



# Role of Public Procurement in Circular Economy

Perspectives from the European Commission

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# Today's presentation



**1. EU PP Directives and Sectoral Legislation**

**2. European Commission Guidance on Circular Procurement**

**3. Joint EU-US Catalogue of Best Practices on Green Public Procurement**

**4. Proposal for a Regulation on Ecodesign for Sustainable Products**

# EU Public Procurement Directives

**Obtain better value for public money and deliver better outcomes for societal and other public policy objectives while increasing efficiency of public spending**

Making PP  
more flexible

Simplifying  
procedures

Improving  
access for  
SMEs to public  
contracts

Reinforcing  
transparency &  
strengthening  
provisions on  
integrity

**Facilitating a  
more strategic  
use of PP to  
deliver better  
outcomes for  
societal and  
other public  
policy  
objectives**



# Sectoral legislation with Public Procurement



> 50 legislative acts adopted or proposed



Various sectors and policy areas:  
Internal Market  
Environment  
Energy  
Social and Health  
Migration  
Security and defence



Different types of provisions on criteria:  
exclusion criteria  
technical specifications  
award criteria  
selection criteria  
contract clauses  
targets  
joint/common procurement,



In some cases: obligation to adopt **implementing or delegated acts**



## Net-Zero Industry Act

- Phased-in mandatory minimum requirements regarding environmental sustainability
- At least one criterion among: social- and employment-related, cybersecurity, deliver on time
- Mandatory resilience criterion: when a product has a high dependency (>50%) from single source (or steep increase in dependency)

# Guidance on Circular Procurement

**Circular Economy** A systems solution framework that tackles global challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, waste, and pollution. It is based on three principles, driven by design: eliminate waste and pollution, circulate products and materials (at their highest value), and regenerate nature.

14 voluntary criteria  
 3 EU Directives with mandatory legal requirements  
 6 Commission legislative proposals including GPP



## Definition and Importance

- Circular public procurement involves purchasing goods, services, and works with a reduced environmental impact across their lifecycle.
- Plays a significant role in supporting the transition towards a circular economy by closing the loop of product lifecycles.

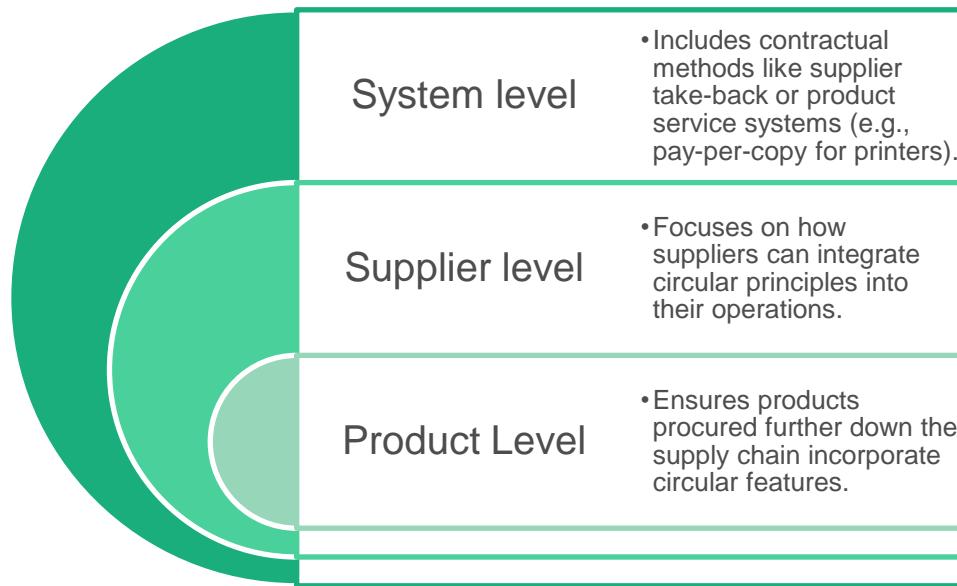
## EU Policy Context

- Linked with the EU new Circular Economy Action Plan (2020), which sets actions to retain the value of resources and reduce waste.
- Recognized as a key driver in the shift towards sustainable, low carbon, resource-efficient economic models.

## Benefits of Circular Procurement

- Helps halve carbon emissions by 2030 and reduce resource consumption significantly by 2050.
- Supports innovation, strengthens local economies, and increases market resilience.

# Circular Procurement in Practice



*Applying circular economy principles across the EU economy has the potential to create around 700,000 new jobs.*



## Organizational Policy and Strategic Integration:

- Developing a circular procurement policy or integrating principles into existing procurement practices.
- Encourages strategic thinking about procurement to include life-cycle impacts and holistic approaches.

## Market Engagement and Requirements:

- Engaging with the market to understand and influence the availability of circular solutions.
- Using technical specifications and award criteria that emphasize circular principles, like recycled content and end-of-life management.

