

Procurement Package: Internal Market MEPs vote to open up negotiations with Member States

MEPs on the Internal Market Committee on Thursday morning gave a mandate to the rapporteurs on the Public Procurement Directive, Utilities and Concessions to begin informal negotiations with EU Member States.

Public Procurement 'Classic' and 'Utilities' Directives

MEPs on the Committee approved the decision to open up talks with Member States on the Public Procurement Directive and the Utilities Directive by 31 votes in favour and 6 against.

The Committee's negotiators led by MEP Marc Tarabella (S&D, BE) will now defend the Committee's commitment to ensure that public procurement contracts go to the most advantageous bidder, taking into account also environmental or social criteria and strengthening innovation, instead of simply awarding contracts to the lowest bid.

Read the press releases on the committee votes on Public Procurement and Utilities here:

Public Procurement 'Classic' Directive (18 December 2012)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bIM-PRESS%2b20121214IPR04658%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Utilities Directive (24 January 2013)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bIM-PRESS%2b20130121IPR05428%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN>

Concessions

With 25 votes to 10 and 2 abstentions IMCO approved the mandate for Phillipe Juvin (EPP, FR) to start the informal negotiations with the Council on the Concessions directive.

More robust contracting, concession threshold, award criteria and particular exemptions will be just a few of the many aspects MEPs will scrutinize during negotiations with the Council.

In a later discussion this morning with Internal Market commissioner M. Barnier on the current state of play of different legislative initiatives, some MEPs were concerned that the new rules on concessions could lead to water sector privatisation. "Commission is not looking for any kind of privatisation of water sector today or in future", reassured commissioner Barnier.

Read the full press release on the vote in IMCO (January 2013):

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2f%2fEP%2f%2fTEXT%2bIM-PRESS%2b20130121IPR05425%2b0%2bDOC%2bXML%2bV0%2f%2fEN&language=EN> "

Ensuring transparency

To ensure transparency, Internal Market Chair Malcolm Harbour announced that the Committee in the future will make time for the rapporteurs to present the progress in the negotiations as well as outstanding issues. "This is an important new development and I am determined that this committee will set the example of how to make trilogue negotiations effectively", Mr Harbour said.

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