



Electronics Watch Monitoring and Reform programmes

Electronics Watch (EW) aims to bring about structural improvement in labour and employment conditions in the global electronics industry by means of socially responsible public procurement (SRPP) of ICT hardware in Europe. Industry behaviour, including purchasing practices, needs to be brought in line with the corporate responsibility to protect human rights.

The Electronics Watch Monitoring Programmes in electronics production countries

[Code of conduct and binding contracts](#)

EW has developed a code of conduct, based upon the most aspiring, progressive and legally robust codes amongst current supply chain improvement initiatives. EW will also provide clauses for affiliated European public sector organisations to include in their contracts with winning bidders. These contracts provide the basis for the EW factory level Monitoring Programme.





Disclosure of factory locations


The Monitoring Programme is based upon the requirement that the winning bidder discloses information on supplier factory locations. Other clauses require the winning bidders to comply with international labour standards, facilitate EW access to factories, and commit to concrete steps towards improvement of working conditions at factory level, including worker training on worker representation.

EW requirements are in accordance with European public procurement regulations and are formulated in such a way as to cascade public buyer leverage down the supply chain from the contractual partner to further tier suppliers. To buttress the EW code of conduct and the contract clauses EW will develop detailed protocols with timelines .

Electronics Watch is also looking beyond Europe and may also include North American public administrations and universities in time.



The Electronics Watch Reform Programme



The Reform Programme requires contracted suppliers of key public organisations to gradually adopt responsible purchasing practices such as sufficient lead times and pricing that are effectively in line with the commitment to respect human rights.

To this end, EW will also liaise with electronic brand name companies and their suppliers. The Reform Programme is currently being discussed.



Electronics Watch Governance

EW has two types of governance. Firstly, there is the Informal Advisory Group (iAG), which consists of three Blocks: 1) public buyers; 2) NGOs, associations, trade unions, academic and other experts; 3) labour groups and other civil society organisations from the regions of electronics production. There is no limit to the number of people on the iAG which will be in place until Electronics Watch has begun operations. From the iAG the Formal Advisory Board (FAB) will be voted for by the end of 2015 and will continue to advise Electronics Watch into perpetuity. Southern labour groups have a majority voice in the FAB which will continue to oversee and guide the project. Public sector organisations also have a fixed proportion of the FAB and can vote for their representatives on it. Secondly, there is a Board of Trustees (BoT), which will be recruited in 2015. The BoT will be made up of nominees from the same 3 Blocks. The BoT will, amongst other things, be responsible for the recruitment of EW staff. The EW office will start monitoring operations in 2015.



