance the use of sustainable corporate practices. Historically, public procurement has been used by governments for different environmental and social policy purposes. ECCJ believes that public procurement also can be an outstanding tool to promote corporate social responsibility globally.

The European Union has an important role to play in this. By taking a leading role in promoting sustainable procurement, it could both lead by example as well as support the local governments. Today, the EU is not taking advantage of that possibility. In the latest European Commission communication on CSR in 2006, public procurement as a tool to promote CSR is entirely absent. The union is failing to use its potential, both as consumer and legislator, to make ethical procurement possible.

Also member states have a responsibility to take action, for example by setting concrete goals for linking CSR to public procurement. National and local authorities should then be responsible for ensuring compliance. The ambition should be no less than to make all public procurement sustainable.

In terms of European Commission engagement, different Directorate Generals have different attitudes. First of all it should be said that there is a clear difference between the Council and the Parliament. The process of negotiating the new directives went all the way to reconciliation before an agreement could be made, to a large extent because the Council fought the Parliament's more progressive view on what to include in terms of social and environmental aspects.

The new directives are also, as is all legislation to some extent, open to interpretation. By making either a progressive or a conservative reading you can come to very different conclusions as to what is possible to do. But the disagreement among legal experts is substantially bigger in relation to ethical criteria than on the inclusion of green criteria where there is almost consensus. The only explicit mentioning of social clauses is at the level of contract clauses. This leads to uncertainty on what can be done legally.

In the European Union as a whole there are several initiatives around sustainable public procurement. In relation to green purchasing there is a website and a handbook, issued by DG Environment. The European Parliament released one resolution on Fair Trade and Development in 2006 and one on CSR in 2007. Procurement is also mentioned in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy from June 2006.

Marzia Rezzin, representing the Fair Procura Project, an initiative by EFTA, European Fair Trade Association, gave her organization's perception of the political will within some departments in the European Commission to implement sustainable public procurement.

In the end of 2008, the Employment Directorate General will release a handbook on social procurement. Marzia Rezzin does not believe that the handbook will include aspects around labour relations in the supply chain or larger human rights considerations. The preliminary study will include six case studies on anti-discrimination, gender equality, health and safety at work, employment and vocational training, decent work, and accessibility. Nothing on global sustainability issues.

Marzia Rezzin also presented relevant positions of other Director Generals. DG Trade is currently reflecting on how to make better use of trade instruments for pushing sustainable development. This is primarily about bi- and multilateral trade agreements, or so called economic partnership agreements. DG Development is pushing for more ownership of the sustainable development concept in developing countries. Ethical procurement criteria could in theory be seen as part of the internal market agenda but is in practice not at all incorporated by the DG internal market. In conclusion the European Commission is presently missing out on its potential to take a leading role in promoting a progressive take on ethical procurement.

### 3. How sustainable procurement can contribute to development

The belief that the poor situation in low-cost countries can only be changed by those countries themselves, and that the most efficient road towards that goal is economic growth and foreign investment, is still common. This is not without reason. A lot of research points towards economic development as a prerequisite for higher salaries, improved labour standards and civil and political rights among others. But this does not mean that all kind of investment and all kind of trade is positive. And it certainly does not mean that we as buyers can leave all the responsibility of improving the situation to the poor countries themselves.

Liaqat Masih from the independent NGO BRIC (Backward's Rehabilitation and Improvement Commission) in Pakistan gave his picture of the possibilities of change. BRIC carried out research for the Swedish organisation SwedWatch as part of their investigation in the production of surgical instruments and textiles sold to Swedish county councils.

Liaqat Masih describes a difficult environment for workers in the surgical instruments sector in Pakistan. Employees are most often living under the poverty line. Local and national law is regularly violated. Workers are illiterate and do not know about their rights. The factory owners are either squeezed from the buyers or only interested in their own profits. The Pakistani Unions are fading and have very little or no impact at all. Membership is very low and associated with the risk of losing your job. Young people have no knowledge about unions. The government is seriously corrupt and together with important people from the business sector they form a nomenclature not interested in improving the situation for workers or even enforcing existing legislation. Military spending and internal conflict takes most of the available resources.

