Munich goes fair

The city of Munich and many Munich citizens want to support Fair Trade in Munich by using their buying power as consumers, thus making their contribution to achieve more justice in international trade relations.

Years ago the city council decided that the city buys only products made without exploitative child labour (according to ILO convention 182). Another resolution determined that, if imported flowers have to be bought at all, those flowers must have the FLP certificate. The city of Munich also cooperates with the stone mason trade guild (Munich-Upper Bavaria) and other organisations to implement a ban on stones produced (even by children) under brutal working conditions in Asian quarries.

An important and ambitious step is also the declared will of the Tollwood Festival organisers to change this huge festival to 100 % Fair Trade within a few years; a quite good start has already been made. Even at the Munich Wies'n, the Oktoberfest, Fair Trade products are on the rise, although at a slower pace.

www.tollwood.de

The umbrella organisation of One-World Movements in Munich, the North South Forum, issues every year an updated information guide *Fairer Einkauf in München - gewusst wo** as practical help for consumers, one for adults, one for children. The guide describes especially problematic products and production methods and presents practical alternatives.

www.nordsuedforum.de

www.muenchen-fair.de

Due to the exceptional commitment of city and community, Munich achieved a proud second place in the 2009 contest for the ***German Capital City of Fair Trade***.

*The guide is available free of charge at the city information center in the town hall, Marienplatz, and at the North South Forum Munich. It can also be downloaded.

Munich goes fair

The *North South Forum Munich*, a registered nonprofit association, unites 66 groups and organisations in and around Munich, who all work on One-World issues. As an umbrella organisation, the North South Forum implements its own projects, campaigns, educational and public relations work on development policy subjects. We are involved in the city twinning Munich-Harare and the climate partnership with the Asháninka in the Peruvian rain forest. We campaign for Fair Trade and are the body responsible for the partnership products *MünchenKaffee* and *MünchenSchokolade*, which are distributed by Fairkauf Handelskontor eG.

In addition to the guide *Fairer Einkauf in München - gewusst wo* with a detailed address list (products/stores), we also offer for downloading from our website the brochures *Gemeinsam für Grabsteine ohne ausbeuterische Kinderarbeit (Together for Tombstones without Exploitative Child Labour)* and *Fairer Handel - ein Überblick* (*Fair Trade - a Survey*). Furthermore, we provide useful material for educational work and offer a link to the *Münchner Eine Welt Bilanz.*

www.nordsuedforum.de

www.fairkauf-handelskontor.de

New: *Fair Trade Shop* in the Stachus Mall (Sonnenpassage). Besides Fair Trade non-food products, they also have *MünchenKaffee* and *MünchenSchokolade* in stock (Fair Trade, bio-quality; and the sales price includes a donation of 5 Cent for reforestation projects by Munich's rain forest partners, the Asháninka). Mon - Sat 9:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

www.fairtradeshop.com

New: In order to motivate more coffee shops and restaurants in Munich to include Fair Trade products in their food selection, students of the Adolf-Weber School have created the initiative *Munich is fair*. Information and participating stores and restaurants at the homepage of the initiative:

www.muenchen-ist-fair.de

Information on the subject of sustainable lifestyle:

www.lifeguide-muenchen.de

www.fairbayern.de

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North South Forum Munich informs

FAIR TRADE

A Chance for all of us

FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE

Introduction

If we regard the conditions on our planet considering social, ecological, human rights and peace policy aspects, a dire picture emerges. In large parts of the world poverty, famine, misery and debts are on the rise, profiteers are exploiting the limited natural resources and robbing people of their livelihood; land-grabbing, evictions and outrageous working conditions are just as common as wars about money, power, drugs or resources.

Financial crisis, economic crisis, food crisis, energy crisis, unjust distribution of material goods and opportunities as well as climate change - all home-made by man.

Far too hesitantly the political power elite is beginning to implement a long overdue change of course which gives priority to the common good of mankind and the conservation of nature over powerful economic interests.