# Joint EU-U.S. Catalogue of Best Practices on Green Public Procurement



Result of the common effort under the TTC Working Group 2 on Climate and Clean Tech

Fostering a common understanding between the EU and U.S. on leveraging green public procurement to meet environmental goals.

Compilation of existing initiatives, policies and actions complimented by specific examples

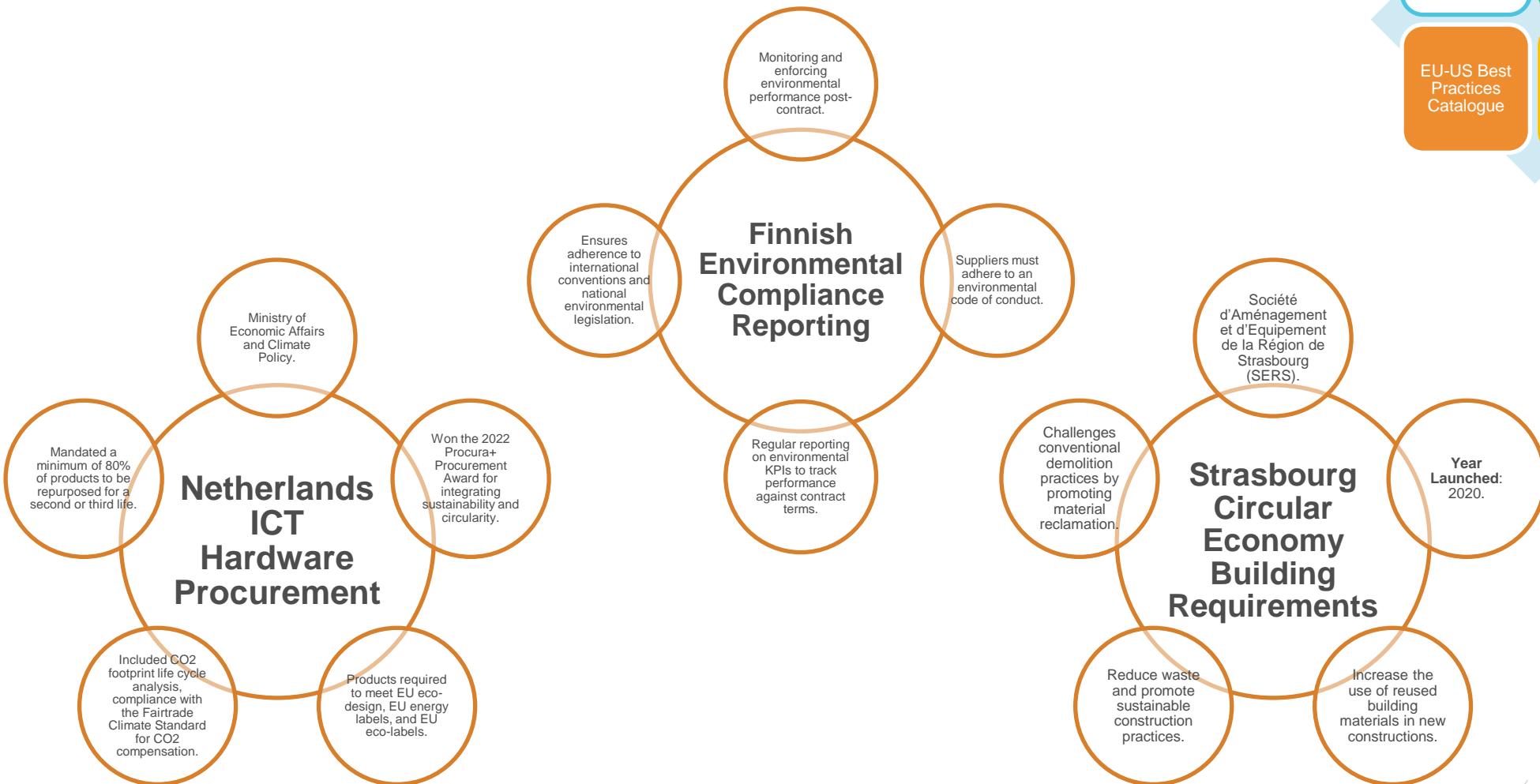
Aims to inspire increased use of green procurement to deploy green goods, services, and technologies in the public sector.

## Catalogue Structure

Covers all stages of the procurement process: strategic planning, pre-procurement, procurement itself, and post-contract award.

Includes examples and initiatives from both EU and U.S. procurement practices.

# Joint Catalogue Best Practices examples



# Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

## Setting Sustainability Standards

- The ESPR establishes ecodesign requirements for products, which serve as benchmarks for sustainability in public procurement, promoting environmentally friendly purchasing decisions.

## Supporting Circular Economy Principles

- By mandating criteria like durability and recyclability, the ESPR aligns product design with circular economy goals, influencing public procurement to favor products that minimize environmental impact.

## Harmonizing Regulations Across the EU

- The regulation streamlines sustainability criteria across EU member states, simplifying compliance for public procurement and fostering a unified approach to eco-friendly purchasing.



# ESPR links with circular procurement



# Thank you



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