Liaqat and his colleagues, while working for SwedWatch, came to the conclusion that the only actors with the power and possibility to change the situation right now are the buyers. The political situation in Pakistan, as in several other poor countries, means that no one within the nation will change the situation for the workers, at least not in the short term. And people in the production of the goods that we buy are being abused as we speak. The experience of Liaqat Masih is that buyers demanding social responsibility really can help people in countries like Pakistan.

The ECCJ would like to stress that the European Union and governments that are members operate both as regulators and as participants in the market. When governments do not comply with the business principles they advocate as regulators, they may be perceived as hypocritical or lacking coordination. Therefore, an important driver for CSR standards in public procurement is the need to be leading by example. Some EU governments seek to fulfil their endorsing role by providing market-based incentives to companies to adopt and comply with CSR obligations, and by linking these obligations with access to government contracts. Other governments, such as the Belgian federal government, assume a mandating role by introducing social and environmental clauses for certain public procurement contracts.

In the European Union context, an approach to the issue of linking CSR to public procurement appears to have developed in the form of an enabling model of law. The EU has created legal regulation, in the form of the revised Directives, which enables national and local authorities to establish a relationship between CSR and public procurement, although the EU does not prescribe that this relationship be established. In the 2006 Commission Communication on CSR, mention of public procurement was entirely absent. The diversity of national and local initiatives in relation to sustainable procurement is symptomatic of the reluctance of the EU to regulate in this particular

policy area. Many governments have taken up the challenge of sustainable public purchasing and have found creative solutions. In spite of the enthusiasm and willingness to invest in sustainable procurement, public sector bodies seem to feel a lack of guidance and leadership from the European Commission. At the ECCJ-seminar in Stockholm we explored what this lack of leadership means in practice and how governments, purchasers and NGO's will go forward.

Buyers demanding social responsibility really can help people in countries like Pakistan, but voluntary initiatives are often weak, as previous experiences from working with codes of conducts in the textile sector have shown. Most of all in relation to follow up and verification. But the important thing is that the power and possibility lies with the buyer. The challenge is there, and now.

Kristina Bjurling, researcher at SwedWatch and responsible for the research on textiles and surgical instruments, added that the report recieved a lot of attention in Sweden and that numerous of county councils, companies and suppliers are promising changes. Most of the companies targeted agreed that there were problems and that changes were needed. One of the most important things that happened was that the three largest County Councils in Sweden have now adopted a code of conduct and will from the first of January 2008 include ethical demands in some of their procurement.

## 4. The Legal Framework and Sweden's reality

Swedish legal experts Mathias Sylwan from the Swedish Association of Local Authorities (SKL), and Charlotta Frenander from the Swedish Environmental Management Council, gave their view on the current situation regarding sustainability demands in public procurement. The interpretation of the law in Sweden has undergone an interesting change during the last year, going from very conservative to recognising the possibilities.

Many local authorities in Sweden woke up to the issue of ethical procurement in 2006 – 2007. There was media attention towards some concrete issues regarding scandals in procurement of stone from China and the previous mentioned SwedWatch report on surgical instruments and textiles from Pakistan and India. Several NGO's at the same time ran a successful campaign raising awareness and pushing for change towards ethical demands in public purchasing. And on top of that the Swedish part of Fairtrade Labelling Organisations, Rättvisemärkt, launched the concept of Fairtrade City which is gradually gaining momentum and forcing public authorities to address the issue.

Consequently the Swedish Association of Local Authorities got several questions from members on how to handle these demands and what they were allowed to do. Hence, lawyers at SKL wrote a memorandum about the legal possibilities to include social considerations in public procurement. While preparing the memorandum several meetings were held with stakeholders, amongst them Rättvisemärkt and the NGO campaign.