Many examples show that civil society movements and citizens need to take the initiative, thereby forcing politicians to follow suit some day and start making future-oriented decisions and create adequate general conditions. Looking at Germany, nuclear power and the change of energy policy comes to mind, or the discussion about the taxation of financial transactions. Thinking about the ecological and social movements, the One-World Movement and all those initiatives which demand alternatives in terms of energy, mobility, nutrition, consumption or social justice and manage to establish future-oriented solutions - without us citizens so many urgent issues would be neglected and drag on in the old regressive way.

Fair trade is an example for civic involvement - and an effective device for a more sustainable and just economy.

Why Fair Trade?

While in our society dumping wages or outrageous and degrading working conditions are yet the exeption, they are a prevalent evil in the so-called developing countries.

From those countries we import natural resources and goods, which are frequently being extracted or produced without any consideration for people nor for the environment: The worst kind of child labour in the mining sector for the electronic industry or in quarries for tombstones and natural stones; starvation wages e.g. on cotton farms for extremely dangerous work with pesticides - without protective clothing; hazardous health conditions on cut flower farms; piece-rate work e.g. in the textile industry with up to 20 working hours per day. In addition to those disastrous working conditions people suffer from environmental damages.

In response to this, an increasing number of people in industrial countries refuse to buy goods produced under such conditions and thus act according to the motto: regional, seasonal, bio and fair is Best.

Accordingly, in Germany Fair Trade is booming. In 2010 the sales volume increased 28 % and quadruplicated within 6 years. Meanwhile, over 33.000 stores, supermarkets and drugstores offer coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolate, flowers, arts and crafts or other Fair Trade products, and 15.000 restaurants have Fair Trade offers on the menu. However, the percentage of Fair Trade products within the total trade volume is yet tiny and lower than in e.g. Switzerland or Great Britain; a lot remains to be done.

www.fairtrade.de

www.fairtrade.net

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade means partnership-based trade relations between producer and trader, both complying with internationally agreed upon ethical standards and subject to globally standardized and transparent control procedures.

The focus is on humane and environmentally sound conditions of production, on equality and transparency in trade relations, and local development opportunities.

Partners in the South (e.g. cooperatives of small farmers) comply with extensive social and ethical standards (like: equal rights and wages for women and men, humane working conditions, freedom of association, protection of environment).

Traders in the North ensure long-term, reliable sales orders; if necessary, they offer consultation and advance financing. The pay solid, fair prices, a surcharge for bio-products and an additional development premium for community projects.

The golden rule for producers and buyers of goods is: to act in solidarity and responsibility. This is only possible if consumers buy those goods.

The largest Fair Trade Association in Germany is GEPA, founded in 1975, other Alternative Trade Organisations with a large product line are e.g. dwp and El Puente.

www.gepa.de

www.dwp-rv.de

www.el-puente.de

How to recognize Fair Trade products?

Meanwhile the range of Fair Trade products consists of over 1.300 (high quality) items. Most of them are also bio products.

While One-World Stores offer exclusively Fair Trade products, in super markets or natural food stores one should look for specially certified goods. Most common is the Fair Trade Certificate, issued by the independent Transfair Organisation to Fair Trade products which are socially and environmentally acceptable according to Fair Trade criteria and standards - including the complete chain of production and trade.

www.transfair.org

Cut flowers are identified by the FLP-Seal (Flower Label Program), rugs by the Good-Weave Certificate (by RugMark International), tombstones and natural stones by the XertifiX Seal. Meanwhile, numerous other certifications and seals have been introduced for goods produced in a socially and environmentally acceptable way, even by supermarket chains, therefore only the most common examples should be mentioned here.

www.fairflowers.de

www.goodweave.de

www.xertifix.de

www.aktiv-gegen-kinderarbeit.de
(➜ Sozialstandards ➜ Siegel und Zertifikate)

FAIRTRADE

goodweave

XERTIFIX

FLOWER LABEL PROGRAM

FAIR TRADE

FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE ... FAIR TRADE