

**Question for written answer E-015521/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Hugues Bayet (S&D)

Subject: Interpretation of 'generally available' electronic tools under Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement

As of 18 April 2016, contracting authorities will be required to use electronic tools in public procurement procedures, provided that such electronic tools are 'generally available'.

With regard to contract works and design contests, Article 22(4) of Directive 2014/24/EU encourages the use of building information electronic modelling tools, provided that they are in conformity with Article 22(1): non-discriminatory, generally available and interoperable with the ICT products in general use and do not restrict economic operators' access to the procurement procedure.

If any such electronic tool is not 'generally available', Article 22(5) provides that contracting authorities may only require the use of (such) specialised tools when necessary and provided that they offer free unrestricted direct access to those tools and devices or that they provide an alternative means of access.

1. Could the Commission clarify whether national rules requiring the use of 'specialised tools', such as of building information electronic modelling tools, would breach the Directive because such tools are not considered to be 'generally available'?
2. Alternatively, would any electronic tool reference for public procurement under Regulation (EU) No 1025/2012 on ICT standardisation meet the requirements of Article 22(1) and be considered to be 'generally available' for communicating by electronic means?