The conclusion of the document, when released in June 2006, was that it is possible and legal to take social considerations in the procurement of goods, but that it must be verified. The demands are strongly recommended to be put as contract clauses. In Sweden at that time, this was a controversial statement. Several lawyers at public authorities locally came to other conclusions. Critics said that it might violate the rule of equal terms treatment, that it could be bad for competition, and that in some cases it could be a violation of community law. So SKL had to be very detailed in their reasoning. The most important aspects were, and are:

- referring to the EU directive (2004/18/EC) that explicitly says that a public authority may require that the economic operator complies "in substance with the provisions of the basic International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions..."
- referring to the European court of justice ruling C-513/99 between Concordia Bus Finland Oy AB and Helsingin kaupunki, HKL-Bussiliikenne, where it became clear that the directives does not mean that you have to make the strictest possible interpretation of "economically most advantageous"
- referring to the European court of justice ruling C-225/98 Région Nord-Pas-de-Calais, which also makes it clear that the strict link to the subject of the contract is not necessary in all cases
- referring to a direct confirmation by the EU Commission on the legality of basic ethical demands as interpreted by the SKL

The year after, in 2007, a similar interpretation was made by the National Board for Public Procurement (NOU). This more or less created a Swedish consensus regarding what can and should be included in ethical procurement. In short this is to demand from the supplier:

- compliance with the core ILO conventions (29, 87, 98, 100, 105, 111, 138, 182)
- compliance with UN's children's convention, article 32
- compliance with national legislation
- access for inspections

It is important to remember though, that the purpose of the procurement legislation is to uphold the internal market and to protect the right for companies to compete for public contracts. Social criteria can only be applied as long as they do not infringe on these fundamental principles.

Charlotta Frenander presented some of the most present dangers when formulating social and ethical criteria as:

- not respecting the principles of non-discrimination, for example by favouring suppliers from a certain region or country
- undermining equal treatment, for example favouring a certain label etc.
- not respecting proportionality or the link to the subject contract, for example by pushing the demands too far from the product or service purchased.
- that the demands are bordering to international politics, for example by altering existing trade rules etc.
- not respecting the principle of transparency, for example by making the demands too complex and ill communicated for the supplier to be able to properly understand

In addition to that there is practical hindrances such as lack of resources, lack of knowledge, increased costs and time constraints that need to be addressed to make sustainable purchasing practises a reality in the daily business of public authorities.



## 5. Best Practice

One of the local authorities with the most experience of implementing ethical criteria is Barcelona City Council. Helena Barracó Nogués from their environmental department reported on their strategy and lessons drawn. The city of Barcelona has gone ahead of other authorities in Spain with the aim of leading by example. Their work with ethical criteria started in 2002 and a constructive cooperation with the Spanish NGO Setem, part of the international Clean Clothes Campaign, has had an important role in making things happen.

Barcelona chose to use its Agenda 21 as a framework. One of its objectives says "Include environmental criteria and social clauses in works and services public tenders..." Their sustainable procurement today is based on three pillars. The first pillar is the promotion of fair trade products. When introducing it to office vending machines in 2003, three machines were serving fair trade coffee. By 2007 it was 102. They are now continuing with the sugar. In relation to this they reached an agreement with a fair trade NGO to launch an awareness raising campaign towards the employees.

The second pillar Barcelona has introduced is the sustainable procurement of work wear. The first tender with sustainability criteria was published for the parks and garden department in 2005, and is now included every year. The next department to introduce this will be the Barcelona Municipal Services Company. The approach chosen is to work hand in hand with the providers to make sure they understand the aim and can live up to the requirements. The objective is that providers should be able to guarantee that the textiles used directly or indirectly in the production have respected the workers basic rights.

The sustainable criteria in the tender are formulated as capacity conditions and technical solvency to respect core ILO conventions. The provider should provide documents showing:

1. locality and name of the company manufacturing the final product
2. the ethical commitment of the company, either
  - by certificate, SA 8000, Fair Wear Foundation, or other
  - by verified external audits
  - or if the audit is internal, by documents indicating and informing about the standards and procedures used.

In the procurement of work wear only one company was able to meet all the requirements. They could produce an audit certificate made by an external company, partly because another of their customers, Mc Donald's, also demands ethical commitments of their suppliers.

