THE EU GPP CRITERIA AND CIRCULAR PROCUREMENT – A RELEVANT TOOL?

Circular Economy Stakeholder Conference. 7 March 2019, Brussels
EU ACTIONS ON GPP

- GPP Policies (e.g. COM “Public Procurement for a Better Environment”)
- EU GPP Criteria - 20 product groups currently covered
- Strategic overarching policies (e.g. the Circular Economy Action Plan, SCP/IPP Action Plan, 7th EAP)
- Project and capacity building (e.g. GPP Advisory Group, EU GPP NGO Network, GPP Training Toolkit, Public Procurement for a Circular Economy)
- Eurostat Monitoring Framework for a Circular Economy – GPP indicator under development
GPP CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT
An ongoing process...

- Total 20 criteria on different product groups – updated every 5 years
- Two levels of criteria: core and comprehensive
- Recently published: road lighting and traffic signals; and road transport
- A three staged stakeholder consultation process
- Increasingly circular economy principles are included in the criteria development BUT the criteria remain voluntary!
DATA CENTRES

Key issues covered:

• Server energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions
• Repairability, end of life and resource efficiency
• Temperature operating range
• Power utilization effectiveness
• Cooling systems and reuse of waste heat
... and a joint Ecolabel and GPP criteria study on textiles is expected to be launched.
EU PRODUCT POLICY

A patch work of different policies...

- EU Ecolabel
- REACH / ROHS
- Green Public Procurement
- Ecodesign
- Product Environmental Footprint
- EPR Directive
- Energy Label
- Repair Score System
PROCURING ECOLABEL PRODUCTS
An example from Copenhagen

- Type 1 ISO Ecolabelled products represent the best performing products on the market (e.g. EU Ecolabel, Blue Angel, TSO and Nordic Swan)
- These products could be purchased more systematically through public procurement
- The City of Copenhagen has an Ecolabel procurement policy
  - Demands EU Ecolabel or Nordic Swan where there are many labelled products on the market
  - If there are too few products on the market it can be used as an award criteria
- Key challenge: how is the issue of equivalence addressed?
COMBINED PREPARATORY STUDIES

Example from JRC on PV Cells

- Project started in October 2017 – expected to finish in 2019
- Combined preparatory study covering different product policy instruments: ecodesign, energy label, EU ecolabel, and the GPP criteria
- Coverage of all facets of the product group – PV modules, inverters and PV systems
- *A possible model for future product groups?*
CONCLUSIONS
Criteria for circular procurement

• The GPP criteria represent as a basis for selection, as they include CE principles
• It remains a weak voluntary measure
• Uptake is difficult to assess across Member States – a GPP indicator is under development
• Opportunities exist in developing integrated product policies
  • Procuring products with Type 1 ecolabels
  • Conducting join preparatory studies covering several policies
THANK YOU! ANY QUESTIONS?
Jean-pierre.schweitzer@eeb.org
www.eeb.org
@Green_Europe
@EuropeanEnvironmentalBureau
eeb@eeb.org

The EEB gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the LIFE Programme of the European Union. This communication reflects the organizers’ views and does not commit the donors.