

* **“Social labelling” and
Sustainable Procurement
Policies in the Netherlands**

Dr. Frans Papma

Netherlands CSR policies

- * No interference with private, voluntary labels
- * No demand from society or politicians for quality assurance/comparison re. label
- * Various csr-related areas of work of the government do have substantial indirect impact on labels

Netherlands Sustainable Public Procurement policy (social aspect)

- * Standard: fundamental ILO + other Human Rights + fair trade
- * Business is accountable: risk analysis, monitor, report
- * Can join supply chain initiatives for support and proof of compliance
- * Process approach to compliance

Recognised supply chain initiatives

- * Fair Flowers Fair Plants - for flowers and plants;
- * Fair Wear Foundation - garments;
- * Social Accountability International - all products;
- * Max Havelaar label - food, flowers, cotton, cosmetics & personal care;
- * Union for Ethical BioTrade - food, cosmetics, pharmaceutical products, decoration;
- * UTZ Certified - coffee, tea, cocoa, palm oil;
- * Rainforest Alliance - food, forestry, tourism.

Sustainable Trade initiative (IDH)

- * Initiative: govt + stakeholders
- * Aim: work with sectors to make their supply chain sustainable (18 sectors)
- * Funding from NL, DK and CH: 130 mln
- * Prioritises volume over depts
- * Most programs deliver certified product, so compatible with SPP
- * Govt funding: IDH up, development agencies and supply chain initiatives down
- * MSI governance, but few campaigners and trade unions
- * Govt: less impact on quality of labelling

Evaluation SPP

- * Not implemented by all public authorities (40%)
- * Not well implemented, guidelines not followed
- * SPP practice is not professional, education needed, at the level of buyers and als administrators (policiticians)
- * Setting of quality standard for labels: do not choose the highest standards. But leave room for the buyer to choose a higher level if desired.

New EU policies on SPP

- * Labels can now be used, even in technical specifications and Awards criteria
- * Fair Trade can be requested
- * These are modifications which empower SPP as designed by Dutch government

Conclusions

- * Netherlands: no direct interference of the government with quality of labelling, also no public demand for this
- * SPP is a good policy. Process approach to change, business in the driver seat, working with recognised initiatives/label
- * Improving the implementation of SPP is highest priority in order to assure impact\
- * Working through IDH created good conditions for SPP (supply chain improvement programs and certified products), but govt. lost grip on/is not interested in the quality if certification

Thank you

Dr. Frans Papma

f.papma@upcmail.nl

phone: +31 (0)36 8483952

skype: franspapma