The third pillar is responsible timber procurement. When tropical timber is used, a certificate of origin is required. As of 2007, 10 municipal departments have included responsible timber requirements in 14 tenders. Here Barcelona is cooperating with Greenpeace. The result is that some suppliers have shifted to timber produced in Europe and in the building of a library the architect did change the wood used.

Barcelona's future plans include extending the number of departments using sustainable criteria, but similarly to start the follow up of demands already in place. The issue of verification is seen by Helena Barracó Nogués as one of the biggest challenges. The strategy also included to formulate the sustainability demands to be more restrictive year after year. The most important lessons learned by Barcelona so far are the value of public administration coherence, employee involvement, transparency and cooperation with

NGO's. The possibility of being globally responsible locally is a driver.

At the seminar an example from Norway was also looked at. The Norwegian government has decided to release the Norwegian Action Plan for Environmental and Social Responsibility in Public Procurement. Central policy statements say that the public sector is a driving force for social responsibility and that sustainability criteria in public procurement is a way of promoting this. Norway, despite not being a member of the EU, is part of the EU internal market and hence is using the same legal framework.

As a direct result of the action plan, the government has initiated a three year project aimed at incorporating sustainable standards in public procurement in Norway. The project is financed by the Ministry of Children and Equality and jointly run by GRIP (Green in Practice) foundation and ETI (Ethical Trading Initiative) Norway. Main objectives include to:

- publish a sustainable procurement manual for public purchasers
- develop sustainable criteria for the procurement of textiles
- test sustainable criteria in a number of pilot projects
- develop a training program for public purchasers

The work has just started but is viewed by the organisations involved as ambitious. There will be a lot of room for international cooperation along the way.

## 6. The EU regulation and how to handle it – conclusions from workshop 1

The first workshop discussed the issue of legislation and centred on the question of whether the present legal framework is compatible with pushing for ethical procurement, or if it needs to be changed. The new directives are still vague, leaving a lot of room for interpretation. It is worth mentioning though, that some of the changes, for example the explicit mentioning of the ILO core conventions, clearly point towards the legality of including ethical clauses.

With the EU Commission scepticism in mind this vagueness might be a good thing. It opens some new possibilities without closing others. Members of the workshop rather quickly reached a consensus in that it is not a priority trying to push for new or changed directives. The process is very complex and time-consuming and could as well lead to the issue moving backwards. A better option is to try and make the best possible use of existing regulation. There is a lot of implementation to be done before we reach the legal borders.

In the existing directives social clauses is only mentioned in relation to contract clause. But the example of the European Court of Justice ruling in the case of Nord Pas De Calais<sup>1</sup> (combating unemployment) shows that is possible to use it as an award criteria. In theory there is a possibility of using sustainability criteria in all the stages of the procurement process; that is as selection criteria, award criteria or contract clauses. The Swedish lawyers strongly recommend contract clauses, partly because that can be believed not to affect competition as much as other alternatives.

Regarding the European Commission it is important to remember that it is not a legal body. They are communicating their own interpretation and their own political interest. We should therefore be hesitant to ask for legal advice from the Commission. Also because of the political status of the Commission it is better to ask them for informal advice and opinion than to push for official statements. Some of the participants had good experiences from reasoning with the Commission lawyers.

Another important issue discussed was the need to go further than the ILO core conventions. A representative from the European Parliament meant that it is possible to push for living wage within the present legislation. She also mentioned the possibility of using the Human Rights Charter if that is to be included in the new treaties (former constitution).

But still there are far too many procurers who are too scared to do anything. Therefore the issue of awareness is central. Some of the participants wanted to push the limits to get cases to the European Court of Justice to get jurisprudence. Others were looking for a more careful approach. As NGO's we should ask different actors at European and national level to incorporate work on sustainable procurement. Organisations and processes to be targeted could be the developing of the EU handbook on social public procurement, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, and The European Centre of Enterprises with Public Participation and of Enterprises of General Economic Interest (CEEP).

On a national level the activities around awareness rising has looked quite different. In most cases the initiative is local or regional and driven by NGO's together with progressive public authorities. In Norway and the Netherlands the governments have taken the issue seriously and decided on national strategies. But it still remains to be

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<sup>1</sup> See further explanation on page 7.

seen what comes out of that.

