



VIII Ethical procurement: the clean clothes experience

Barcelona City Council is a large consumer of textile products, basically work clothes for specific collectives (gardeners, local police, fire brigade...).

The introduction of ethical clauses to supply contracts aims to guarantee that textile products have been produced respecting the criteria of the International Labour Organisation, such as the prohibition of child labour and respect for basic labour rights.

Parks and Gardens work in clean clothes ↓





Public procurement with environmental, social and ethical criteria

The globalisation of the economy has deeply changed enterprises' commercial strategies in all sectors. The relocation of production to countries in the south and the search for cheaper labour has led to a series of difficulties in controlling companies' labour and social behaviour, which become yet worse when such relocation takes place in the form of subcontracting.

The inexistence in many southern countries of labour legislation that respects workers' basic labour rights (as defined by the ILO) or the inability of many such countries to enforce it has led to a gradual loss of guarantees in respect of the fact that the end product has been manufactured in the ethical conditions which all public authorities must uphold.

Fundamental ILO Conventions

- Abolition of forced labour (conventions 29 and 105)
- Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining (conventions 87 and 98)
- Equal remuneration for men and women (convention 100)
- The absence of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, religion, opinion, social class or nationality (convention 111)
- Abolition of child labour (convention 138)

RESOURCES OF THE + SUSTAINABLE CITY COUNCIL PROGRAMME

Participation in the "Ethical Public Procurement" network

Barcelona City Council participates in some of the international initiatives that promote public procurement with environmental, social and ethical criteria.

Within the framework of the Clean Clothes Campaign and the Catalan Network for Ethical Public Procurement, an initial experiment has been carried out to procure textile products that respect basic labour rights. This pilot scheme, which was started by the Parks and Gardens Municipal Institute, aims to be applicable to other departments and sectors that purchase work clothes, and also promote the purchase of fair trade textile products for specific acts (t-shirts for fiestas, sports activities...).

- For further information:
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GREENED-UP REGULATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS

- Parks and Gardens guidelines as to the purchase of work clothes incorporating ethical criteria (2005)



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GOOD PRACTICES ↓

The procurement of work clothes for Parks and Gardens Municipal Institute with ethical criteria



Parks and Gardens is the first Spanish public enterprise to introduce corporate social responsibility clauses and ethical criteria to its contract specifications on the supply of clothing, demanding from the tendering companies as a requirement for technical solvency that the fabrics and other materials used in production, as well as the production process itself, must respect the basic labour rights as drawn up in the ILO declarations on workers' rights, and must have a committed management policy as regards the environment and occupational risk prevention.

As of now, such requisites shall be compulsory for Parks and Gardens' annual calls for tender for summer and winter work clothes for gardeners, conservationists, security staff and mechanics, for a total of 700 workers.

NOTE!

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ZerosetBCN

The ZerosetBCN Association is a platform of local authority workers who reserve 0.7% of their salaries to projects of solidarity and cooperation with development. Thus, last year, ZerosetBCN collected about six thousand euros, which were used to help build a greenhouse in Bolivia, and were donated to an entity in Barcelona that gives support to young people who have been in sheltered accommodation and who, upon reaching the age of 18 have had to leave it.

At the moment, the association is widely spread within the Public Health Agency - Agència de Salut Pública, the Municipal Institute of Education - l'Institut Municipal d'Educació, that of Computing, of Statistics, of Health Care, the City Hall and the Personal Services Area. You too can get involved!

→ For further information:
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