

FOURTH UNECE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GENEVA, 1-2 December 2009

Agenda item 9. The 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Intervention by Belgium¹

There is no specific action plan on sustainable consumption and production patterns in the Belgian federal entities. However policies and measures have been prepared and implemented either within the federal sustainable development plan, or within the regional development plans, as explained hereunder.

An example of this practice at the federal level is the actualisation and strengthening of the code on ecological advertising by the Consumption Council to protect consumers. Two Actions plans were also approved in 2009: “Federal contribution in the strike against air pollution” and “Towards an integrated product policy”.

In Flanders, exemplary work is being done within two transition processes: one concerning the closing of material loops and one concerning sustainable building and housing. Transition processes strive to achieve structural socioeconomic transformations. The networks bring together individuals and organisations (universities, industry, governments and NGO’s) in order to co-create breakthroughs. A long-term vision is used as a framework for short-term action.

The transition process concerning the closing of material loops focuses on local, short and transparent material loops. It initiates innovative projects and uses the results to upscale changes to system innovation. The acquired knowledge and know how is further disseminated. As such there are innovative projects on chemical leasing, heat leasing, 3D printing and Ecozones that combine living and industry.

The transition process concerning sustainable building and housing strives to have only sustainable buildings being built by 2020 and an increase in retrofitting existing dwellings. In order to achieve this, the following steps are taken: sustainable building is being integrated in the education of architects, provincial information points support the individual builder and local governments on sustainable building, an expert group advises local governments on sustainable quarters, a Belgian Sustainable Building Council has been initiated, projects concerning smart grids are being launched and innovative projects are supported.

The Flemish government has also adopted an action plan on sustainable public procurement this year; the goal is to achieve 100% sustainable public procurement by 2020.

In Wallonia, the development of the "Marshall Plan 2.green" (the new revival plan developed by this Region for the Walloon economy) will be extended with a new series of alliances on environment and employment (especially in the field of energy efficiency) and the creation of a

¹ The text is presented as received from the author.

6th hub of competitiveness dedicated to new environmental technologies. This contributes to respond to the crosscutting concern of sustainable development in this Region.

In the Region of Brussels-Capital, a network of “Brussels’ Actors for Sustainable Food” was set up in 2008 which brings together entities, citizens, associations, administrations and companies. It aims at promoting sustainable food and encouraging a change of consumption patterns and food choices on the basis of improved knowledge and experiments. Several policies and measures have been developed to support to the emergence of sustainable quarters of town, to maintain “environment-economy-employment” dynamics, to elaborate tools and guidance in the field of eco construction, etc.

A last example of good practice regarding SCP in Belgium is the activity of the RESSOURCE network, a federation of companies of the social economy sector (Brussels – Capital/ Wallonia) which collects, sorts, repairs, recycles and sales life ending products. It groups together 60 companies and an amount of 4000 people.