One big issue for the future was seen as missing cooperation, the scattered exchange of experience between campaigners and progressive stakeholders. An efficient driver for change could be if it is possible to create a feeling between nation states that there is a competition for showing the best results.

Main conclusions, without claiming complete consensus within the group, were formulated as:

at a European level

- We should not push for a new directive
- We should not ask for the Commission's opinion as it is not a legal body
- On the other hand, informal discussions with the Commission could be beneficial
- We should lobby through consultative bodies (for instance for a handbook)
- We should influence the guide on social criteria in procurement
- We should promote positive competition between countries
- We should exchange experiences and best practices more than what is being done at present

at a national level

- Create public awareness
- Go to court / be cautious: the views differed on that specific point
- Need to train procurers and give them legal advice
- Share what is happening nationally regarding regulation (for instance the decision from the Dutch government that 100% of public procurement has to be sustainable in 2010). The issue of translation should be looked upon.

## 7. Verification and follow up – conclusions from workshop 2

The second workshop focused on verification and follow up of ethical criteria. The movement towards including sustainable criteria is in motion all over Europe but will be neither effective nor legal without proper follow up. In parts of the private sector, with textiles as the case in point, ethical demands have been used for more than 10 years and it is possible to draw some important conclusions from that.

- There is an obvious risk that the demands end up as an artificial thing that does not reach the workers.
- Improvements have been made for health and safety – but not on issues most important for workers such as salaries and union rights.
- There is a need for training, not least among the suppliers. They need information in local language and the workers need complaint mechanisms to be able to challenge managers.
- The purchasing departments are often not involved in the work on social responsibility resulting in a double standard. It is very important to merge the sustainable criteria with the purchasing practices.
- Quick cut-and-run strategies when finding breaches of the ethical demands is counter productive and should be avoided as far as possible. Much better is to work together with the suppliers to try to improve the situation.

There exist several initiatives with extensive experience of monitoring compliance. The most trustworthy organisations are the multi stakeholder initiatives, representing companies, trade unions and NGO's together. A well known example from the garment sector is Fair Wear Foundation. They work with different tools, a common ethical code, inspection and audit, support to the buyers, cooperation with local organisations to get the true view from the workers, and training of workers where freedom of association is a big issue. One approach is to encourage suppliers to join existing initiatives. The Dutch organisation SOMO has produced a proposal for how public purchasers should verify their demands.

Liaqat Masih from the Pakistani NGO BRIC shared experiences from their research together with SwedWatch, one way of working with local organisations. His view is that announced inspections do not work. BRIC had examples of factories employing 800 people but on the day of inspection only 200 were present. Minimum wages were not kept and child labour extensively used, especially among the subcontractors where traditional audits don't reach. On the question of whether it is possible in Pakistan to find local NGO's with the capacity to work with follow up, Liaqat said yes, if provided with training.

The people working with procurement on a daily basis put forward a number of difficulties grounded in the fact that each procurement needs to be treated as its own, making it difficult to work with long term commitments. It is furthermore not possible to pay for education or other efforts that would harm competition.

It became clear from the procurement officials that the need for concrete help with follow up is desperately needed. It was explicitly expressed that legislation or political will is not the primary problem, what they need to know is how to do the follow up. As a pilot project a number of municipalities in southern Sweden have hired the NGO SwedWatch to do the audits. The result will be published in January 2008. Several participants also asked for national or international coordination.

An important decision will be the formulation of tenders for inspections by relevant authorities. They should include the experiences from 10 years of corporate auditing mentioned above. The importance of working with NGO' s and unions in the production countries was emphasized during the discussion. Transparency was taken up as a fundamental key to take forward.

