

# RESPIRO Conference

on Socially Responsible Procurement

3-4 December 2007, Lille, France



Ville de Lille



I.C.L.E.I  
Local  
Governments  
for Sustainability

## Final Invitation and Programme

Endorsed by:



International Training Centre  
Centre international de formation  
Centro Internacional de Formación



# Welcome



On behalf of the City of Lille, I am delighted to announce that Lille is hosting the RESPIRO Conference on Socially Responsible Procurement.

As a city committed to sustainability, Lille has actively implemented Agenda 21 projects with a view of creating an urban development that is sensible, environmentally sound and fair at the same time. In this context, making responsible procurement decisions that enable us to deliver high quality services to our citizens and ensure fair working conditions for our suppliers are a priority to us.

Since 2001, the city has only purchased timber and wood products from sustainably managed forests and with a transparent supply chain thus ensuring decent working conditions for local employees. The city has now set itself the goal of extending this procurement strategy to all its purchases. The City of Lille thus provides the perfect stage for hosting the RESPIRO Conference.

I hope that in addition to the fruitful exchanges that the event will provide, you will also find some time to discover Lille with its historical and its modern face. You will find that Lille is a city that embraces its industrial past and is committed to creating a dynamic, sustainable future. Most emblematic for this progressive change is the modern Quartier Euralille, which accommodates the venue of the RESPIRO conference.

We look forward to welcoming you in Lille!

*Danielle Poliautre*  
*Deputy Mayor, City of Lille*



Given the extent of business conducted in the EU arising from public procurement, socially-responsible procurement potentially plays a large role in encouraging client companies down the road of corporate social responsibility. It is clear that although awareness of the different aspects of socially responsible procurement needs to be enhanced, there are definite advantages to public authorities if they take specific account of these factors. Health and safety in the workplace, integrating disabled people into good quality employment, and paying active attention to equal opportunities are important for public authorities as they seek value for money for taxpayers while upholding common values. For companies, looking for new markets and seeking to engage and retain a motivated workforce are increasingly aspects of good business practice, as well as being potential elements of a sound ethical approach to social issues.

The European Commission wishes this conference well in its discussions of socially-responsible procurement, within the wider context of corporate social responsibility.”

*Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities*



*Promotion of sustainable development by integrating environmental and social concerns in procurement of textiles is crucial for enabling the sector to cope with the challenges posed by globalisation (The Future of the Textiles and Clothing sector in the enlarged EU).*



# Conference goals and objectives



The City of Lille, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and EUROCITIES are pleased to invite ▶ decision-makers and procurement officers from the public sector (local governments, as well as utilities, regional and national authorities) ▶ purchasers from the private sector ▶ representatives from national and international organisations ▶ companies ▶ NGOs and other multipliers to the conference.

The conference will present the results of the EU-funded project on Responsibility in Procurement (RESPIRO), principally the latest European guidance developed on socially responsible procurement for two of Europe's most important sectors: construction, and textiles and clothing. The conference will also serve as a high level European expert exchange forum of good practice experiences from European cities and private companies on socially responsible procurement, within the broader contexts of sustainable development and corporate social responsibility (CSR).

In detail, the conference will provide a lively forum to present and discuss:

- ▶ Latest and upcoming policy initiatives from the European Union on SRP and CSR
- ▶ The latest good practice experience from European local and national governments and the private sector on the topics
- ▶ Practical tips on how to organise SRP developed through the RESPIRO project (e.g. certification schemes, technical specifications, tools)

The latest European guidance developed through the RESPIRO project will be presented at the conference:



**Construction** - As Europe's largest industrial employer, efforts to promote CSR principles, such as, healthy and safe working conditions, use of socially responsible building materials which exclude the use of child labour, can have a significant impact on many people. The new RESPIRO guide on SRP for construction works has been developed to provide clear guidance for purchasers wishing to procure new buildings, carry out renovation works and for contracting operation and maintenance works for buildings in a socially responsible way.



**Textiles and Clothing** - A sector under high pressure from global competition where CSR principles such as quality employment can help to profile European industry and improve the conditions of millions of workers. The new RESPIRO guide provides practical advice for European purchasers to carry out SRP for textiles and clothing. For example, the advice can be used by Cities buying uniforms for workers in their parks and gardens department.

*Contracting bodies together constitute the **construction** industry's largest client. It is they who must take a lead in promoting sustainability in **construction** so that it becomes a process driven in the best interests of the client (Competitiveness of the Construction Industry. An Agenda for Sustainable Construction in Europe).*



# Programme Day One

**Monday, 3 December 2007**

**10.00 Registration and coffee**

**11.00 Opening Plenary**

*Chair: Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability*

Welcome from the host

*Danielle Poliautre, Deputy Mayor, City of Lille, France*

Socially responsible procurement: next steps in Europe

*Vladimír Splidla, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, European Commission, or a representative (invited)*

Introduction to the programme and to the RESPIRO project

*Gino Van Begin, Regional Director for Europe, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability*

The potential of the ILO core conventions in public procurement

*George Jadoun, Head of the Regional Programmes and Management Development Group, International Training Centre of the International Labour Organisation (tbc)*

Socially responsible procurement in the construction and textiles and clothing sectors

*Representatives from the European Construction Industry Federation and the European Apparel and Textile Organisation*

**12.45 Lunch break**

**14.15 European Exchange Forum**

*Many good practice experiences on socially responsible procurement exist in both the private and public sectors, however too often individual organisations work in isolation, without an effective exchange of experiences between or within each sector. The 'talk-show style' session will convene representatives from both sectors and highlight several interesting examples of how local governments and private companies are undertaking socially responsible procurement practices, within the broader contexts of sustainable development and corporate social responsibility. Time will be allocated for questions and discussion.*

**15.15 Coffee break**

**15.45 Parallel sessions A**

*Parallel sessions with presentations and discussions on a selection of good practice cases and the latest European guidance on socially responsible procurement for each of the focus sectors.*

A1

A2

A3

**18.00 End of Day One  
Evening Reception (tbc)**



# Programme Day Two

**Tuesday, 4 December 2007**

- 9.15**      **Parallel session B**  
*How can procurers use a legally sound approach in their socially responsible procurement actions?  
How can they encourage corporate social responsibility along complicated supply chains?  
Parallel sessions with presentations and discussions will focus on a selection of key issues faced by each of the focus sectors and the latest European guidance on socially responsible procurement for each of the focus sectors.*

B1

B2

B3

- 11.00**      **Coffee break**

- 11.30**      **Final Plenary**  
*Chair: Catherine Parmentier, Chief Executive Officer, EUROCITIES*  
Paving the way to abolishing child labour  
*Dr. Norbert Blüm, Former German Minister for Labour and Social Affairs and Chair of Xertifix*  
Socially responsible procurement: Make a social difference!  
*Representative from the French national government (tbc)*  
Public procurement, labour protection and social justice  
*Anne Van Lancker, Member of the European Parliament (tbc)*  
Final words and close  
*Guylaine Gouzou-Testud, Vice Mayor, City of Lyon, France*

- 13.00**      **Conference end**