Electronics Watch HQ and field staff

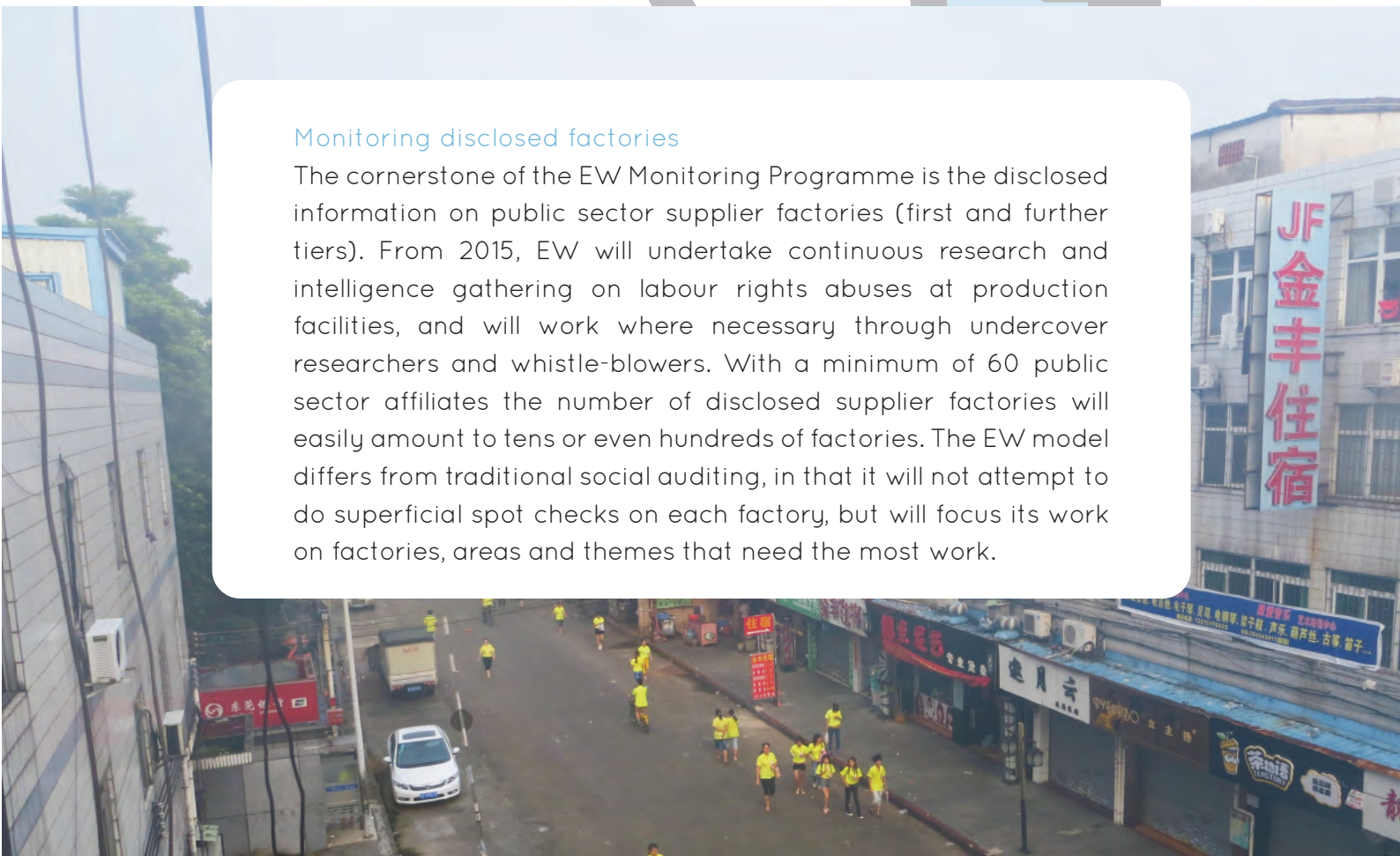
The EW headquarters will be located in Amsterdam, with a director and staff, to coordinate the Monitoring and Reform programmes. Besides HQ staff, EW will employ field staff, to be based in a number of electronics production countries.

EW operations in electronics production countries

EW will work in a number of electronics production countries. China will be a key part of this as the majority of global electronics production takes place in China. EW will also be present in other electronics production countries, depending on the location of the disclosed supplier factories. Other factors that will determine the choice of countries for EW programmes are the type and scale of labour rights issues, and the strength of the local labour groups and other civil society. EW is currently engaging groups in Mexico, Brazil, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and South Korea. In the longer run, Electronics Watch may also operate in Eastern and Central Europe. Through the GoodElectronics Network, Electronics Watch has good contacts in these countries.

Monitoring disclosed factories

The cornerstone of the EW Monitoring Programme is the disclosed information on public sector supplier factories (first and further tiers). From 2015, EW will undertake continuous research and intelligence gathering on labour rights abuses at production facilities, and will work where necessary through undercover researchers and whistle-blowers. With a minimum of 60 public sector affiliates the number of disclosed supplier factories will easily amount to tens or even hundreds of factories. The EW model differs from traditional social auditing, in that it will not attempt to do superficial spot checks on each factory, but will focus its work on factories, areas and themes that need the most work.