Main conclusions, without claiming complete consensus within the group were formulated as:

- demand transparency
- first make companies sign that they will follow a code of conduct
- campaigners should keep on pushing the companies directly
- encourage suppliers to join multi stake holder initiatives
- it is important to cooperate with local NGO' s/unions
- when buying audit services – make sure local unions and/or NGO' s are involved
- co-operation and cost sharing is a minor problem according to the Swedish county councils – HOW to monitor is the big challenge
- in the long run monitoring must be done by workers so the buyers have to push suppliers on freedom of association
- there is a great need for more concrete ideas among the stakeholders
- many of the participants did call for institution building on both European and national level

## 8. Final words

For the seminar as a whole, a few points stood out as fundamental:

- the legal framework is not clear and can not be expected to be clear in coming years
- but the progressive interpretation of the EU directive (2004/18/EC) is that it is possible and legal to take social considerations in procurement of goods and services. Several rulings in the European court of justice support this interpretation
- monitoring and follow up is the bottleneck experienced by procurement officials at the moment and hence the most important issue to address

The organisations participating in Stockholm were clear in that the demands need to go further than core ILO conventions and include things as a living wage and worker education as well as basic human rights conceptions. Still, for the participants, the focus in the near future will be on implementation of and pushing existing possibilities, not legislative changes.

One central agreement among participants was that the major challenge is the follow up, especially verification of compliance. The way in which future sustainable criteria will be audited will have a major implication for the efficiency of those criteria in creating substantial change at the factory floor. Transparency will be a key.

## **9. Appendix – list of participants**

### **Speakers:**

Anne-Charlotte Malm, SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
Liaqat Masih, BRIC, Backward's Rehabilitation and Improvement Commission, Pakistan  
Marzia Rezzin, EFTA Fair Procura Office  
Mathias Sylwan, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)  
Charlotta Frenander, Swedish Environmental Management Council (SEMCO)  
Bart Slob, the Center for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) and representative of ECCJ  
Kjerstin Ongre, The Grip Foundation  
Matthew Smith, The Grip Foundation  
Helena Barracó-Nogues, the City of Barcelona

### **Participants:**

Ruth Casals, the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ)  
Per Dahlgren, Stockholm County Council  
Lennart Blank, The region of Västra Götaland  
Lars-Erik Lindström, Region of Skåne  
Roger Forslund, FMV – The Swedish Defence Material Administration  
Marja Appelblom, FMV – The Swedish Defence Material Administration  
Angelica Broman, Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
Anders Wennerberg, The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions  
Philine Scholze, European Parliament (Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance)  
Lars Lindén, member of the Swedish parliament (Christian Democrats)  
Anders Roth, Department of the Traffic and Public Transport Committee in Gothenburg  
Maria Losman, Ecoplan consultants  
Pia Nylöf, The Swedish Association of Public Purchasers, SOI  
Kristin Holter, Ethical Trade Initiative Norway (ETI-Norway)  
Magne Paulsrud Ethical Trade Initiative Norway (ETI-Norway)  
Mahmood Bhutta, British Medical Association International Department  
Eleonore Elfström Fauré, Fair Trade Center  
Annika Torstensson, Fair Trade Center  
Henrik Lindholm, Fair Trade Center  
Kristina Bjurling, SwedWatch  
Cecilia Kennberg, Rena kläder (Clean Clothes Campaign Sweden)  
Emma Enebog, Föreningen för Rättvisemärkt (Fairtrade)  
Emma Rung, Föreningen för Rättvisemärkt (Fairtrade)  
Elisabeth Schinzel, Südwind Agentur, Austria  
Peter Fuchs, World Economy, Ecology & Development Weltwirtschaft, Ökologie & Entwicklung e.V. (WEED), Germany  
Outi Moilala, FinnWatch  
Ramon Vives, Federación SETEM, Spain  
Albert Sales, Federación SETEM, Spain  
Bjørn Tore Heyerdahl, The Norwegian Fairtrade Association  
Olof Ambjörn, SKTF, national trade union for publicly and privately employed salaried employees who work with service and support the public in municipal and county areas  
Anders Jonsson, Kommunal, the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union  
Jenny Jönsson, Kommunal, the Swedish Municipal Workers' Union  
Hans Palmqvist, IF-Metall, the Swedish Industrial Workers' and the Swedish Metalworkers' Union  
Helena Tagesson, moderator, researcher and teacher at Växjö University.  
Jerker Thorsell, responsible for reporting, consultant at Genombrott.