

COMMISSION DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES

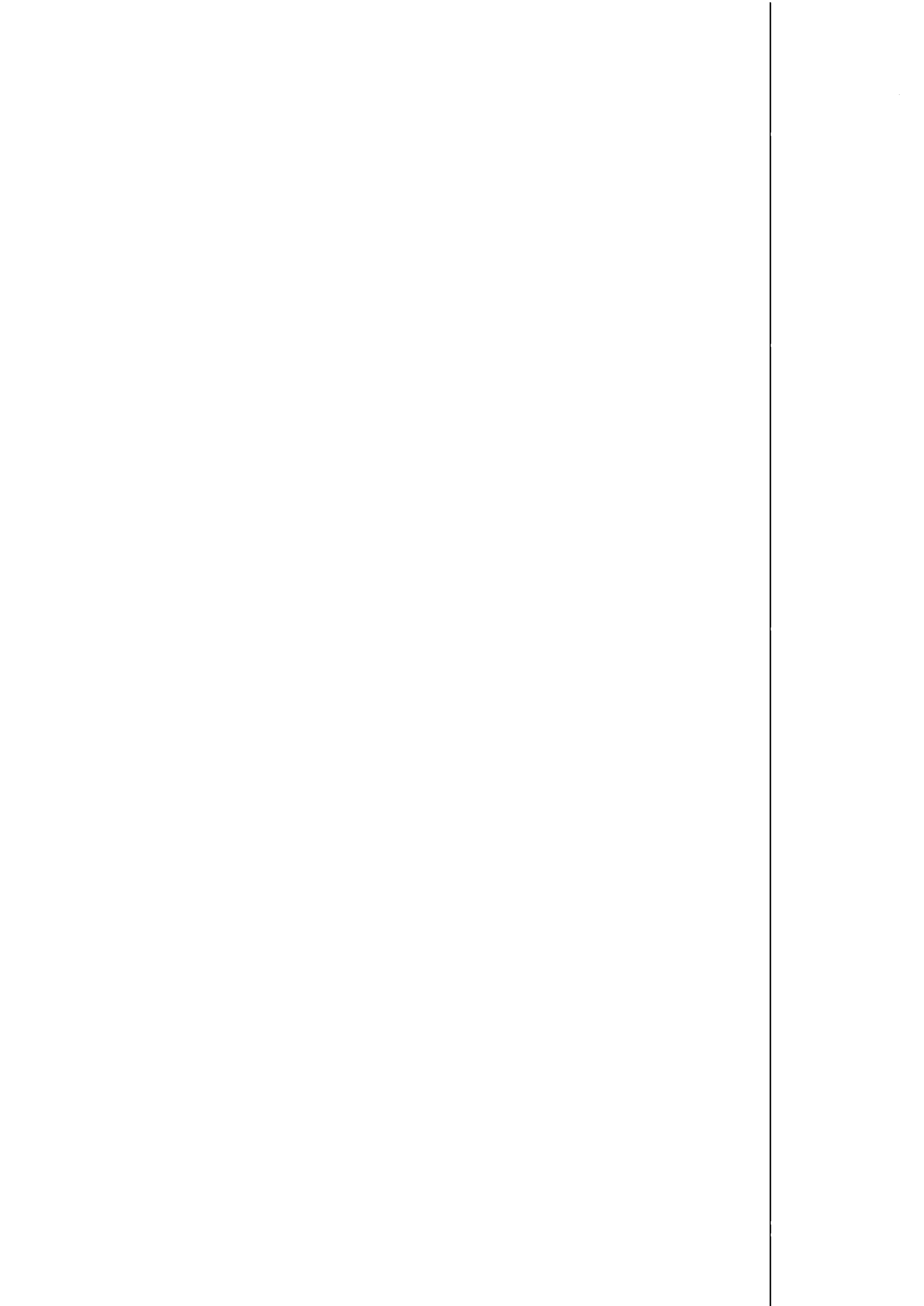
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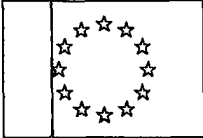
AVIS DU COMITÉ DES ÉVALUATIONS D'IMPACT

COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION AU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN, AU
CONSEIL, AU COITE ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIEL EUROPEEN ET AU COMITE DES
REGIONS

UN MARCHE PUBLIC POUR UN MEILLEUR ENVIRONNEMENT

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Brussels, 11 October 2007
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Opinion

Title **Impact Assessment accompanying the Communication on
Green Public Procurement (GPP)**

Lead DG **DG ENV**

1) Impact Assessment Board Opinion

(A) Context

The renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy adopted by the Council in June 2006 includes the objective to bring the average level of EU GPP up to the standard currently achieved by the best performing member states by 2010. This intention is in line with earlier calls for a higher GPP take-up by the various European Institutions. In the discussions with the Board, it has become clear that the Impact Assessment also takes a prospective view on possible further steps in the future.

(B) Positive aspects

The problem of unused GPP potential is clearly illustrated and stakeholders' input is effectively used to identify the underlying drivers. Also, a large number of options are identified ranging from providing information and facilitating GPP to mandatory targets.

(C) Main recommendations for improvements

The recommendations below are listed in order of descending importance. Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG.

General recommendation: The IA report can be improved on a number of key aspects. In general, the appraisal should be more explicitly focussed on the effectiveness and efficiency of a few comprehensive policy alternatives aimed at meeting the GPP take-up target so as to better explain which actions should be taken up now or perhaps in the future. These recommendations were largely accepted by DG ENV in the written procedure.

Specific recommendations:

(1) The IA report should be more conclusive in its assessment and comparison of the

options through a balanced appraisal of a number of comprehensive policy options and subsequent comparison. The appraisal should indicate, at least in a qualitative way, to what extent a particular option contributes towards meeting the GPP take-up target to which the Member States have committed themselves in the renewed Sustainable Development Strategy. This in turn should lead to a conclusion on which options are to be taken up, rejected or be put up for further study. In particular, a demonstration that the options with mandatory elements are likely to be necessary to reach the target would amount to a preliminary subsidiarity test.

(2) The report should work out the economic impacts of a higher GPP uptake in general and for the various options in particular. This includes: a clearer distinction between competition and competitiveness aspects; more attention to side-effects such as supply constraints; the "crowding out" of private consumption of greener products; "rebound effects" on consumption of induced green, resource saving, innovation; and further illustration of the expected net effect on administrative burden.

(3) The report should elaborate on the context of the proposed set of actions, which can impact their effectiveness. The analysis should illustrate the heterogeneity as regards the types of goods and services, and government agencies (specifically national and regional level), with a view on how they may impact the uptake of GPP.

(D) Procedure and presentation

The current report follows more or less the standard format and the minimum standards for inter-service and stakeholder consultation have been met. It is recommended to include more information on the stakeholders' response to the main findings of the external studies.

2) IAB scrutiny process

Reference number	2007/ENV/009
Author DG	ENV-G-2
External expertise used	No
Date of Board Meeting	Written procedure
Date of adoption of Opinion	10 October 2007