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Answer given by Ms Bieńkowska

on behalf of the European Commission

(7.11.2018)

The Commission is aware of difficulties that EU companies are facing to access procurement markets in third countries. The Commission is advocating, in relation to all trading partners, the importance of open procurement markets and fair and non-discriminatory conditions for companies competing for procurement contracts globally.

To facilitate the access of EU companies to third country markets, the EU is actively supporting the accession of new countries to the World Trade Organization Government Procurement Agreement. Negotiations are currently under way with several countries, including China and Russia. Australia is expected to join soon. The EU also pursues the opening of procurement markets as a priority in Free Trade Agreements by including ambitious procurement chapters in the negotiations.

With the objective to ensure a level playing field on the access to international procurement markets, the Commission adopted on 29 January 2016 a revised proposal for a Regulation on an International Procurement Instrument (IPI)[[1]](#footnote-1). As also mentioned in the recent Communication[[2]](#footnote-2) setting out Commission’s policy on public procurement, the IPI proposal is a tool to promote open and reciprocal access to public procument markets.

1. Amended proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the access of third-country goods and services to the Union’s internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries, COM(2016) 34 final. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Making Public Procurement work in and for Europe, COM(2017) 572 final. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)