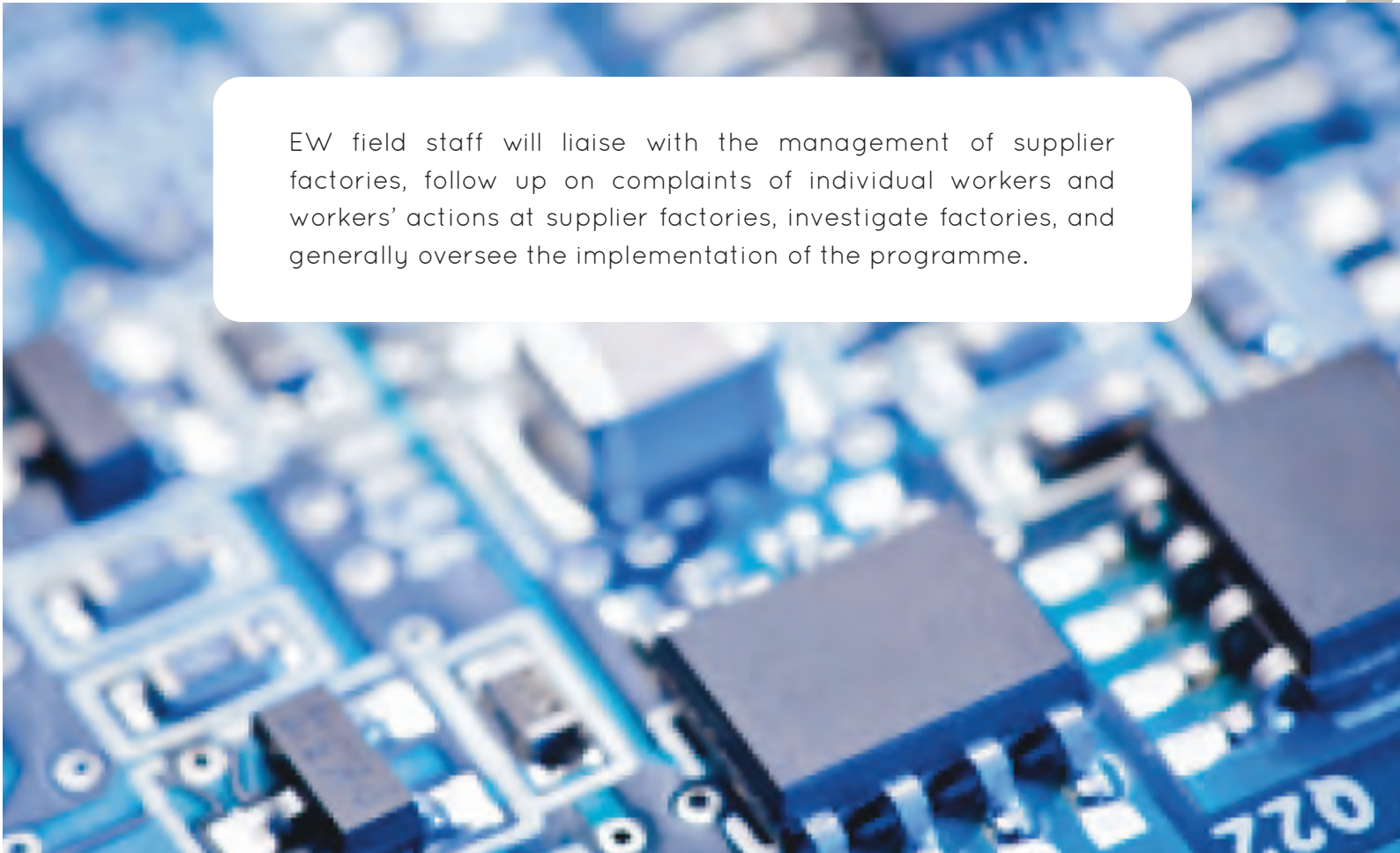




Initial surveys and improvement plans

EW will carry out initial surveys at a number of facilities to be identified on the basis of a set of criteria. Criteria include the location and size of the factory; the number of public sector customers it has, and the track record and reputation of the supplier with regard to human rights.

On the basis of these initial surveys, tailor-made improvement programmes will be developed, to remediate issues that are uncovered. Such improvement plans may consist of different elements, depending on the needs and the possibilities for engagement at the factory concerned. Elements include training for workers as well as for management, focusing on worker-management dialogue; preparing for and facilitating collective negotiations; developing and implementing occupational health and safety (OHS) policies, including setting up workers OHS committees; setting up grievance mechanisms like hotlines.



EW field staff will liaise with the management of supplier factories, follow up on complaints of individual workers and workers' actions at supplier factories, investigate factories, and generally oversee the implementation of the programme.

Working with local civil society stakeholders

EW field staff will work in close collaboration with local labour groups and other civil society stakeholders, including universities, academics, community centres, etc. They will engage with local government representatives, when and where appropriate. They will monitor local media, including social media, to pick up information and signals on issues in the electronics industry and on economic and political developments that are relevant to the position of workers in this industrial sector. EW field staff will engage with the local labour movements, the trade union movements and industry representatives to be able to effectively implement EW programmes.

Local labour groups in electronics production countries are a general source of information and analysis and will help to guide EW positioning. They will be engaged for research, factory surveys, and for developing and implementing factory improvement plans including providing training, setting up and running hotlines and other forms of grievance mechanisms, and facilitating democratic workers elections of workers and collective negotiations. EW will not reinvent the wheel, but will make use of analysis, methodology and materials that have been developed by local labour groups and other civil society stakeholders.

www.electronicswatch.org

Driven by:



The Electronics Watch model has been in intensive development, and this development is still ongoing until mid 2014 so certain details may still be changed. A legal note by procurement specialist lawyers will be produced by Electronics Watch by Aug 2014 in order to give public buyers the assurance they need to use this model.

Funded by:



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